CNE rubber stamps results as Frelimo prevents discussion

By a vote of 8 to 5 (with 3 abstentions) the CNE decided it could not consider evidence against the district results in five municipalities. That must be left to the court system and the constitutional council, and the CNE could do nothing but rubber stamp the district results. The National Elections Commission (CNE) announced national results and the outcome of its internal debate this afternoon (24 October).

Renamo presented evidence that the results had been changed to improperly give Frelimo victory over Renamo in five municipalities - Monapo, Alto Molocue, Moatize, Marromeu, and Matola. In the past, the CNE has considered such evidence and corrected the result. But Frelimo argued that it could no longer do this.

CNE members are named by parties or party-linked civil society groups. The 8 Frelimo members voted that the CNE could not consider the Renamo evidence, the 5 Renamo members voted in favour, and the CNE president and two MDM members abstained.

So it remains for the Constitutional Council to rule on the five municipalities.

The results announced today say Frelimo has the mayor (the head of the list of party with most votes) in 44 municipalities, Renamo 8 and MDM 1. But Renamo contests 5 of those Frelimo victories, and has substantial evidence to support its claim in 4 of them.

Substantial gains for opposition

Turnout was 60.05%, well above the 46% of the past two municipal elections. And Frelimo only gained just over half the vote - 51.78%. This suggests that a large part of the additional vote was for the opposition. But the opposition is divided; Renamo won 38.90%, MDM 8.50%, and small parties and citizens lists lists the rest.

The closeness of the vote is shown by the 6 of the 53 municipalities where no party has a majority in the municipal assembly. The affects all three main parties - Frelimo has the mayor of Matola but no majority in the assembly, MDM similarly in Beira, and Renamo in Malema. Similarly, in 7 assemblies the leading party has a majority of only 1.

In every assembly, even in the Frelimo heartland of Gaza, the opposition has at least 1
No small party or citizens list won a seat in a municipal assembly.

========================================

**ELECTION OVERLOAD?** - You are subscribed to two newsletters, the *Mozambique Political Process Bulletin* election newsletters (published by CIP), and *Mozambique News Reports and Clippings* (published by Joseph Hanlon and not linked to CIP). If you want to receive *Mozambique News Reports and Clippings* but not the election newsletters, just reply to this e-mail with *"no election"* in the subject line.

The EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) strengthens data protection and requires that consent to receive communication must be 'freely given, specific, informed and unambiguous'. Importantly, there must be a positive opt-in as opposed to an opt-out. As you have voluntarily subscribed to our newsletters, you do not need to take any action and will continue to receive them as usual. We hold only your e-mail address and no other information about you, and we never share our subscription list with anyone.

You are subscribed to two newsletters, the *Mozambique Political Process Bulletin* election newsletters, and *Mozambique News Reports and Clippings*.

To **unsubscribe** from both: [tinyurl.com/unsub-moz](http://tinyurl.com/unsub-moz)

To **stop receiving election** newsletters but still receive *Mozambique News Reports and Clippings*, simply send a note to j.hanlon@open.ac.uk with *"no election"* in the subject line.

**ARTICLES MAY BE FREELY REPRINTED** but please cite the source: "2018 Local Elections - Mozambique Political Process Bulletin".

Previous newsletters are posted on [http://bit.ly/2H066Kg](http://bit.ly/2H066Kg)


This mailing is the personal responsibility of Joseph Hanlon, and does not necessarily represent the views of the Open University.