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Peaceful campaign so far

The first three days of the municipal election campaign was generally calm, with few serious incidents of intimidation or physical violence. Our correspondents in the 53 municipalities report an orderly campaign with parades of different parties meeting without violence. They also report a relative balance between the two largest parties.

Although isolated, there have been cases of violence, reports of improper use of state resources, and demands that civil servants contribute to Frelimo.

Police have so been neutral in most cities without any violence against the opposition. The only incident was in **Nampula city**, the night before the campaign started, when two Renamo members were arrested for putting up posters two hours before the official midnight start of the campaign period - at the least over zealous.

Correspondents report that in terms of publicity and mobilisation, Frelimo and Renamo appear to have started with similar size campaigns. In **Nampula** Renamo appears to be mobilising larger crowds. In **Quelimane** Renamo and Manuel de Araujo are mobilising large crowds; Frelimo is deploying similar resources, but drawing fewer people. In many places MDM has fewer people and posters.



In the campaign yesterday, in Catandica the Renamo head of list Antonio Gonera showed voters in the market where Renamo was on the ballot paper, and MDM marched in Chimoio

2018 Local Elections is part of the Votar Moçambique programme



But in **Beira**, all three parties have launched large campaigns. The MDM mayor for 15 years, Daviz Simango, is standing again, but Frelimo and Renamo have support.

In **Maputo** Venâncio Mondlane is leading the Renamo campaign even though he has been excluded as candidate for mayor and is attracting

support. Both Frelimo and Renamo have long parades of cars, and Frelimo's campaigns are also attracting support.

In neighbouring **Matola**, however, Frelimo is clearly ahead in terms of publicity and mass mobilisation.

Beira civil servants forced to fund Frelimo

At a meeting in Beira last Friday (21 September), before the start of the campaign, heads of departments were told they had to contribute 500 MT (\$8) to the Frelimo campaign, according to our correspondents in Beira. The most senior figures, such as local heads of Instituto de Comunicação Social (ICS), Instituto Nacional de Segurança Social (INSS), INAC, INAS, were told to pay 5000 MT (\$83), but after objections at the meeting this was cut in half.

To apply full pressure, top Frelimo people were at the meeting in Munhava, including the Frelimo first secretary José Cuela, Beira administrator João Oliveira and permanent secretary Frederico Meque. Directors of schools and various local services were also present, and attendees were told that all Beira civil servants, including teachers, were expected to contribute. Money was to be given to the permanent secretary or deposited in Frelimo's Barclays bank account number 070110300081.

This is not new, and there have been complaints about this in past elections.

Frelimo starts legal action against Renamo for Mutarara punch-up

Frelimo has submitted a formal complaint to the police relating to an incident in the early hours of Tuesday morning when groups of supporters of Renamo and Frelimo met in Mutarara, Tete, exchanged insults, and ended up in a brawl. Frelimo came off worse, and five supporters were injured. Frelimo has submitted a formal complaint alleging assault during the campaign period. The Renamo spokesperson in Nyamayabwe said it all started when Renamo caught the Frelimo people tearing down their posters.

Using children to pull down posters

Under Mozambican law, children of 16 years old and under cannot be held to criminally responsible. Frelimo, Renamo and MDM are all using this and encouraging children to pull down opposition posters during the night. This seems most serious in Marrromeu, Nampula City and Dondo.

Frelimo again using state resources

The second and third days of the campaign again saw Frelimo improperly using government resources.



Nacala municipal bus carrying Frelimo supporters to a rally yesterday.

Nacala: the only two public buses interrupted the service to transport Frelimo supporters to outer suburban areas for rallies for mayor Rui Chong Saw. Vereadores (local ministers) are using departmental cars in the campaign, including one with registration number EI 953 MP.

Nampula: Frelimo head of list Amisse Cololo used sound equipment from the Instituto de Comunicação Social (ICS) in his campaign.

Matola: Maputo province governor Raimundo Diomba used a protocol car to go to Matola G for the launch of the campaign of Calisto Cossa and Frelimo. Registration plates are covered in Frelimo posters to try to make it less obvious that they are state cars.

Inhambane: The permanent secretary promised promotions to civil servants who voted for Frelimo, at a meeting yesterday at Campo de Ferroviário.

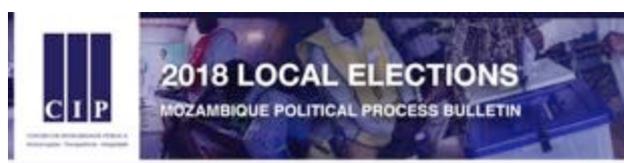
Threats

In **Sussundenga**, Manica, a family of MDM supporters in Mussacumbira neighbourhood say they have been threatened by Frelimo supporters. Marta Mussimwa, head of the family, told the Bulletin that member of her family had been physically attacked and there were threats to burn down their houses. Voters cards have been confiscated..

In **Gondola**, Manica, elderly people have been threatened with the loss of their pension payment if they do not vote for Frelimo.

Frelimo says Chimoio deaths not political

Frelimo considers the death of two members of the party hit by a car early Tuesday morning did not have political motives, according to Chimoio campaign director Manuel Sueta. The group was putting up posters and was hit by the car travelling at high speed. Two were killed and nine injured, or whom four are in serious condition. The driver fled after the incident and has not been found.



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