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Another chapter in the CNE/STAE/Beira soap opera

STAE General Director Ignores CNE Decision to Suspend Beira STAE District Director

The suspension of the Beira STAE district director was confirmed in a communique on Thursday (18 May), and by the CNE spokesperson on Friday (19 May) last week. But he remains at work, because he has not yet been formally suspended.

This is because CNE chair Bishop Carlos Matsinhe, signed a decision different from the decision issued by consensus by the members of the CNE. This bulletin has had access to the two resolutions.

The first one is unsigned, supposedly because it was by consensus. According to some members of the CNE, the first resolution decided “by consensus” was to “suspend preventatively, with immediate effect, Mr Nelson Carlos do Rosário, from his duties as Director of the Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat of Beira district” and gave responsibility “to the Director-General of the Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat (Loló Correia) to implement this resolution, and to carry out the subsequent legal measures”. The resolution should “take immediate effect”.

However, another decision was produced which was not discussed in the CNE plenary. And it was this resolution that was signed by CNE chairperson, Bishop Carlos Matsinhe, but some members of the CNE are not in agreement with its content.

The first resolution charges Loló Correia with setting up a commission of inquiry to ascertain, within seven days, the veracity of the facts alleged against the Beira STAE district director and recommends that the STAE Director General “proceed with the preventive suspension of the STAE Beira district director, Nelson Carlos dos Santos”.

This is all part of an intense political struggle between the opposition and Frelimo, for control over the electoral administration and management bodies, and to influence their decisions.

How did this begin?

On Wednesday, 17 May, the CNE discussed in plenary the case of the STAE Beira district director, Nelson Carlos de Rosário, who was accused of setting up a WhatsApp group named “Supervisores Beira” to put electoral crimes into operation. From the discussion, two divergent suggestions arose. One of the CNE members appointed by the opposition suggested the preventive suspension with immediate effect of Nelson Carlos de Rosário. The second suggestion was that he should not be suspended while there were no legal facts to justify the decision. This position was presented by

Carlos Cauio, former chairperson of the Bar Association, and supported by Rodrigues Timba, António Mauvilo and Lourenço Chiluvane.

Lourenço Chiluvane is currently deputy director of STAE-Central, appointed by Frelimo in March, to replace Agostinho Levieque. He was appointed to serve as a counterweight to Loló Correia, put in his post by members of the opposition, supported by some malcontents from Frelimo who disobeyed their party.

At the meeting, Eugénia Fafetine Chimpene and Mário Ernesto had “reasonable positions”. Paulo Cuinica and Daud Ibramogy were absent and this left the representatives of Frelimo without a quorum to maintain the discussion and decision.

After the decision, the coordinator of the Commission on Legal and Ethical Matters (CALD), Rodrigues Timba, should have produced the written resolution, as agreed in plenary, which did not happen. He only wrote the resolution which determined the extension of the working hours of the registration posts. The following day he travelled to Nampula. Loló Correia made the suspension of the director conditional on the existence of a written resolution that would support the decision. That is, it was left up to Rodrigues Timba, a member of the CNE chosen by Frelimo, to produce the written decision that would allow the Director-General of STAE, Loló Correia, to suspend preventatively the Beira STAE district director.

Days later the resolution was produced but with a content different from that approved in plenary. The resolution allows the director of STAE to win more time before suspending the current STAE district director in Beira.

The commission of inquiry should have already completed its work.

Collecting voters cards

Maxixe police command notifies block chief found with voter cards

Olinda Rafael, a block chief in Maquetela neighbourhood, in Maxixe, has been found with more than 20 voter cards in her house, which she collected in her neighbourhood (photos below).



A police agent, stationed at the Maquetela brigade, went to the house of the block chief to obtain explanations about the collection of the cards, but Olinda Rafael had already fled from the house after she had been found with the cards. Her whereabouts are unknown, but on Friday (26 May), at 09.00, she should appear at the police station.

In Balama, Cabo Delgado, the Heads of 10 houses have cards accumulated from many citizens. They have been collecting the cards to extract the numbers.

Speed up, but queues remain big

Crowds continue in Sofala, Zambézia and Nampula, but there are improvements in attendance

The central provinces of Sofala and Zambézia, and Nampula in the north have been registering huge crowds at the voter registration posts, as our correspondents report and the photos below show. However, significant improvements in registering voters are reported in many districts.



Beira has been the scene of the largest crowds in Sofala province, while in Zambezia the biggest crowds have been in Quelimane, Guruè, Morrumbala and Alto Molócuè.

In Quelimane there was an enormous crowd, which forced STAE to allocate more computers (“Mobile IDs”) to ease the congestion at the registration posts.

In the Malua 2 EPC, in Alto Molócuè, there was a huge crowd of citizens waiting to be registered. Wednesday (24 May) voter registration took place without upsets, and there was flexibility in attending to citizens. But the priority given to unknown people is continuing, while there are citizens who have been waiting for approximately a week without being able to register.

On Mozambique Island, in Nampula, the number of people registered per day has increased. Currently, many brigades have been registering between 100 and 110 voters a day.

More computers in Tete city: The STAE district director in Tete City, Timóteo Fabião, says that with the increased number of Mobile IDs, the targets envisaged for the current registration will be met. The STAE district director said during the visit the made to some posts, such as those at Marien_Ngouabi, Nhamabir, Kankhomba and Mpade. Although Tete has not yet reached 50%, the target will be achieved because the district has been boosted with 18 extra mobiles, and has moved brigade members who have proved skilful, from the peripheral areas into the city.

Printing cards

More nocturnal printing of voter cards – this time in Nacala

Nacala awoke this Thursday (25 May), agitated by the discovery of a house where voter cards were printed during the night. This paralysed one of the machines in a primary school in the upper city. It was the Renamo monitor who discovered this. He informed the Renamo election agent that he had found, at 05.00 in the morning, the supervisor stationed at that registration post printing voter cards outside of normal working hours. Francisco Abudo, the Renamo election agent, says that, after he had been informed, he went to the post and found the printing going on.

Alfredo Assumane, the agent of the AMUSI party, accuses the supervisor of having been instructed to print the cards at night. Contacted by our bulletin, the supervisor denied this.

By the time our correspondents left, only one machine was authorised to operate. The other was paralysed, awaiting the arrival of the Nacala STAE director.

In Massinga, in Inhambane, the district STAE is printing cards from the registration post at the Madauca Complete Primary School in the STAE headquarters because the printer has not been working since Tuesday (23 May). The opposition parties suspect that the cards are being printed clandestinely.

District director prevents printing of voter cards outside of the registration post

In Morrumbala, in Zambézia, the STAE director, João Cassamo, ordered the return of material collected in the Marengo EP, which was to have been printed in Morrumbala town. According to the director, the printing of voter cards should take place where the registration is happening, and not in the town.

The material had been collected by the STAE staff stationed in the electoral operations area, in order to print voter cards in the town after 21 days when the printer was out of order. The Marengo EP is about 22 Km from the town.

Right now, the brigade is printing cards, after the repair of the printer, but there is a low turnout of voters.

Other registration news in brief


Police agent again hinders CIP correspondents in Nacala: A police agent stationed at the voter registration post located in the 7th April EPC, in Nacala Port, has, for the second time, prevented the CIP correspondents from observing. At that post, in the yard of the 7th April EPC, there have been various cases of violence. This is the second time that police agents have prevented our correspondents from observing.

Secretaries select who should register in Caia: In Caia, Sofala province, reports from our correspondents indicate that many people have not yet been registered, because it is assumed they support the opposition. People are not actually banned from registering, but what happens is that the zone secretaries indicate who should be registered through a list. They are called. Mostly, they are people from areas where the opposition is strong.

MDM head of mobilisation released in Chiure: Tuesday (23 May) the head of the MDM for Organisation and Information in Chiure, Benedito José Tavares Bacar, was released. He had been

detained after he was accused of trying to register two youths from Namapa, Nampula province, Bacar is free awaiting trial.

Tanzanian detained who tried to register in Balama: A Tanzanian citizen has been in the hands of the Mozambican police since 23 May, for trying to register as a voter in Nairóbi village, in Balama, Cabo Delgado.

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