

2014 National Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin



Number NE-46 23 September 2014

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Published by CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública e AWEPA, European Parliamentarians for Africa

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COLLECTIVE ACTION: This newsletter is based on reports from 150 journalists in nearly every district, working together to give the most up to date coverage of the election. We are also working with the Community Radios Forum (FORCOM) and the Human Rights League.

More orderly election campaign than in past years

This election campaign has been more peaceful and with fewer election law violations than in the past, with parties showing more maturity, according to 110 of our journalists reporting this week. In general, they report political tolerance; for example, when political caravans meet there is usually courtesy and not confrontation.

As we have been reporting, and note below, there are still problem spots such as Gaza province. But our journalists report that these are exceptions and that the ambient is generally good.

One mark of the tolerance was a photo sent to us by a reader in Beira. It shows the informal market Tchungamoyo do Goto, with three different traders side by side with three different party flags.



Police call in parties in Xinavane

In Xinavane, Manhiça, Maputo province, the local police commander, Ângelo Faustino Seda, Sunday called in representatives of Frelimo, Jaime Chiziane, Renamo, Alberto Boane, and MDM, Ramos Mondlane, for a 90 minute meeting to remind them of the electoral law and the party codes of conduct. This followed an incident on Saturday when 14 Frelimo cars drove into the local Renamo compound in what was seen as a provocative action. Renamo did not respond, but simply phoned the police - and the Sunday meeting was the result.

Frelimo attacks MDM in Muembe, Niassa

Three MDM members were beaten on Sunday in Muembe, Niassa. The three were putting up MDM posters when they attacked with sticks and stones. The picture shows one of the injured. Local police intervened to save the MDM members from further injury, but as the photo shows, simply tried to calm the crowd. No one from Frelimo was arrested, as the police said the crowd was too large and they could not identify who had actually carried out the beatings.



In **Dondo, Sofala**, MDM supporter Francisco Feliz Domingos was beaten on Saturday, allegedly by Frelimo members, but then he - rather than his attackers - was arrested. He is still detained in Dondo jail. The incident occurred in Munhonha, Mafambisse administrative post, Dondo. Our local journalist reports that an MDM parade, escorted by four police, met a Frelimo parade, and there was shouting and a brawl. The MDM man was arrested and not allowed medical attention.

MDM accuses Frelimo of trying to block its Maputo campaign

MDM accuses Frelimo of trying to block its campaign in Maputo province and elsewhere in the south. The claim came after Frelimo members occupied the football field that was supposed to be used by MDM presidential candidate Daviz Simango for a rally Monday in Boane, Maputo province. After 20 minutes of skirmishing, the MDM rally went ahead. Police say there have been no arrests in Boane for election violations.

In Manica, police and MDM disagree over arrests

Only seven people have been arrested in Manica province for electoral violations, all members of MDM and Renamo, according to José Roberto, a member of the provincial police command. The arrests were for violence or destroying party posters. There were three arrests in Chimoio and one each in Gondola, Machaze, Mossurize and Barué. However, in Mossurize five Frelimo members have been formally charged with destroying MDM campaign material, but have not been detained

The most serious case, according to Roberto, involved an MDM member who tried to stop a group of Frelimo members tearing down MDM posters, and attacked them with a car fan belt, injuring three people. He was arrested. A Renamo MP is accused of having torn a Frelimo t-shirt being worn by a young man. He was not arrested because the police said as an MP, he had immunity.

MDM provincial delegate Inácio Maicolo disputes the police numbers and says 13 of his members have been unfairly arrested, of whom three have already been tried and sentenced to three months in jail (without the possibility of conversion to a fine) and three others convicted and fined. Eduardo Leite, a member of the Renamo national council, says only one of his members has been arrested, but says some have been attacked and that the police do not treat Frelimo with equal severity.

Nacala-Porto parties ignore poster commission

The problem of posters in places not allowed became so bad that the election commission created a joint commission to remove improper posters. But it has not worked. The commission took down the posters from a local monument, but as the picture shows, Frelimo put them up again. The police are also warning that car registration numbers cannot be covered, but again the photo of the Frelimo car shows the police are being ignored.



US issues election travel warning

The US Department of State issued a travel warning for Mozambique on 18 September. (<http://www.travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings/mozambique-travel-alert.html>). It says "Although widespread violence is not anticipated, electoral periods typically result in localized demonstrations that can turn violent, the possible use of force by security services to handle demonstrations or incidents of public disorder, and disruption of transportation services. Depending on election results, unrest and the potential for violence may increase immediately following the election. ... U.S. citizens in Mozambique are strongly urged to avoid voter polling places, demonstrations, political rallies, or large crowds of any kind during the election period."

A detailed report on the 2009 elections is available, in two parts, on
<http://bit.ly/MozElec2009-1a> and <http://bit.ly/MozElec2009-2>

The Portuguese edition of the Bulletin is more detailed, and can be read on <http://www.cip.org.mz/election2013/> Portuguese Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CIP.Eleicoes>
Some English bulletins cover two Portuguese bulletins and have a double number.

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Academic citations: Cite as "2014 National Elections, Mozambique Political Process Bulletin, Maputo"
