

Number 12 – 20th November 2022

Published by Centro de Integridade Pública, Maputo, Mozambique

Articles may be freely reprinted but please cite the source

To subscribe to the English edition <https://cipleicoes.org/eng/>

and the Portuguese version <https://www.cipleicoes.org/>

What can be revised in the Electoral Law to correct the problem caused by the delay in the disbursement of funds by the Government?

The phase of filing candidacies could be shortened, but without tinkering with the other phases of the electoral process, such as voter registration, the electoral campaign and voting day, as happened in 2018.

For the 10 October 2018 local elections, the National Elections Commission (CNE) approved four addenda to change the phases of the electoral process, without changing the election date. It decided to change the date of voter registration, initially scheduled for 1st March to 29th April, from 19th March to 17th May. The change in the starting date of voter registration had to do with the need to hold mid-term elections in Nampula, after the assassination of the local mayor, Mahamud Amurane, in October 2017. At the organizational level everything was ready.

In addition to this inconvenience, which led to the postponement of the start of registration in 2018, CNE faced another dilemma: the need to accommodate the one-off Revision of the Constitution of the Republic and the respective electoral laws, within the scope of the cessation of hostility agreements that imposed the approval of a new legal-constitutional framework for the election of the members of the Municipal Assembly and the Mayor. This framework introduced the determination of the winner of the election through the head of the list with the most votes from the closed multi-nominal list of the proposing party, coalition of political parties or group of voters. Nevertheless, the change did not affect the census or the other phases, because CNE used the shortened filing candidacy period. For example, the registration process for political parties, coalitions of political parties and groups of proponent voter citizens, initially scheduled for the period from 21st June to 27th July 2018, as advocated by the electoral suffrage calendar approved by Decision No. 3/CNE/2017 21st April, took place from 1st to 15th June 2018.

The 2018 electoral calendar would later undergo some changes, but without affecting other important phases.

2023 dilemma

The problem is that the preparation of the 2023 election process is well behind schedule compared to the 2018 process. And, it is not likely to reduce the days of voter registration, which are already proving to be too few for the complexity of the process and the size of the logistical and infrastructural problems in the country. In fact, for next year's municipal elections, the number of registration days (45 days) has been reduced, when

compared to the 2018 municipal elections (voter registration was 60 days, from 19th May to 17th July). The election campaign lasts only 15 days, and there is no longer any room for reducing its time.

For 2023, the electoral material - Mobile-ID Technological Infrastructure - to be used for voter registration only began to be produced in mid-October, and is scheduled for completion in February, when voter registration was due to begin. The type of transport to be used will determine whether registration begins in April or June, according to the schedule presented by the Artes Gráfica/Lexon Consortium between August and September of this year ([see Bulletin 5](#)).

Another problem is that the election management and administration bodies will need a month and a half to upgrade the equipment, train the operators, and distribute it around the country.

Is it possible to use the past equipment?

The Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration currently has 2778 Mobiles ID computers, used in the 2018/2019 electoral cycle. Among these, only 112 are damaged, but 500 Mobiles ID are needed to cover 3,090 brigades for the 2023 voter registration. These figures are prior to the announcement of 12 new municipalities, which means that with the approval of new municipalities the amount of equipment needed will slightly increase.

Past equipment could be used, but it also needs to be updated. For example, the ID mobiles that will be imported have improved features compared to those used in the past, which means that the previous equipment will need updating, which includes the replacement of batteries, the inclusion and compatibility of solar panels, and the inclusion of PVC printers; updating of their software; and the coupling of the powerbank to the technological structure to increase the capacity of energy accumulation (autonomy) from the current 8 to 16 hours.

The CNE report on the 2018 municipal elections reveals that even with the testing of the equipment, carried out during pilot registration, some irregularities were still registered during supervision actions, namely: (a) the persistence of the training deficit to the team of brigades, not being properly familiar with the use of the computer equipment, panels and electric current generators, situations that caused the voter registration to be paralyzed; (b) the incompatibility of solar panels for charging batteries and these to the inverter, in order to transform the electric current needed for the Mobile ID, which contributed to the voter registration experiencing difficulties, especially in printing the voter card; c) the Mobile IDs only held electrical charge for an average of 5 to 6 hours, and with assistance they began to accumulate charge for up to 8 hours; d) poor quality solar panels that were incompatible with the system, a fact allied to the lack of power at some voter registration posts.

Given this scenario, it is unlikely that the Government will order the electoral administration and management bodies to use the past equipment.

However, the Government has the last word. It will be up to the Government to decide what needs to be done in order for elections to take place on 11th October 2023. The election management bodies are just waiting for that decision.

Training only started this week

The induction of the members of the Provincial Electoral Commission, and the respective STAE technicians ended this week. The training, whose objective is to harmonize the interpretation of the law, took place from Monday to Wednesday.

The induction, at all levels, was scheduled to begin on 1st August and end by 31st October, according to the schedule for the 2023 municipal elections. Therefore, this timeline proves to be disjointed, in that the CNE only had a budget in October and the induction is underway only now. The same capacity building at the district level will follow.

Greater Inclusion in Upcoming Elections

Three civil society organizations will benefit from US Government funding to ensure that people with disabilities can participate as voters, candidates, polling station members, and in other critical positions in the 2023 municipal and 2024 general elections.

According to a statement issued by the US embassy in Maputo, this is the Forum for Mozambican Associations of People with Disabilities (FAMOD), whose support will focus on identifying existing barriers to the participation of people with disabilities in the democratic process; TV Surdo, which will produce and disseminate content for Mozambique’s deaf community to be better informed about the electoral process; and the Mozambican Observatory of Disability (OMD), which will partner with election officials in Cabo Delgado province to ensure that accessibility is a cornerstone of the election planning process.

	FICHA TÉCNICA:	ENDEREÇOS:
 <p>CIP ELEIÇÕES 2023 - 2024</p>	<p>Editor: Lázaro Mabunda</p> <p>Advisor: Joseph Hanlon</p> <p>Director: Edson Cortez</p> <p>Sub-editor: Samuel Monjane</p> <p>Layout: Liliana Mangove</p> <p>Centro de Integridade Pública</p> <p>Bairro da Sommerschild, Rua Fernão Melo e Castro nr.o 124, Maputo</p>	<p>English To subscribe: https://cipleicoes.org/eng/</p> <p>Web: https://cipleicoes.org/eng/</p> <p>Portuguese</p> <p>Web: https://www.cipeleicoes.org/</p> <p>Facebook: @cipeleicoes Instagram: @cip_eleicoes</p> <p>Tiktok: @cipmoz</p> <p>Telegram: +258 843890584</p>

Partners:



Norwegian Embassy