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## Crowds on the last day of the pilot voter registration

The last day of the pilot registration is being marked by crowds in all six districts that CIP is covering. Up until today (20 February) the registration has been proceeding calmly.

In Meconta district, in Nampula province, today “there is a large crowd of voters registering”. The machines are fully operational, without any record of breakdowns. The operators are showing great flexibility.

In Nanhupo Rio, in Mogovolas district, also in Nampula, crowds can also be seen. Yesterday, the registration post was full of voters, which obliged the staff to set up two queues. Some voters had to place stones or leaves as a way of marking their place in the queue for today, the last day. By 19.00 on Sunday, there were still people in the queues. The same scenario also occurred in Murrupula, also in Nampula.

In the Maputo districts, large crowds have also been recorded since Sunday. For example, the registration post in the Motaze administrative post, in Magude district, has seen a large flow of voters in recent days, which was not previously the case. On Sunday, yesterday, the registration was extended until 19.00. Yesterday alone more than 100 voters were registered. Today the trend is for a decline.

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### Director orders a block on information in Matutuine

The STAE district director in Matutuine has banned brigade members from sharing information about the pilot registration with the CIP correspondents, on the rounds that “they might give the wrong information”. CIP’s “Bulletin on the Political Process in Mozambique: Elections 2023/2024” is the only one of the Mozambican media covering the pilot registration.

In compliance with the orders of the STAE district director, the brigade members at the registration post set up at the Mungazi EPC refused to give any kind of information to CIP, claiming they had received “higher orders” not to provide any information.


Matutuine is the first, and only one, of the six districts we are covering to limit access to information about the pilot registration. This could be a bad sign for journalistic coverage of the full voter registration due to begin on 20 April.

The director's order violates the Freedom of Information Law (Law No. 34/2014), particularly the principles of maximum publicity, transparency, democratic participation, open public administration, and the obligatory nature of publication (Articles 6 to 12). According to the Freedom of Information Law, the exercise of the right to information includes the facility of requesting, seeking, consulting, receiving and divulging information of public interest in the possession of the bodies cited by Article 3 of the same law. Article 3 states that this law applies to the organs and institutions of the State, of the direct and indirect Administration, State representation abroad, and the municipalities, as well as to the private bodies which, under law or contract, undertake activities of public interest, or which, in their activities, benefit from any type of public resource, and which have in their possession information of public interest.

Article 18 fixes the mechanisms by which information can be made available to the public. According to this legal provision, the right to information may be expressed through:

- a) making it available orally, in written form, or by gesture
- b) reproduction of documents;
- c) authenticated declaration, issued by the services;
- d) free consultation of the case, on the premises of the respective services;
- e) issuing of certificates.

The restrictions and limitations on access to information are defined by Article 20, and information on voter registration is not among the information subject to restrictions.

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