



CENTRO DE INTEGRIDADE PÚBLICA  
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# 2018 LOCAL ELECTIONS

## MOZAMBIQUE POLITICAL PROCESS BULLETIN

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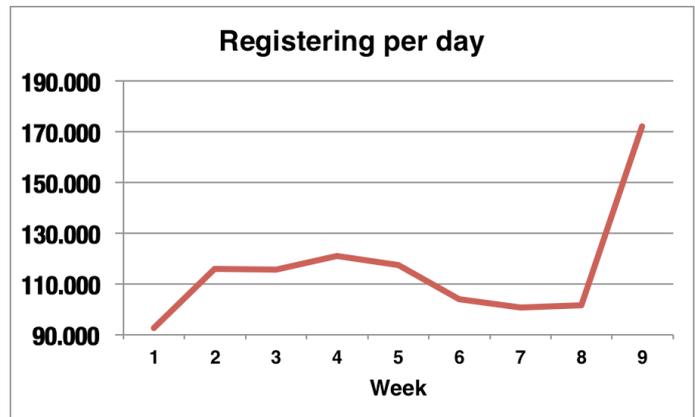
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## 88% of possible voters register

**6.7** million people registered by the end of the 60 day registration period Thursday last week (17 May). That is 88% of the adults who will be 18 years old by the local elections on 10 October, similar to the high registration levels of past years, after a jump in people registering in the last four days.



An average of 117,000 people per day registered in weeks 2-5, falling to 102,000 per day in weeks 6-8. But it jumped to 172,000 per day in the final four days. Some registration posts had to remain open until midnight on the final day, said Felisberto Naife, Director-General of STAE, the election technical secretariat.

Registration only took place in the districts containing the 53 municipalities, 17 March through 19 May.

Of the four largest cities, Maputo city reached only 77% of voting age adults, Matola 83%, Nampula 96%, and Beira 106%. At provincial level, Niassa was unusually low, at 63%, and Gaza very high at 117%.

Tables with the preliminary registration data by province, district, municipality, as well as by gender and daily registration rates, have been posted by STAE on its website, in two files: <http://bit.ly/2GSdQxZ> and <http://bit.ly/2GSvT6V>

### Preliminary Data - 2018 Registration

Province	Number of Municipalities	Adults	Registered	%
Niassa	5	582 192	368 372	63.27%
C.Delgado	5	502 481	510 598	101.69%
Nampula	7	1 170 762	1 081 490	92.37%
Zambézia	6	1 121 840	933 419	83.20%
Tete	4	589 795	522 150	88.53%
Manica	5	557 852	496 354	88.98%
Sofala	5	663 290	633 393	95.49%
Inhambane	5	322 264	321 336	99.71%
Gaza	6	482 262	561 924	116.52%
Maputo Prov	4	896 309	720 758	80.48%
Maputo C.	1	796 965	616 082	77.30%
	53	7 696 012	6 766 236	88.03%

### ?s about population

Questions will be raised about both turnout and population estimates. Gaza, for example, has registered 117% of voting age adults, with Chokwe district hitting 130%.

## Registration and local election details

Municipal elections will take place on 10 October 2018 in 53 municipalities. Registration was in 52 districts, each of which contains one municipality, and Maputo city.

National elections will take place on 15 October 2019.

Basic numbers are:

**Voting age population nationally** = 14,300,000 (estimated at 49.5% of the 2017 population of 28,862,000)

**Voting age adults in 53 municipalities** = 4,328,818. Thus municipalities are 30% of potential voters; the remaining 70% are rural.

The districts containing the 53 municipalities, including Maputo City, have 7,686,012 potential voters, 54% of the country.

For municipalities in Gaza, Mandlakazi set a record by registered 364% - nearly four times the number of voting age adults - and Xai-Xai 127%. Is this false registration, or was population underestimated?

The three provinces where Frelimo gained more than 75% of the vote in the 2015 elections are also those with the highest registrations this year - Gaza 117%, Cabo Delgado 102% and Inhambane 100%.

Estimates of voting age population are based on

### Cities with more than 70,000 voting age adults

Cities	Adults	Registered	%
Maputo cidade	796,965	616,082	77.30%
Matola	604,871	503,834	83.30%
Nampula	353,545	338,965	95.88%
Beira	263,475	280,441	106.44%
Chimoio	170,945	162,777	95.22%
Quelimane	141,979	123,796	87.19%
Nacala-Porto	130,662	144,607	110.67%
Tete	125,821	133,524	106.12%
Lichinga	123,409	99,753	80.83%
Pemba	122,563	99,591	81.26%
Mocuba	117,816	68,788	58.39%
Gurué	109,874	49,221	44.80%
Maxixe	75,329	62,091	82.43%
Xai-Xai	71,567	91,481	127.83%
Alto Molocue	70,634	31,045	43.95%

the 2017 census as supplied by the National Statistics Institute (INE). In the final tabulation announced Thursday, the total of voting age adults was given as 7.7 million, up from 7.6 mn the week before, but which had fallen steadily from the 8.5 mn at the start of registration.

In the case of Niassa, on 6 May it was estimated that 568,293 adults could register; a week later this was cut to 495,380, then increased Thursday to 582,192. STAE never gave a detailed explanation.

District boundaries are well defined, but municipal boundaries are unclear in many places so population estimates may be wrong. For example, since the previous elections, some neighbourhoods were transferred out of Lichinga city but remain within Lichinga district and thus are not part of the elected municipality. But it is not clear that ordinary people know this, which could explain why Lichinga district registered only 57% of voters but Lichinga city registered 81%.

Zambézia is notable, with a reasonable 83% registration across six districts. But two municipalities are questionable. Gurué and Mocuba had turnouts of only 45% and 58%, but INE and STAE estimate their population to be almost as large as Quelimane, which seems unlikely - pointing to population over-estimation rather than lower turnout.

Meanwhile, Marrupa, Niassa, was predicted to have 6,733 voters, but gave voters cards to double that number - 13,445. All four Tete municipalities were over 100%, with Ulongué hitting 228%.

Detailed coverage of 2018 municipal and 2019 national elections is again being provided by the *Mozambique Political Process Bulletin*, which has covered all of Mozambique's multi-party elections. We will have a large team of local journalists throughout the country, ensuring that our reports are accurate and verified..

**If you do not want to receive the elections newsletter, simply send a note to [j.hanlon@open.ac.uk](mailto:j.hanlon@open.ac.uk) with the subject line "no election".**

The elections newsletter is also in Portuguese; para subscriver <http://eepurl.com/cYjhdb>

Previous issues are available on <http://cipmoz.org:9000/elections2018/>

# Head of list to be mayor

Parliament Thursday approved a range of constitutional changes on decentralisation creating the same structure for provinces, districts, and municipalities. All will now have elected heads - governors, district administrators, and mayors. All will have assemblies, and the head of the list of the party, coalition, or citizens list that receives the most votes will automatically become the senior figure - governor, administrator or mayor.

The new model will be implemented in different years. Assemblies already exist at municipal and provincial level, but not district level.

**Municipal** mayors have been directly elected, and there were two ballot papers, for mayor and for an assembly list. Candidates for mayor had to present signatures of 1% of registered voters in the municipality. The mayoral ballot is removed and the head of the assembly list with most votes automatically becomes mayor. Urgent but obvious changes are needed to the electoral law. The mayors will be named this way in October this year.

**Provinces** have an elected assembly but the national president names the governor; the governor will be the head of the list in October 2019. But the provincial assembly is elected from district electoral lists, so there is no single head of list. It is still to be decided if there will be single unified provincial lists, the governor will be the head of a specific list (say of the provincial capital), or a provincial list will be added to the district lists, meaning two ballot papers.

**District** assemblies and elected district administrators will only start with 2024 elections. District administrators are currently named by the Minister of State Administration. What to do in 2019 led to a dispute in parliament.

President Frelimo Nyusi and the late Renamo head Afonso Dhlakama agreed to changes and the original deal as submitted to parliament called for the mayor, district administrator and governor to be chosen by the head of the party that receives the most votes for the respective assembly. Removing the election of mayor was not acceptable to parliament and to many Mozambicans, so the head of list system was adopted. However the 2019 district question had not been resolved when Dhlakama died unexpectedly on 3 May. President Nyusi only announced on 17 May that he had resumed negotiations with the acting Renamo

## Substantial new legislation needed

The new structure effectively replicates the municipal structure at district and province level, with the change of naming the head of the list as the top person. The constitutional amendments set the framework for this. Municipal legislation can now be retained unchanged, and there is an urgent need for minor changes to the municipal electoral law.

But substantial new legislation is needed for Maputo city, districts and provinces, which will need to be agreed this year or early next year. Four issues must be resolved:

+ **Vacancies:** The constitutional amendments set out how a mayor, administrator or governor can be dismissed, but not how to replace them if they die, resign or are dismissed. Will this be another person from the list, a new election, or some other way?

+ **Financial decentralisation:** Municipalities have planning, taxing, and spending powers. At district and province level that is held by central government, but the constitutional amendment implies this is passed to district and province.

+ **Assembly lists:** Will districts follow the municipal model with a single list? What list will be used to name the provincial governor?

+ **Maputo city:** The constitutional amendments demand new legislation to clarify the status of Maputo city.

head, Ossufo Momade. Even on Monday 21 May there was no agreement - Frelimo demanded to continue the current system while Renamo insisted the governor should name the administrators. Finally it was agreed that for 2019 the Minister of State Administration would name the administrator "in consultation" with the governor. This was included in the constitutional amendments tabled Tuesday and approved Thursday.

The governor has always been a political appointment by the president, but administrators are part of a civil service career structure and have

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Votar Moçambique programme



special training. The opposition accuses the government of only naming Frelimo members. The new system will make administrators and governors, like mayors, to be elected political figures.

The constitutional amendments set out that at all three levels central government will name a person to represent it and defend national policies and interests; at provincial level this will be a secretary of state for the province.

Decentralisation is administrative and involves lower level functions such as primary schools. Security, energy, minerals, taxes, secondary schools, etc continue to be national matters.

Maputo city has always had an anomalous status as both province and municipality, with an elected mayor and appointed governor. Under the amendment Maputo city is not governed by the new provincial status, meaning it probably will not have a governor, but its relationship must be established by law.

The full package of constitutional amendments passed by parliament is part of a larger document submitted Tuesday by the Constitutional Affairs, Human Rights and Legality Commission of parliament, available on <http://bit.ly/2kiW4Li>