

MOZAMBIQUE News reports & clippings

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Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

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Renamo to join elections; registration delayed 2 weeks

Renamo will participate in the national elections.

In an extraordinary session today, 29 January, the Council of Ministers agreed to a two week delay in the registration period, which will now be 15 February to 29 April. The Council of Ministers said the delay was requested by Renamo so that it could prepare and participate in the 15 October elections for President, national parliament, and provincial assemblies.

No other details have been released, but this newsletter yesterday noted the statement by Ivone Soares Tuesday that Renamo would participate. The Council of Ministers statement is attached.

Frelimo split over presidential candidate selection

A group of senior Frelimo figures linked to former President Joaquim Chissano and the late president Samora Machel have challenged the way the new presidential candidate is being selected, and have made a formal complaint to the Central Committee's Verification Committee. It is an explicit challenge to the leadership of President Armando Guebuza.

In December, the Frelimo Political Commission announced a short list of three presidential candidates – Prime Minister Alberto Vaquina, Agriculture Minister Jose Pacheco and Defence Minister Filipe Nyussi. This list was to be submitted to the Central Committee to make a choice at its meeting 27 February-2 March. Frelimo General Secretary, Filipe Paunde, declared at a press conference that this list of “pre-candidates” was final – no other names could be put forward. This month Vaquina, Pacheco and Nyussi have been campaigning in the Party’s provincial committees, even though, as AIM notes, the provincial committees have no say in the choice of candidate, and do not mandate members of the Central Committee.

The petitioners object to these procedures, and say that the Frelimo statutes are being trampled upon. “Serious irregularities” had been deliberately committed, they warned, with potentially disastrous consequences. The choice of the presidential candidate rests entirely with the Central Committee, they stress.

"Some members are leading the party to ruin," they say. "We are convinced that remaining silent is to become complicit in the destruction" of the party.

The protest is part of a growing discontent within the party in what is seen as a centralisation of power and growth of authoritarianism under President Armando Guebuza. All three candidates proposed by the Political Commission are seen as close to Guebuza. Other candidates gaining

prominence include former Prime Minister Luísa Diogo and former finance minister Eneas Comiche. Eduardo Mulémbwè, Aires Ali, and Tomás Salomão might also be proposed at the Central Committee meeting.

The complaint was posted on the Facebook page promoting Eneas Comiche as presidential candidate. He is a former minister of finance and governor of the Bank of Mozambique, who later became mayor of Maputo. He is noted for his integrity and competence, and was dropped by Frelimo and not allowed to stand again for mayor in 2008 because of his crackdown on corruption in the city. <https://www.facebook.com/eneasconceicaocomiche>

The attached file has an AIM article (in English) and the formal complaint (in Portuguese) and a related article, as well as the Council Of Ministers statement on Renamo.

Notes on earlier articles

Two people wrote with further material on items in yesterday's newsletter.

1) It is noted that Gilles Cistac, who has been proposed by Renamo as a mediator, is of French origin but is a naturalized Mozambican citizen. This could be useful, because government could say he is Mozambican while Renamo could list him as a foreign mediator.

2) A Mozambican reader sent an e-mail saying: "The reference to a Renamo attack in Zobwe, Moatize, Tete is not true. I have relatives living just close to the Posto de Guarda Fronteira. Also I was in Tete the week of 20-24 January 2014. The report of the attack is not true. Nonetheless, people said that they have seen armed men in the area of Zobwe. "

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NOTE OF EXPLANATION:

This mailing list is used to distribute two publications, both edited by Joseph Hanlon. This is my own sporadic "News reports & clippings", which is entirely my own responsibility. This list is also used to distribute the *Mozambique Political Process Bulletin*, published by CIP and AWEPA, but those organisations are not linked to "News reports & clippings" Joseph Hanlon

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