

Number 155 – 16 October 2023

Election Bulletins 147-154 11-15 October not previously published in pdf

Published by Centro de Integridade Pública, Maputo, Mozambique

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Courts force rerun in Cuamba and Chókwè and demand data from election authorities in Maputo, but refuse to hear cases from Chiure and Vilankulo

Five district courts today made key rulings on the 11 October election. In Chókwè, Gaza, and Cuamba, Niassa, the courts ruled the elections must be held again. A Maputo court made an unprecedented ruling for transparency. And courts refused to hear cases in Chiure, Cabo Delgado, and Vilankulo, Inhambane, despite Renamo providing evidence that it had won.

Produce the data, court tells election commission, in unprecedented victory for transparency

Election commissions carry out their vote tabulations in secret, often rejecting or making changes to the results sheets (*editais*) submitted by the polling stations. They keep no record of the changes, and the revised data they use to calculate the final result results which they publish remains secret. Mozambique is unusual in democracies in allowing election authorities to make sweeping changes to the results in secret.

In an unprecedented ruling, in Maputo City the Nihamankulo District Court today ordered the District Elections Commission (CDE) to hand over the original results sheets (*editais*) that were used to calculate the election outcome. The order today, quoted by the newspaper *O País*, gave the CDE a deadline of just 10 hours from the moment it received the notification.

Chiure Court refuses to hear Renamo complaint

The Churie district election commission (CDE) ruled that Frelimo had won, but the parallel count of all 62 polling stations produced by the civil society group Mais Integridade showed

Renamo had won. Renamo submitted copies of the official editais from all 62 polling stations to the Chuire district court to prove it had won.

The court noted that the electoral law has different procedures and "it is true that the petition of appeal is not subject to any formalities". Nevertheless the court said it could not hear the case because "it did not comply with the legal formalities for filing a complaint." Despite the evidence, Renamo had to show why a district court should hear the complaint, and a pile of *editais* proving it won was not sufficient.

Vilankulo court also refuses to hear Renamo complaint

Renamo is caught in an impossible circle of the electoral law. In many cases complaints must first be made to election commissions and their rejection is then appealed to the court. But what happens if the elections commission does not respond, as often happens.

Renamo's political delegate said that on Friday, 13 October, the party submitted a preliminary challenge to the District Electoral Commission, and on the same day it submitted a complaint to the Vilankulo court. He says that Renamo is still waiting for the CDE's response. Renamo accuses the president of the District Elections Commission and the director of STAE of refusing to allow them to check the minutes and editais. The Vilankulo District Court refused to analyse and rule on Renamo's complaint on the grounds that it did not meet the requirements for a prior challenge.

Re-runs in Cuamba and Chokwe

Local elections in the cities of Cuamba, Niassa, and Chókwè, Gaza, will be rerun because elections offenses made the 11 October vote there invalid.

The Cuamba District Judicial Court considered that there has been an unspecified "defects that affect the outcome of the elections" and therefore "declares the elections" of 11 October null and void. Considering "criminal matters", the court also decided to start legal proceedings against the people involved in the fraud.

In Chókwè, Gaza, the District Court annulled the 11 October election because it was found that the District Election Commission did not issue credentials to the New Democracy (ND) party for its poll watchers, preventing it from supervising the elections at all polling stations.

The court ordered the CDE to accredit the ND delegates and that the elections be repeated in Chókwè. It also ordered that legal proceedings be opened against the offenders on the grounds that there was evidence of electoral malpractice.

The ND party complained to the courts that its delegates had not been accredited by the CDE. The president of the CDE claimed "superior orders" to deny accreditation to the ND delegates.

Renamo says it won 9 cities

Renamo President Ossufo Momade, speaking at the end of a Renamo Political Commission meeting Sunday, said Renamo had won 9 of the 65 municipalities. He claimed victory in: Matola, Maputo city, Nampula city, Quelimane, Nacala-a-Porto, Vilankulo, Angoche, Ilha de Moçambique, and Marracuene. Curiously, Momade did not include Chiure which Renamo clearly won.

Mozambique Elections 154 - 15 October 2023

Renamo calls demonstrations Tuesday in all 65 municipalities

Renamo's Political Commission called for demonstrations in all 65 municipalities on Tuesday. The Commission met today (Sunday 15 Oct) in an extraordinary session and concluded that there was "mega fraud" in the elections and that it won. The Political Commission accuses President Nyusi and the Frelimo party of orchestrating the manipulation of the election results with a view to "creating an atmosphere of war in order to remain in power illegitimately".

In the [statement Renamo](#) lists irregularities in the 11 October elections, including:

- In several municipalities, the voter registration lists delivered to the political parties were different from those in the polling stations, which prevented the monitoring and control of the vote by the Renamo delegates;
- "In almost all the municipalities when the results gave Renamo a large lead, the police invaded the polling stations with gunfire and tear gas to interrupt the counting in progress, and in a continuous act collected ballot boxes, minutes and results sheets (*editais*) and took them to an unknown place without the accompaniment of the party agents, polling stations staff and observers";
- "In almost all the municipalities, STAE produced new *editais* and new minutes, some of which were falsified, and forced the presidents of the polling stations to sign them";
- "In almost all the municipalities, the presidents of the polling stations were instructed not to hand over the minutes and *editais* to the Renamo polling station poll watchers", and the *editais* were not posted on the polling station door. Both are required by law.
- "Hundreds of ballot papers pre-marked in favour of the Frelimo party were discovered and denounced in many municipalities;"
- The police illegally detained Renamo representatives, including party poll wcthers in several municipalities.

Renamo considers this an authentic denial of free, fair and transparent elections and of the truth expressed at the ballot box, "We do not accept and repudiate all the election results that are being published" and will file appeals with the courts and the National Elections Commission.

Renamo's demonstration Tuesday is on the anniversary of the death of its founder André Matsangaiça.

MDM re-elected in Beira

The only opposition victory so far accepted is in Beira, where MDM was declared victor and will remain in power. MDM won with 112,963 votes (58%), followed by Frelimo 73,302 (38%) and then Renamo 7,045 (4%).

Results are being announced by the district election commissions and are not collected in a central place. We have pulled together [election results as posted by 48 of the 65 district election commissions](#). These are election commission reports, not observer reports, and many are contested. They are available on <https://bit.ly/Moz-EI-Res1>

Mozambique Elections 153 - 14 October 2023

[Observer parallel count shows](#)

Renamo won in Chiure

Mais Integridade civil society observers were in all 62 polling stations in Chiure, Cabo Delgado, and report a Renamo victory by 800 votes. Yet the District Election Commission (CDE) reports a Frelimo victory by 737 votes.

As ballot papers are read out by the presiding officer, they are recorded on the classroom blackboard by a polling station team member. These are the true results. Our observers recorded the blackboard numbers, and they were identical to the results sheets (*editais*) posted on the polling station door at the end of the count. This was an honest count which our observers say shows Renamo won.

The observers counted 12 166 votes for Renamo and 11 366 for Frelimo, a difference of 800. But the official CDE reported only 11 766 for Renamo and 12 503 for Frelimo, a difference of 737. In all, the CDE took 400 votes away from Renamo, 23 from MDM, and 4 from Amusi, but gave an extra 1137 to Frelimo.

Chiure is the only municipality in Cabo Delgado which has had a Renamo mayor and assembly, and the vote was to continue with a Renamo administration there.

It was a close race, with Renamo ahead in 41 polling stations and Frelimo in 21. Clearly, changes were made to the results after the *editais* were posted. This was done in secret. to deny Renamo the chance to continue running the municipality.

A Challenge

We have a 100% parallel count in Chiure of both the results written on the blackboards during the count and the *editais*, done by civil society observers. They show a clear Renamo victory. The District Elections Commission (CDE) says Frelimo has won. So far their evidence is secret, but it does not have to be.

We propose the Chiure STAE and this bulletin both publish their lists of results for the 62 polling stations, to allow everyone to compare the two sets of results with the *editais*. For elections to be free and fair, results cannot be decided in secret. There must be transparency.

Chiure can be a beginning, where election authorities and observer both publish the results by polling station. Or are Chiure STAE and CDE afraid?

If there is a court case over the Chiure result, of course we will make our evidence available.

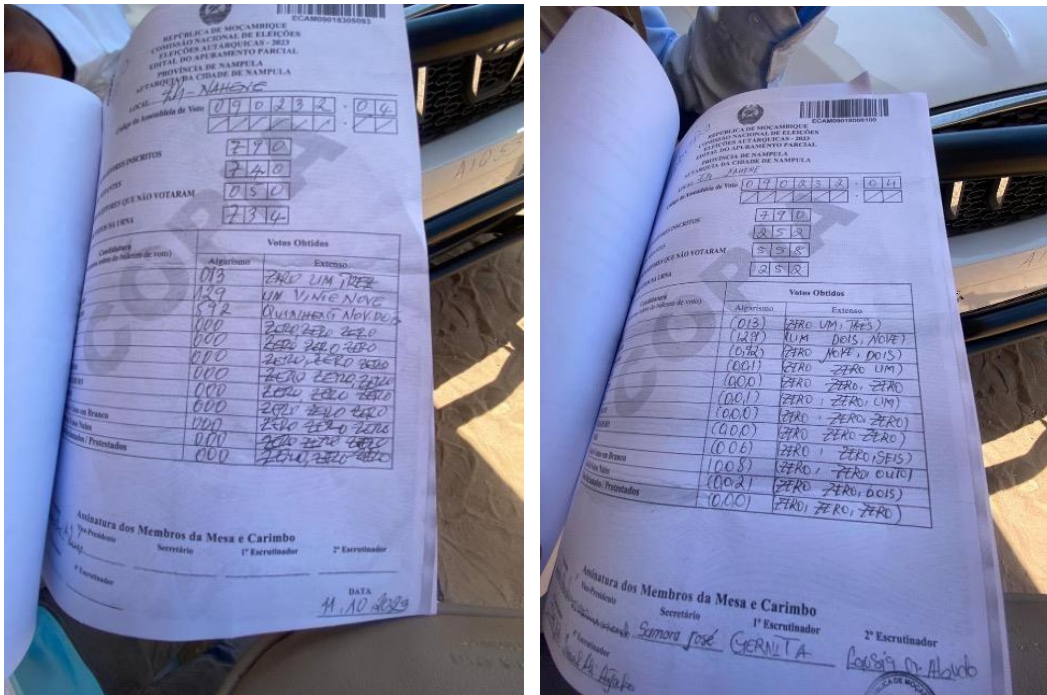
Mozambique Elections 152 - 13 October 2023

New results sheets give victory to Frelimo in Nampula, causing confusion

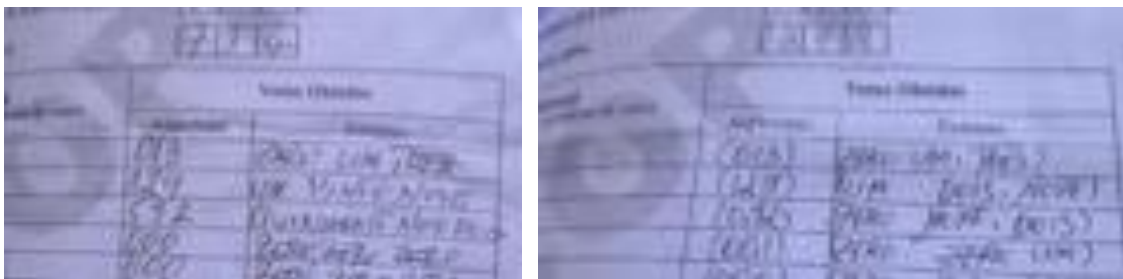
In the city of Nampula there are difficulties in using results sheets (*editais*) that are not properly stamped and signed. There are polling stations with two conflicting *editais*. For example, at polling station 04, in EP1 Nahene, there is an *editais* that Renamo believes to be false, in which Frelimo

obtained 592 votes. For the same polling station, there is another *edital* (that Renamo believes to be true) where Frelimo has only 92.

The two photos show the two *editais*, with the top line showing they are editais for the same polling station number. Left is the *edital* with 592 voters for Frelimo and right 92.



Below are enlargements of the key section. The top line is the number of votes in the ballot box, 714 and 214. The three lines of votes in the box are the same order as the ballot paper, with MDM top, the Renamo, then Frelimo, showing 592 for Frelimo and 92 for Frelimo.



Indeed, there are polling stations in Nampula where Frelimo obtained more than 800 votes, out of a register with 800 voters. These are *editais* with votes in favour of Frelimo, whose details are different from those on the notices posted in the polling stations.

Tabulation work is paralysed because there is no consensus. The Electoral Commission is moving the tabulation from the Nampula Secondary School to the Electoral Commission headquarters. The opposition opposes this, claiming that the site does not have security guarantees for the vote count. But the Frelimo representatives on the STAE are moving the tabulation, as shown in the photos below.



Frelimo steals 3000 votes in Marromeu - unnecessarily

The parallel vote count by Mais Integridade observers shows a massive fraud in Marromeu, adding more than 3000 votes for Frelimo. But the parallel count also shows it was unnecessary - Frelimo would have won legitimately.

In Mozambique there are two ways to steal votes. One simply putting extra paper ballots in the box. This we cannot check. But the other is to inflate the totals after the counting is done. During the count the tabulation is recorded on the classroom blackboard as the presiding officer calls out each vote. The blackboard represents the true count but is often erased as soon as the count finishes. The final official results sheet, the *edital*, often has extra votes for Frelimo. This happened in Marromeu. Our observers record both the blackboard and the *edital* so that we can investigate any differences.

For example, at Julius Nyerere school, two polling stations showed 88% and 83% turnout, and the *edital* had 124 and 232 more votes for Frelimo than were on the blackboard. Polling stations in the same school where the *edital* agreed with the blackboard had turnouts of 51% to 69%. The official high turnout is ghost voters added to the *edital*.

So far, we have parallel count reports from 28 of 41 polling stations in Marromeu. Of the 28, 11 are clearly inflated, raising the Frelimo vote by 2944 ghost voters. It is easy to do local comparisons, because in every school some polling stations are inflated and other have reported honestly. The most extreme case is a polling station 25 June school with a 98% turnout and 758 votes for Frelimo, compared to 316 on the blackboard.

The irony is that the widespread vote inflation was unnecessary. From the results recorded on the blackboard in the 28 polling stations Frelimo has 61%, Renamo 17%, and MDM 12%.

Riots and shootings in Milange

The announcement of results in Milange, Zambezia, caused unrest. Renamo supporters rioted at the entrance to the District Electoral Commission (CDE) to demand that the results not be published, claiming that they are false and tainted by ballot box stuffing.

First, the police used tear gas to push the local population home. The police ended up shooting three citizens with real bullets in an attempt to calm the tempers of the vendors in the Central Market. The police closed the central market on "superior orders", which created discontent among the vendors and further unrest. Two women were injured, a dried fish vendor who was shot in the buttock and a pregnant woman who was shot in the upper limb. A young man was also shot in the buttock. The atmosphere remains tense throughout most of the municipality

Despite this atmosphere, the CDE released the mid-term results in a ceremony that was only witnessed by members of the CDE and STAE. The results confirm Frelimo's victory with 60% and

Renamo 38% and the MDM 2%.

Mozambique Elections 151 - 12 October 2023

Electoral pandemonium: demonstrations, shootings, arrests, and assaults - but silence from electoral bodies

Last night and today (Thursday) there were a mix of victory celebrations, violence, arrests and fatal shootings in Chiure, Nampula, Guruè and Quelimane.

Few results have been announced, but it appears that Frelimo made considerable gains in the north, while Renamo gained votes in Maputo city and province and Inhambane. Renamo and its mayoral candidate paraded in Maputo to celebrate its expected victory. Contrary to what happened in Guruè, Chiure and Nampula, in Maputo Renamo's procession through the city passed peacefully and without police presence or interference. This suggests an acceptance of Renamo's growing influence.

Police shootings

Police shot at crowds in several cities. Today, Thursday 12 October, in Chiure, Cabo Delgado, three Renamo supporters were shot, one of them fatally. Renamo said: "Our party member was shot by the police while celebrating the confirmation of victory in Chiure at the Renamo delegation."

In Nampula, a child was wounded by bullets during police shooting at Renamo supporters who were celebrating their unconfirmed victory in Nampula City.

In Quelimane, the police shooting began at around 1am and only ended at around 4am. At the same time as the last shots were heard, the MDM list leader and current mayor of Quelimane, Manuel de Araujo, was arrested by the police on charges of disturbing order, but was released at around 7am. The police accuse Araujo of having gone to a polling station to disturb its normal functioning, and then to the STAE warehouses. Police took him to the police station where a criminal case was opened.

In Guruè, the police say they had to resort to firing to disperse groups who were on the public roads preventing people from travelling. The police confirm that during the shooting one person was slightly injured and there were five arrests of citizens for electoral offences, related to ballot box stuffing.

Presiding officers instructed not to sign polling station results report

In many municipalities there appear to have been "superior instructions" for the polling station presiding officers linked to the Frelimo party, telling them not to sign or post the official results sheets (*editais*), where the opposition had the most votes. By law *editais* must be posted on the polling station door. In some municipalities, including Matola and Maputo, *editais* were still unsigned and not posted this morning. In other municipalities, *editais* were vandalized and removed. As well as being illegal, it also makes it difficult for observers to do parallel counts, and easier for election officials late at night to change the results.

Ballot boxes were stuffed in several municipalities. In some cases, people were caught and arrested, including polling station presidents.

Renamo accused Frelimo of "playing dirty" in yesterday's voting process and accused Celso Correia, the Frelimo party's national campaign director, of intimidating political party delegates and

polling station staff, pressing them to declare as invalid ballot papers in favour of Renamo and accept as valid similar ballot papers in favour of Frelimo.

Mozambique Elections 150- 11 February 2023 22h00

Internet shutdown as polls close

Just as the polls were closing at 6pm, the country experienced an internet blackout by the main operators, most notably Movitel, the operator most used in rural areas and the north.

The shutdown made it impossible to access social networks and share information and data about the closing of the polls and the vote count. A precisely 9 pm Movitel resumed service.

Closing on time

Most polling stations closed promptly at 6 pm without queues. Only a few still had people waiting to vote. At the Amilcar Cabral EPC in Lichinga, Niassa, only one polling station still had 10 voters after 6pm. But in Nampula, there were 111 voters at the EPC dos Limoeiros by 6pm. As required by law numbered tickets were handed out and the polling stations remained open until everyone had votes.

Most polling stations are in school classrooms. Votes are called out by the presiding officer, a tick is added to the blackboard (above), and ballot papers are sorted on the floor.

More people found with already marked ballot papers

In the city of Nampula, an individual was found with 14 votes marked for the MDM and was immediately picked up by police from the 2nd Police Station. In Nacala, the vice-president of polling station number 090906-04 of EPC 7 April was caught inserting four ballot papers into the ballot box in favour of Frelimo.

The opposition party delegates asked for him to be handcuffed. The police took him to the station. In the same school, there is no lighting in all the assemblies, using hand lamps, which is not effective for the process.

In the village of Insaca, in Mecanhelas, Niassa province, the chairwoman of table 03 in Chaca was caught by other table members inserting votes into the ballot box. At this polling station, with 346 voters, many voters were prevented from voting because their names were not on the register.

In the town of Dondo, Sofala, an allegedly member of the MDM was arrested when he tried to insert 10 completed ballots into the ballot box. During the arrest, the citizen allegedly assaulted and seriously injured the police officer in the forehead. The citizen is being held in the cells of the Dondo district command and the officer is in the local rural hospital for medical treatment.

PLASOC denounces discrepancy in data from the register books

The Manica Civil Society Platform (PLASOC), in Chimoio, Manica province, denounces the existence of six electoral rolls with discrepant data. In other words, the voter registers that are in the polling stations are different from those held by the MDM, Nova Democrática and Renamo observers. This messed up the vote, as some people were returned without being able to vote.

No voting in Nhongonhana, Marracuene

At Nhongonhana Secondary School in Marracuene, the population registered, but the doors were closed today. Some citizens were there and then returned without success because they didn't know where they could exercise their civic rights.

One citizen told us that after registering, they were told to return to the same place on voting day, but there was no polling station.

Briefly

- Journalists and observers were banned from following the vote count for the first 20 minutes in Homoine EPC, Inhambane province, on the grounds that at no time had STAE given instructions for journalists and observers to enter the polling station.
- In Xai-Xai, at the 24 de Julho and Josina Machel schools, there was a power cut at the start of the vote count.
- This evening the police contingent (canine and riot police) was reinforced at the polling stations in the Munhava area of Beira.

Mozambique Elections 149 - 11 October 2023 - 18h30

Ballot papers disappeared in Milange - magic or subterfuge?

At the Eduardo Mondlane school in Milange, Zambézia, polling station number 0805803-02 had 800 registered voters and was given 840 ballot papers by the district STAE. But during the day, ballot papers ran out before all voters registered at that polling station had cast their ballots, and voters are still arriving. Where did the ballot papers go?

The president of the polling station had to stop the process when the ballot papers ran out and the process had to stop. The presiding officer of the polling station left and returned with a few batches of ballot papers, and voting resumed. But nearly 40 ballot papers were stolen and stuffed in the ballot box - and no one saw it happen.

Arrested for giving extra ballot papers to a cop

A presiding officer was arrested for giving more than one ballot paper to at least two voters, one of whom was a police officer. This happened at Assembly 09265-01 at the Namigonha Complete Primary School in Nampula city. The police officer was given five ballot papers in one go. Thanks to the intervention of election delegates and observers, including the police officer himself, the scam was foiled.

In Beira, a young man was neutralised for stuffing ballot boxes with his partner Inês. This happened at the Eduardo Mondlane school, in the Ponta Géa neighbourhood, at table 001, in the city of Beira.

Voting interrupted in 15% of polling stations

Mais Integridade civil society observers reported problems during voting - in 18% of polling stations votes were impeded from voting and in 15% voting was interrupted. Observers were in 1040 polling stations

Voting was interrupted in 154 polling station (15%) with Ihla de Moçambique being worst with 40% of polling stations having interruptions, followed by Gurue (35%), and Ribaue and Morrumbala (27%).

Voters were impeded from voting in 183 polling stations (18%). The worst was Ribaué with voters impeded in 47% of polling stations, followed by Matola (38%), Massinga (33%) Cuamba (32%), Chitima (31%)

Mozambique Elections 148 - 11 October 2023

Voter turnout drops in south, but rising in the north

Turnout in the south has dropped considerably, compared to this morning, with some polling stations almost empty, our correspondents report. But in the centre and north, especially in the cities of Beira and Quelimane, and some areas of Nampula province, turnout is actually increasing. Queues of up to 150 voters are estimated.

In some polling stations, our correspondents report that people with valid voter cards were unable to vote because their names had disappeared from the electoral roll. The CNE ordered yesterday that these people be allowed to vote, but, as expected, the instruction is being widely ignored.

The trend of preventing observers continues in some municipalities. In Chókwe, it is reported that under orders from the district STAE supervisor, observers from the Mais Integridade consortium were prevented from observing at the África Amiga School. But after a long discussion, the police authorised them to work.

The Mais Integridade Consortium reports that nationally 93% of polling stations opened on time at 7am. The biggest problems were in Beira (only 75% opened on time), Quelimane (82%) and Gurue (85%).



Monapo Sede primary school this morning (Nampula province)

Ballot box with votes for Frelimo found in Guruè

The Nova Democracia party in Guruè neutralised alleged Frelimo members with a ballot box full of completed ballots, which led to a riot. The heavily armed police reacted violently against members of Nova Democracia to protect the alleged offenders.

In Quelimane, at the Industrial School, a woman with 11 ballot papers duly filled in in favour of Frelimo was neutralised.


Mozambique Elections 147- 11 October 2023 - am

Polls open with long queues

Voting began normally across the country at 7 am this morning, according to our 200 correspondents in the 65 municipalities. Nearly all polling stations had long queues of 50 to 150 people, with people voting early on a day which is predicted to be very hot. This suggests a turnout will be about 50%, which is normal for municipal elections.

In Nampula there are problems with observers with credentials issued by the provincial STAE not being allowed to observe by polling station officials.

One unusual thing was reported. The registration process is to fill a book of 800 names which is a polling station and open the next book. Inevitably, then, the final book has fewer names and often the final polling station has no queue. But our correspondents in many places report more than one polling station without queues. In Bairro Maphiry in Ulongue-Angónia, Tete, there are 7 polling stations, four with long queues and three with none. There are numerous others with two polling stations with no queues. There is concern that these are register books of ghost voters.

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