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Renamo blocks approval of break-away party

Mozambique's National Elections Commission (CNE) has approved 22 of the 23 political parties, coalitions and groups of citizens which applied to register for the municipal elections scheduled for 11 October. But Renamo has blocked the registration of the Democratic Revolution (RD) party, on the grounds that it is using Renamo symbols. RD was founded by Renamo dissidents who oppose the leadership of Renamo President Ossufo Momade. It is led by a former senior Renamo figure, Vitano Singano.

On 14 July, Renamo presented a request to the CNE calling for the rejection of RD's registration because the symbols used by RD are similar to those of Renamo. RD is using, on its emblem pictures of the founding leader of Renamo, André Matsangaíça, and his successor, Afonso Dhlakama. The final decision will be known today (19 July) after a meeting of the CNE. The final CNE decision should be known today (19 July) after a meeting of the CNE.

Approval is expected because members of Frelimo on the CNE believe that there is no similarity between the symbols used. The Renamo emblems are a partridge, ten yellow stars, and three arrows arranged horizontally from left to right,. The emblem of the RD is a blue square on a white background, which shows pictures of André Matsangaíça, in the lower left-hand corner, and of Afonso Dhlakama, in the upper right-hand corner.

After discussion at its meeting on Monday (17 July), the CNE did not approve registration of the RD, but on Tuesday (18 July) it notified the two parties to be heard before the Commission. Renamo was represented by Saimon Macuiane, chairperson of the Renamo Jurisdictional Council. During the hearing chaired by the CNE's Commission on Legal and Ethical Matters (CALD), the Frelimo representatives on the CNE stuck to the idea that the RD has not broken the law, because there is no similarity between the symbols of the two parties. Today (Wednesday, 19 July), the decision will go to a vote.

Renamo is already preparing an appeal to submit to the Constitutional Council, if the Frelimo majority votes in favour of approving the registration of the RD.

The CNE approved the registration of 22 organisations, including three coalitions and three independent groups of citizens. The number of political parties, coalitions of parties and groups of citizens is not yet definitive, since there are those who registered in the provinces, and their paperwork had not yet reached Maputo.

Registrations submitted

1. Political Parties

Ecologist Party / Land Movement	PE-MT
Movement for Reconciliation of Mozambique	MRM
Humanitarian Party of Mozambique	PAHUMO
Party for the Development of Mozambique	PDM
Mozambique National Resistance	RENAMO
Union for Change	UM
Mozambican People's Progress Party	PPPM
Party for the Democratic Justice of Mozambique	PJDM
Patriotic Movement for Democracy	MPD
New Democracy	ND
Mozambique Democratic Movement	MDM
Action of the United Movement for All-Round Salvation	AMUSI
Democratic Revolution	RD
The Greens of Mozambique	PVM
Mozambique Liberation Front	FRELIMO
Party of the Optimistic People for the Development of Mozambique	PODEMOS
National Party of Mozambique	PANAMO

2. Coalitions of Political Parties

Electoral Union Coalition	UE
Democratic Union Coalition	CAD
Hope of the People Coalition	E-POVO

3. Groups of Citizens

Association of Informal Workers of Mozambique	ASTIMO
Association of Natives and Friends of Mocímboa da Praia	UMODJA
National Association of Assistance to Young Delinquents	ANAJD

The [full list with party agents](#), in Portuguese,.

Parties complain of the costs and slowness of notaries


Political parties enjoy exemption from paying the costs of authenticating documents, but the notary offices are refusing to accept this right. Furthermore, during election periods, the notary offices suddenly find they need spend much of the day grappling with problems with their computer systems, which prevents parties from obtaining authentication of their documents in time. Complaints about this were made last Monday (17 July) to the National Elections Commission, during the session of presentation of information.

In the bureaucratic Mozambique system, the electoral law requires every candidate to submit a set of notarised documents. The parties call for a reduction in the requirements demanded, particularly for documentation, and think it is enough just to recognise the criminal record certificate. But that would require parliament to change the law.

According to the political parties, the notary services say they are not aware that the parties enjoy exemption from payment for the authentication of documents. They also ask the CNE to take a decision and distribute it to the parties, who can then take it to the notaries in order to benefit from the exemption.

In response, the National Elections Commission says it has already contacted the Ministry of Justice, which supervises the notarial services, to remind that institution of the need to exempt the political parties from payment when authenticating their documents required for participation in the municipal elections.

Many parties have their members in the districts and it will be extremely difficult to conclude the processing and transport of documents in useful time because of the poor conditions of the roads.

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