

Number 80 – 18 May 2023

Published by Centro de Integridade Pública, Maputo, Mozambique

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Records show secret registration at 23.00 in Matola

Registration computers (“Mobile IDs”) own records show three were being used late at night last week in Matola, according to documents which Renamo has submitted to the Public Prosecutor’s Office against the Matola City STAE Director, Domingos Matsombe.

Renamo monitors discovered that the mobiles were not at the registration posts at the Teacher Training Institute (IFP), Matola C and the Adult Educator Training Institute (IFEA) and they were registering voters until it was nearly midnight. When questioned, the members of the registration brigades replied that the equipment had been collected by STAE due to breakdowns. But in reality they were being used at dead of nights.

On 12 May, the mobile ID from **Block 22, in Matola “C”** neighbourhood, registered 25 voters until 15.00, when it was collected by the STAE technical staff. When it returned the following day, that computer had registered 78 voters – so an additional 53 voters had been registered outside the registration post. This machine worked from 08.56 until 23.26.

Four days previously (8 May), the same computer from the same post was working from 08.44 to 23.17, and registered 104 voters.

Also on 12 May 2023, the mobile from the **IFP** operated from 08.50 until 23.17. and registered 72 voters. On the previous day, 11 May, the same mobile was operating from 08.25 until 23.27. That day it registered 75 voters. On 8 May, the same computer worked from 08.52 to 23.24 and registered 74 voters.

The third mobile was from the **IFEA**. By the time the brigade closed, the mobile had only registered 21 voters, but the following day, the mobile showed the registration of 70 voters. So a further 49 voters had been supposedly registered but outside of the voter registration post. This mobile was operating from 09.09 until 23.30.

The same machine worked from 08.10 until 23.41 on 11 May 2023. In this period, it registered 92 voters. The same thing happened on 5 May, when the mobile worked from 08.15 to 23.25 and registered 69 voters.

Renamo complains that the brigade members are not sharing information about the daily and weekly voter registration data with the Renamo monitors, in line with the orders given on 14 May 2023, at the Nkobe Secondary School, to the supervisors of the 183 voter registration posts in Matola city.

Politics to the fore in CNE as legal commission head failed to write decision suspending Beira STAE director

Rodrigues Timba, a CNE member appointed by Frelimo, was supposed to have produced the written decision of the CNE Wednesday (17 May) allowing the Director-General of STAE, Loló Correia, to suspend the STAE district director in Beira. Timba had opposed the decision and, without writing the formal decision, flew to Nampula to supervise the voter registration there, leaving his colleagues indignant.

Because of the widespread reports of fraud, almost all the CNE members travelled today (18 May) to the provinces to supervise the registration. One of the issues was that Beira STAE director Nelson Carlos de Rosário used a WhatsApp group to tell registration brigades to disadvantage opposition parties.

As coordinator of the CNE's Commission on Legal and Ethical Matters, Timba, had the task of producing the relevant written decision. But he only produced the decision concerning the extension of the opening hours of registration posts, and not the other decision which suspended the Beira STAE district director. The Beira decision [was published separately today](#).

CNE members are named by parties in parliament, with additional members from civil society with similar party links.

Carlos Cauio, former chair of the Mozambican Bar Association (OAM) and one of the CNE members appointed by Frelimo, argued that the Beira STAE district director, Nelson Carlos de Rosário, should not be suspended while there is no court decision. This was supported by Frelimo CNE members Rodrigues Timba and António Mauvilo, as well as Lourenço Chiluvane, the Frelimo named assistant director of STAE-Central. Chiluvane had been named by Frelimo in March to replace Agostinho Leveique and was appointed as a counter-weight to Loló Correia, named STAE-Central director by members of the opposition, with the support of some discontented members of Frelimo who disobeyed their party.

With the majority supporting suspension, the three who defended the opposite had to accept the decision. But Timba did not produce the written decision and did not delegate his commission colleagues, Salomão Moyana or Eugénia Chimpene, to write the decision.

Decision to extend opening hours questioned

Meanwhile questions have been raised about the second point of the CNE Wednesday decision, which stipulates that, although the opening hours of the posts are from 07.00 to 17.00, the brigade members should not close the registration post while there are still potential voters in the queues.

CNE members from the opposition fear this decision opens room for making nocturnal registration official. Indeed, it was the chair of the CNE who warned of the problem that could arise in implementing this decision.

Although the communique on extending the opening hours had already been distributed, there are signs that the implementation of the decision may be delayed.

Registration equipment stolen in Quelimane

The STAE district director in Quelimane, Hassan Hussein, has accused the Mozambican police of negligence in the case of the theft of voter registration equipment.

The equipment was stolen on Wednesday night (17 May) from the registration post at the Murripué Primary School, in Quelimane. The stolen equipment was a portable computer and a charger which were being kept in one of the rooms of the Murripué EPC.

The STAE director says that the police agent stationed to protect the equipment “was not present” when the theft occurred. This, he added, just proves what Civil Society has been saying about the “lack of commitment of the police force in the process”, and that the police are complicit in the anomalies that have occurred in various voter registration posts.

Hassan Hussein guaranteed that the disappearance of the equipment “does not mean that the data of the voters previously registered have been lost”.

He promised that by today (18 May) other equipment would be brought to the post, so that the registration can continue.

	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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