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25,000 register improperly in Gurue

64,209 people registered in Gurue municipality which is 149% of the 43,024 voting age adults in the municipality, according to the district STAE in a 10 June report. STAE reports that in the entire district 179,513 people registered, which is 73% of voting age adults. Of those, 64,209 registered in the municipality, which 149% of voting age adults there. This suggests that at least 25,000 people living in the district but outside the municipality illegally registered within the municipality. This is more than enough to determine the election outcome in this contested town.

STAE staff cite three different numbers for voters registered in Gurue

This strange registration is compounded by three different official totals of the 45 days of voter registration. For just the Gurue municipal area, provincial STAE show that 63,700 voters were registered during the 45 days of voter registration, however, the data collected in the warehouse of the district STAE on 8 June, the last day when the registration books containing the voter rolls were publicly displayed, indicated that 65,500 voters had been registered, while final data, provided by the head of the Department of Organisation and Electoral Operations (ROOE) is 64,209 voters were registered.

The difference appears to be that more register books were recorded at the warehouse than were reported in the official STAE report.

A [denunciation with detailed tables has been signed by two STAE staff](#) members, both appointed by the MDM. Agostinho Morgado is assistant chief and Manecas Mopuita is a technician for the Department of Organisation and Electoral Operations,

The STAE staff members, representing the MDM, say they asked the director of the ROOE to allow them to go to the warehouse to count the data in the books of each registration post in order to clear up the discrepancies. But the director “just asked us to give him a minute to go outside and seek authorisation. He surprised us by getting into vehicles of the institution that were on their way to the CDE (District Elections Commission) where they went to approve the data without our consent as the makers and implementers of the entire process”.

They also denounced that, in the two days when the registration period was extended into the night (2 and 3 June), many brigades did not comply with the established timetable, and closed the registration posts very early.

On the days when the registration books should have been publicly displayed, many registration posts did not display their books.

The STAE staff members denounced that they were excluded from the monitoring and assessment of the activities undertaken by ROOE as well as of the voter registration brigades. They say that the brigade members only collaborated with staff from the electoral management and administration bodies who came from Frelimo and those chosen by public tender, including the district director.

These staff members noted that the brigade members and electoral civic education agents undertook partisan activities in favour of the Frelimo Party. By way of example, they cited the fact that brigade member Francisco Muhonhope, in the middle of civic education activity, received from civic education agent Graciano Uatita, a list of members of the OJM registered at various posts. The list was intercepted by a staff member from the MDM, Manecas Mopuita, and is included in the denunciation.

Hence these STAE staff members “distance ourselves from the summary of the data approved and divulged by the Guruè CDE” and ask that a commission of inquiry or multi-sector commission be set up to investigate and assess the denunciations, so that the elections may be free, fair and transparent.

More than 3,700 cards in the district STAE warehouse?

In their denunciation the Guruè STAE staff members question the existence, on 8 and 9 June, of more than 3,700 printed voter cards not yet picked up from the STAE warehouse.

Some brigade members had been instructed to make false statements about voter cards not yet printed. For example a brigade member at the post in the Nipive EPC said that it still had to print 417 voter cards, when in fact it had to print 815 cards

Opposition denounces 5,000 ghost voters in Milange

The Renamo and MDM election agents in Milange, in Zambezia, are accusing STAE of changing the data in almost all the registration posts in the municipality. In all, more than 5,000 voters are not in the data which the Renamo and MDM monitors followed at the posts during the entire voter registration.

Renamo laments that almost all its appeals and complaints have been rejected by the electoral administration and management bodies, from the registration posts up to the District Elections Commission (CDE).

The MDM election agent, Fernando Bonifácio, says that the registration brigade members failed to cooperate with the monitors from his party, which culminated in a ban on sharing data about the registration. For the MDM, the purpose behind refusing to share data was to corrupt the data.

Fernando Bonifácio also laments the failure to display the registration books containing the voter rolls at the registration posts known to be under opposition influence, such as the case of the 7 April, Eduardo Mondlane and Cha Oriental schools, among others. According to the opposition parties, the registration did not run smoothly.

For the FRELIMO Party, the registration took place without upsets, although it recognises that there were small failings.

Sofala, Zambézia and Nampula were the provinces with the largest number of posts that did not publicly display the registration books. In Zambézia, many registration posts in Alto Molócuè, Milange and Guruè districts did not display the books so that citizens could consult them.

On final day, impossible to check voters rolls on 1/3 of registration posts, observers report

Observers found one-third of registration posts were not open or voters rolls (cadernos) were not available to check on Thursday (8 June), the final day when voters rolls were supposed to be available for checks. Two-thirds of registration posts were open but with few people checking their registration.

In Quelimane nearly all posts were open and had copies of the registers, but no one could see them all week because "it had not been authorised by STAE". The same occurred at EPC Josina Machel in Morrumbala and EPC de Murápue in Alto Molocue.

In Mocumba, Zambézia, 3 of 5 posts were closed. In Niassa, posts in Cuambe and Insaca all were closed. In Cabo Delgado, all posts in Mocimboa da Praia were closed.

In Matola, 5 of 12 posted visited were closed. In Maputo city, 4 of 24 posts were closed.

Excuses for not showing the cardernos seemed quite thin. In Maputo city, in Quarteirão 12 - Relento, in Kamavota, the cardernos were locked in the computer box and not available. In Mocumba at EPC 25 de Setembro Cizam, they said there was no space to display the books.


Many posts did not have working computers so it was impossible to correct errors on the spot.

Mais Integridade civil society observers visited 130 posts, of which 28 were closed (22%) and 14 (11%) were not displaying the cadernos (register books). Thus on the final day when people could check the voters roll, it was not possible at one-third of registration posts.

Frelimo can now unilaterally amend the Constitution of the Republic

Since 13 June, the Frelimo parliamentary group in the Assembly of the Republic can amend the Constitution of the Republic without needing votes from the opposition. For five years, any amendment could only be passed with the votes of three quarters of the deputies in the Assembly of the Republic, which meant Frelimo would have needed votes from the opposition to change the Constitution (see Bulletin 40). The current Constitution was five years old on 12 June, having been in force since 12 June 2018, which means the number needed is just two-thirds, and Frelimo has two-thirds of assembly members.

The Assembly has announced that it will hold an extraordinary sitting in August, and one of the points on the agenda will be amending the constitution.

	FICHA TÉCNICA:	ENDEREÇOS:
	<p>Editor: Lázaro Mabunda</p> <p>Advisor: Joseph Hanlon</p> <p>Director: Edson Cortez</p> <p>Translator: Paul Fauvet</p> <p>Sub-editor: Samuel Monjane</p> <p>Layout: Liliana Mangove</p>	<p>Centro de Integridade Pública</p> <p>English To subscribe: https://cipleicoes.org/eng/</p> <p>Web: https://cipleicoes.org/eng/ Portuguese Web: https://www.cipeleicoes.org/ Facebook: @cipeleicoes Instagram: @cip_eleicoes Tiktok: @cipmoz Telegram: +258 843890584</p>

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