

Municipal Elections 8 - 17 October 2022

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CNE going to parliament to delay registration

Delays in ordering registration materials will force a postponement of registration which violates the electoral law. So the CNE will go to the Council of Ministers this week to ask it to go to parliament to change the law.

Municipal elections will be on 11 October 2023 and the law requires that by 14 April 2023 the CNE announce the number of seats in each municipal assembly. Registration was to start on 20 February and end 5 April, leaving 10 days to meet the 14 April deadline.

The number of registered voters determines the number of assembly seats, and parties and citizens' lists must stand a full list - candidates for all seats plus at least three alternates. Parties have just 60 days after 14 April to submit their lists of candidates. The long time is needed because each candidate must provide a certificate of no criminal record plus certified copies of an identity card and voters card, which in small municipalities are slow to obtain.

The current laws require the number of seats to be announced 180 days before the election and candidates to be submitted by 120 days before election.

A shorter timetable is possible

Delays in ordering materials mean registration can only start 20 April (if materials arrive by more expensive air freight). If the registration was cut to one month, ending 20 May, that would leave 144 days, which is tight but still possible. Opposition parties will surely demand their full 60 days to submit lists, leaving the CNE and STAE 84 days for all other tasks.

In 2018 municipal elections the registration calendar was changed twice, with registration finally ending 17 May, similar to what seems likely for next year.

If materials are sent by sea freight, registration could only start 20 June and if it ended 20 July that would only leave 83 days for candidate submission and organising elections. That is an impossible task which would force the postponement of the election itself.

The CNE has declined to comment on registration delays or what it is asking the council of Ministers to agree. Unofficially, CNE insiders point out that the delay has been caused by government not releasing money. That, in turn, was caused by government hoping donors would

fund the election as in the past, but donors have largely refused - in part reflecting the negative reports from their observers of the 2018-9 elections.

Setting the size of a municipal assembly

The number of members of the municipal assembly is determined by the number of registered voters. The table below sets the system:

Municipal Assembly	
Members	Voters
13	Less than 20,000
17	20,000-30,000
21	30,000-40,000
31	40,000-60,000
39	60,000-100,000
39 + 1 member for each 20,000 voters above 100,000	

The table below gives the numbers of municipal assembly seats for all municipal elections. The number of elected municipalities was increased by 10 in 2008 and again in 2013. The increasing number of seats largely reflects the growing population. By number of seats, the eight largest cities in 2013 were Maputo (64), Matola (59), Nampula (51), Beira (48), Chimoio (42), Nacala (41), Tete (40) and Quelimane (40).

The large jump in number of seats in Chibuto and Chokwe, Gaza, from 17 in 2013 to 31 in 2018, was seen as suspect, as the province registered many more voters than the census showed there were voting age adults.

Municipal Assembly seats					
	1998	2003	2008	2013	2018
Lichinga	21	31	39	39	39
Cuamba	21	31	31	21	31
Metangula	13	13	13	13	13
Marrupa			13	13	13
Mandimba				13	13
Pemba	31	31	39	39	39
Montepuez	17	21	21	31	31
Mocimboa da Praia	17	17	17	17	21
Mueda			13	17	17
Chiure				17	21
Nampula	41	44	45	45	51
Ilha	17	17	17	17	21
Nacala	39	39	39	39	41
Angoche	21	31	21	31	31
Monapo	21	21	21	21	31
Ribaue			13	13	17
Malema				13	17
Quelimane	39	39	39	39	40
Mocuba	21	21	31	31	39
Milange	13	13	13	13	17
Gurue	17	17	17	21	31
Alto Molocue			13	17	21
Maganja da Costa				13	13
Tete	31	31	39	39	40
Moatize	13	13	13	21	21
Ulongue			13	13	17
Nhamayabue				13	13
Chimoio	39	39	39	40	42
Manica	13	13	17	17	21
Catandica	13	13	13	13	17
Gondola			13	17	17
Sussundenga				13	13
Beira	44	45	45	44	48
Dondo	21	21	21	21	31
Marromeu	13	13	13	17	17
Gorongosa			13	13	13
Nhamatanda				13	17
Inhambane	17	17	21	21	31
Maxixe	31	31	31	31	39
Vilankulo	13	13	17	17	17
Massinga			13	13	17
Quissico				13	13
Xai-Xai	31	31	39	39	39
Chokwe	17	17	17	17	31
Chibuto	17	17	17	17	31
Mandlakazi	13	13	13	13	17
Macia			13	13	17
Bilene				13	13
Matola	43	46	50	53	59
Manhiça	13	17	17	21	21
Namaacha			13	13	13
Boane				13	31
Maputo Cidade	59	61	67	64	64
	790	837	1022	1,198	1388

14 different laws

Elections are covered by 14 different laws, the oldest from 2009. They are all posted by the Constitutional Council on <http://www.cconstitucional.org.mz/Legislacao/Lei-Eleitoral>

The main rules for this election are in Lei n.º 14/2018 de 18 December which is a republication of Lei n.º 7/2018 with very few changes. The number of seats in each assembly must be published 180 days before the election (artigo 132) and candidates lists must be submitted 120 days before the election (art 18). Documents required is artigo 19 and the requirement for lists of the same number as seats plus at least 3 alternates is artigo 23.

The number of municipal assembly members is set out in Lei n.º 6-2018, de 03 de Agosto artigo 35.

The present 2018 constitution and three earlier versions are on <http://www.cconstitucional.org.mz/Legislacao/Constituicao-da-Republica>

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Election study collaboration: We have detailed election data from 1999 through 2014 and are inviting scholars to use this data collaboratively. <http://bit.ly/MozEIData>

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