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CNE and observation consortium drawing up MoU

The "More Integrity" election observation consortium and the CNE agreed at a meeting Friday (10 March) to the drawing up of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) which could be signed in the coming days.


It was agreed that the consortium will present a draft memorandum, indicating the areas of interest of the two parties for the municipal and general elections of 2023 and 2024, respectively. The chair of the National Elections Commission (CNE), Dom Carlos Matsinhe, indicated the institution's Commission of Internal and External Relations to follow up the matter.

The idea of an MoU was proposed by the consortium and it was promptly accepted by the CNE which regards it as an important aspect in the relationship between the election administration and management bodies and the More Integrity (Mais Integridade) consortium formed by six civil society organisations. "More Integrity" is led by the Public Integrity Centre (CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública). Other members are: Civil Society Learning and Capacity Building Centre (CESC, Centro de Aprendizagem e Capacitação da Sociedade Civil), the Forum of Mozambican Associations of People with Disabilities (FAMOD, Fórum das Associações Moçambicanas de Pessoas com Deficiência), the Nucleus of Women's Associations of Zambezia (NAFEZA, Núcleo das Associações Femininas da Zambézia); Solidarity (SoldMoz, Solidariedade Moçambique), and the Episcopal Justice and Peace Commission (CEJP, Comissão Episcopal Justiça e Paz) of the Catholic Church.

During the courtesy meeting, several concerns were also presented, notably the question of the unhealthy relationship between the observation organisations and the electoral administration and management bodies, and the need to establish conditions for greater access to electoral information, including for disabled people. The difficulties in the accreditation of electoral observers from civil society in the provinces, the solution of electoral disputes, and the inclusion of disabled people were also raised as matters of concern in electoral periods.

The consortium suggested that the electoral bodies should issue single credentials for all phases of the elections (single accreditation) in order to avoid congestion during the accreditation of observers. Currently, organisations are obliged to obtain accreditation for their observers at each separate phase of the elections. For example, accreditation is now under way of observers to observe the voter registration. Once this phase is over, the same organisations must again apply for credentials to observe the election campaign and the voting.

The CNE asked organisations to send their requests for accreditation well in advance, given that the process has already begun.

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