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2018 LOCAL ELECTIONS

MOZAMBIQUE POLITICAL PROCESS BULLETIN

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Calm campaign in hotly contested election

The campaign for the by-election in Nampula Wednesday was a pleasant surprise with good conduct and no violence. There were a few violations of the law, notably the use of state cars in the campaign, but only in the first days.

Nampula is proving more than an ordinary by-election because it is being seen as an important test of the vote distribution between the three main parties - Frelimo, Renamo and MDM - in a changed political environment shaped by a new president, Renamo attacks and ceasefire, and the on-going \$2 billion debt scandal. It will also be seen as a pointer to the October 2018 municipal elections and the October 2019 national elections. Thus it has attracted top figures from the parties and the electoral administration

Nampula has become the political capital

Politics moved to Nampula in the past few days. The three main political parties and the electoral administration (STAE and CNE) all sent top people to Nampula - as did the media, civil society organisations, and embassies.

Renamo did not stand in 2013 municipal elections, but it did stand in 2014 national elections, and Nampula province was finely balanced: for president Renamo head Afonso Dhlakama won 50% of the vote and Frelimo's Filipe

Nyusi won only 44%, but for national parliament both parties won 22 seats (with 3 for MDM) and Frelimo won the provincial assembly (47 seats to 45 for Renamo and just 1 for MDM).

Renamo sent to Nampula senior party figures and members of parliament (MPs), including Secretary-general Manuel Bissopo, head of the parliamentary bench Ivone Soares, party spokesperson António Muchanga, and young MP Ivan Mazanga. And on the final day of the campaign, Renamo president Afonso Dhlakama, still at his base in Gorongosa, did a teleconference with a rally in Muatala neighbourhood.

For Frelimo, at least three members of the political commission were in Nampula. They included Margarida Talapa (head of the Frelimo parliamentary bench), Verónica Macamo (speaker of parliament), and Tomaz Salomão.

For the MDM in Nampula were president Daviz Simango, Secretary general Luís Boavida, head of the parliamentary bench Lutero Somango, and mobilization chief Geraldo Carvalho.

*2018 Local Elections is part of the
Votar Moçambique programme*



Only small incidents

The only possibly serious incident of the campaign was the murder of a young MDM member, Buana Agostinho, son of a local MDM women's league head, Tina Mário. But it now believed the killing of the taxi driver was not political.

The Catholic church protested about the posting of leaflets on the wall of the archbishop's house, and Frelimo agree to remove the posters and repaint the wall.

The use of state cars for campaigning is prohibited, and there was less problem than usual. There were many cars with red state number plates but that was because of the large number of senior parliamentarians from all three parties who were campaigning in Nampula. MPs have a right to their official car after five years and it is accepted they treat the cars as personal, and the parties agreed that their use in the election as personal cars was acceptable, even though they have red registration plates and still officially state owned.

One issue was controversial. During the election campaign rubbish collection trucks from Quelimane arrived in Nampula to clear up the rubbish piles. Nampula and Quelimane are both MDM majority cities. Was this improper support for the MDM campaign? It was argued that it was indeed an attempt by MDM cities to support each other, but that the agreement on rubbish trucks had been signed by the Quelimane mayor Manuel de Araújo and Mahamudo Amurane, the Nampula mayor shot down on 4 October, before Amurane was killed, and the trucks were only just arriving.

Many observers and delegates given credentials

There are 401 polling stations and each party is allowed one *delegado* (scrutineer or poll-watcher) and one alternate in each polling stations. The three main parties have each registered 802 people for this task, There are also two local candidates, somewhat marginalised by all the national interest. The citizens list United Movement

for Action for Salvation (Acção do Movimento Unido para Salvação Integral, AMUSI), whose candidate is Mário Albino, registered 523 *delegados*, enough to cover all the polling stations. Filomena Mutoropa, candidate of the Humanitarian Party (Partido Humanitário de Moçambique, PAHUMO) registered only 158 *delegados*.

The National Elections Commission said Monday that it has so far given credentials to 1072 national observers, 49 international observers and 118 journalists.

Two national civil society coalitions are monitoring the election:

+ **Programa Votar Moçambique** is a joint programme of the Public Integrity Centre (CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública), the MASC Foundation, the Social and Economic Studies Institute (IESE, Instituto de Estudos Sociais e Económicos), the Civil Society Capacitation Centre (CESC, Centro de Aprendizagem e Capacitação da Sociedade Civil), IMD, the Community Radios Forum (FORCOM, Fórum das Rádios Comunitárias) and Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA). They are involved in violence monitoring, a peace room, journalistic observation (this newsletter), and academic studies of the elections.

+ **Plataforma de Observação Eleitoral** is a coalition of the Centre for the Study of Development and Democracy (CEDE, Centro de Estudos de Desenvolvimento e Democracia), the Islamic Council, the Christian Council, and the Mozambique Catholic Church. They will observe all phases of the elections, monitor conflicts, and conduct parallel counts.

Big CNE presence to avoid more mistakes

After the fiasco of giving incorrect registers and polling station lists to the parties, the National Elections Commission (CNE, Comissão Nacional de Eleições) is in Nampula in force and at high level. The CNE Nampula team includes president Sheik Abdul Carimo Sau, vice-presidents António

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. Publication will become more frequent in the run-up to the Nampula by-election; we will publish daily in election periods.

Elections newsletters are distributed on the "Mozambique News Reports and Clippings" mailing list.

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

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

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

Chipanga (Frelimo) and Meque Brás (Renamo), and members António Muacorica (Frelimo), Abílio da Conceição Diruai (Frelimo), Latino Caetano Barros Ligonha (Renamo), Apolinário João (civil society), and Barnabé Ncomo - all members of the operations sub-commission. Also in Nampula is STAE Director-general Felisberto Naife.

On Saturday the CNE distributed the list of polling stations, which is the same as 2014. It is posted on

http://cipmoz.org:9000/media/uploads/2018/01/22/eleicoes_autarquicas_7-22janeiro2018.pdf.

Emergency lights promised

Votes are counted in the polling station as soon as voting ends, in the presence of party *delegados*, journalists and observers. In Nampula most polling stations are in schools and have electricity. But in past elections there have been mysterious power cuts during the count, and opposition parties allege the darkness is used to manipulate the result.

The CNE second vice-president, Renamo-nominated Meque Brás, gave assurances last week that all polling stations will have lamps capable of operating for eight hours, in case of power cuts.