

# 2013 Local Elections



## Mozambique political process bulletin

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## Low turnout forces STAE to step up civic education

Half way through the two-month registration, turnout is low, which is blamed on initial computer problems as well as to on-going difficulties with registration equipment. Therefore, civic education campaigning will be stepped up to try to convince people to register, National Elections Commission (Comissão Nacional de Eleições, CNE) president Abdul Carimo said earlier this week.

## In Nacala Porto, only 17% register

Only 26,000 voters have registered in Nacala Porto, out of 150,000 expected – only 17% - admitted the director of STAE in Nacala-Porto, Antoninho António. Turnout has been particularly low in Djanga, Lile, Chivatho, Muriane, Mutiva, Mahelene, Mupete and Matalanesão.

He cited initial equipment problems, both breakdowns of the computers as well as lack of training of the operators, but said that these problems have now been resolved. However registration levels remain low.

António admitted that the low turnout showed STAE (Secretariado Técnico de Administração Eleitoral, Secretariat for Election Administration) that civic education had to be stepped up to convince people to register.

## Quelimane: using stones to mark your place

Would-be voters in Quelimane are arriving early in the morning and putting down stones to mark their place in the queue, returning later to try to register. Registration posts such as EPC de Manhauia have huge queues and disputes between people who have marked places and come back later. Voters are appealing to electoral authorities to add more computer teams to speed up the registration process.

## In brief

- **Sussundenga** (Manica): 201 voters of 9,862 expected had registered by 25 June, just 2%.
- **Xai-Xai** (Gaza): A musical show is being sent to neighbourhoods to promote registration. A new door-to-door campaign has been launched to promote registration because of the low turnout. Letters have been sent to public and private institutions to encourage them to give workers time off to register. Claudina Matusse, Xai-Xai STAE director admits that civic education brigades have a target of getting 60 people to register each day, but they are not reaching half that.
- **Chimoio** (Manica): Low turnout is matched by a very slow registration process, caused by equipment breakdowns, slow printers, and poor training. In the Heróis Moçambicanos neighbourhood, the registration system did not recognise fingerprints, our correspondent reports; there and at other posts where this happened, staff unplugged the machine for an hour to allow it to cool down. At Soalpo and 3 de Fevereiro, the slowness of printing was limiting the number who could be registered; there was a high initial turnout, but many gave up and went home.
- **Lichinga** (Niassa): Equipment breakdowns and lack of electricity are cutting numbers actually registered. Posts are registering only 30 people per day, half of those expected. Registration computers are still having trouble recognising fingerprints and printing voter's cards. In posts in outer neighbourhoods such as Assumane, Chiulugo, Sambula and Mitava, the rechargeable batteries do not last all day and the dozen generators are only functioning part of the time.
- **Nhamayábue** (Niassa). One of the 10 new municipalities. The first few days were marked by constant breakdowns of equipment in 5 of 8 registration posts. This was resolved and turnout is rising.
- **Alto-Molócuè** (Zambézia). 3 posts have received new computers, and our correspondent Wednesday found them functioning, but with on-going problems - not recognising fingerprints and slow printing of cards.

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