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## Election officials want to discipline Gurué whistleblowers

The deputy director and two assistant heads of the STAE Organisation and Elections Operations Departments (ROOE), all from the opposition parties (Renamo and the MDM), could be subjected to disciplinary proceedings for “proven insubordination and incitement to violence”. They should be disciplined for revealing the secret printing of voters cards on the night of 27 April in Gurué in a STAE warehouse. (See this newsletter 28 Apr, <https://bit.ly/CIP-EI-62>)

This suggestion arises in two reports. The first is a report from the consultation which was headed by the Deputy President of the Zambézia Provincial Elections Commission, Orlando Mote. The second is from a Multi-Sector Commission of six members, only one of whom is from the opposition (Isabel Guirugo, representing the MDM).

Although the report recognises that this procedure is not advisable because nobody from the opposition was present, it did not make any recommendation on this aspect. The head of the ROOE “recognises that he made a mistake by not involving the deputy department heads from the opposition”, according to the report to which we have had access.

Above all, the report shows that there is a bad environment resulting from a lack of communication between the district director of STAE and the STAE members from the opposition. “The fundamental problem which creates all this malaise is the lack of communication between the district director of STAE and the staff members indicated by the political parties, particularly those who came from the opposition parties, namely from Renamo and the MDM”, says the report.

The report confirms that the relationship between the members of the electoral bodies “is precarious”, which has worsened the climate of distrust around the printing of voter cards.

## Gurué whistleblower detained illegally for 5 days

The Mozambican police (PRM) in Gurué on Thursday (11 May) released a monitor from the party AMUSI (Action of the United Movement for Salvation), Guedes Rui Suandique Portugal, who had been detained last Friday (5 May) for allegedly disturbing the voter registration. Guedes Portugal

spent six days in the prison cells without his detention being legalised, and without any criminal case against him being opened.

The victim, now at liberty, said he was taken to the cells because he had denounced the abandonment of his post by a data input operator at the voter registration post in the Nacuacue EPC, where Guedes Portugal had been placed by his party. According to Portugal, the Gurue STAE director and the chairperson of the District Elections Commission (CDE) obliged him to rewrite the report previously submitted by the team of MDM and AMUSI monitors, to deny that the data input operator had been absent from the post. [Portugal tells his story in this video.](#)

Portugal says he lived through dark days in the PRM cells in Gurué, and witnessed repeated violations of human rights in that place which was his bitter home for five days.

Our Bulletin tried several times to hear the version of the Guruè electoral management and administration bodies, but without success. They always promised to react, but never did.

### **Background: History of fighting dirty in Gurué**

Results have always been close in Gurué between MDM and Frelimo, and there is a history of misconduct. [In the 2018 municipal elections a CIP Election Bulletin Study](#) showed that 2/3 of polling stations were suspicious, with serious misconduct on both sides.

[In 2013 the Constitutional Council \(CC\) did its own investigation](#) and found "flagrant violations of the law by polling station staff as well as the Zambézia Provincial Elections Commission". Editais (official polling station results sheets) had been altered, some on instruction of the Zambézia Provincial Election Commission (CPE) and some were actually written by the CPE. In 2013 the National Election Commission gave the victory to Frelimo but the parallel count showed MDM had won. The CC cancelled the election and MDM won the rerun.

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## **Frelimo collects cards from teachers in Milange**

In Milange, in Zambézia, Frelimo has activated the campaign to collect voter cards from teachers. Speaking at a meeting this week in one of the Zones of Educational Influence (ZIP) in the district, the coordinator of this educational unit invited the teachers to send a photograph of their voter cards once they have registered so that their names will be on the party's list for internal Frelimo purposes.

After instructing his colleague who was taking notes for the report of the event not to write about this point, the ZIP coordinator said that all teachers should know how to vote to avoid later reprisals. He said that, in almost all the registration posts in the municipality, apart from the duly accredited monitors, Frelimo has appointed clandestine monitors who report data on party members registered daily. This activity has been complemented by filling out the number of the card in the party lists. Identical work is taking place across the district.

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## **People outside the municipality registering inside**

Monitors from Renamo and from the MDM tried unsuccessfully to stop the registration in Quelimane of six people from Nicoadala district, 30 km from Quelimane. The six citizens, supposedly members of Frelimo, wanted to register at the voter registration post in the Sinacura EPC, in the centre of Quelimane. All had scarves covering their heads.

The denunciation by the Renamo and MDM monitors aroused the attention of a group of journalists and civil society election observers, which forced the presence of the STAE Quelimane district director, Hassan Hussen. He confirmed the case, but said these are citizens who used to live and work in Nicoadala, but who have been transferred to the Quelimane municipality, and “we think they have the right to register” in Quelimane.

The Renamo and MDM monitors stationed at the Sinacura EPC voter registration post, in Quelimane, accuse the supervisor of threatening to transfer them from the place or expel them.

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## **Journalists still without credentials in Cabo Delgado**

Our correspondents in Pemba, Cabo Delgado, report that, since the start of the registration, STAE in Cabo Delgado has only issued credentials for one media outlet, and from then until today the computer system is down. The situation is making it difficult for some observers, as well as journalists from various media, to observe the registration. STAE communications officials in Pemba told our Bulletin that they are waiting for the arrival of a technician to solve the problem.

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## **Paying to jump the queue**

Voters at the Chipangara EPC, in Beira, accuse brigade members of constantly favouring people in their confidence or taking payment of 50 or 100 meticaís (\$.80-\$1.60) for people to register. Some of the voters we spoke to, arrived at the post at about 05.00 in the morning to register, but their turn never came, because people known to the brigade members appeared and took over the registration post, and created a noisy environment there.

The brigade members denied all the accusations, but recognise that they have given priority to people “classed as priorities, such as the disabled, and people whose professional duties mean they cannot stay in the queues, such as duly identified nurses”.

In Alto Molócuè, in Zambézia, voters at the Pista Velha registration post say they pay 50 meticaís just to acquire a voter card. They add that so far they have not discovered who is responsible for charging the 50 meticaís. They also accuse the brigade members of continuing to attend to their acquaintances and to public employees. Many potential voters stay in the queues all day until the post closes, but are still unable to register. That is why, they add, that they end up paying to obtain a voter card.

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## **Cholera outbreak halts registration in Nacala**


An increase in the number of cholera cases, and a wave of disinformation about the spread of the disease, has led members of the public, mostly youths and adolescents, to destroy and burn public infrastructures, and the homes and property of community leaders. This forced STAE to remove the equipment from the Quissimajulo neighbourhood in Nacala.

The Nacala district police commander, Sansão Sigauque, confirmed that STAE found itself obliged to remove its equipment. The equipment will only return to Quissimajulo, when appropriate conditions are created.

## Other registration news

In Chingodzi neighbourhood, in Tete, community leaders were threatened with a beating because they removed from the registration queue people living in areas outside the municipality and foreigners who were attempting to register at that post. Most of those living outside the municipality are from Nkonedzi, in Moatize district. As for the foreigners, they are Malawians, Zimbabweans and Congolese, who live in Mozambique.

The Frelimo monitor at the voter registration post in Manica EP, in Manica district, said he has come across cases of Zimbabwean citizens who habitually register at that post. There have also been a large number of Mozambicans who turn up without the documents needed for registration.

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