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Renamo dissidents will stand in 8 municipalities

After three appeals to the Constitutional Council (CC), the Democratic Revolution (RD) party of Renamo dissidents will stand in eight municipalities, it was announced Thursday (7 September). Renamo announced it had withdrawn its second appeal to the CC, while the National Elections Commission announced it had approved 8 of the 10 candidates lists submitted by RD.

Approved lists are in Maputo city, Matola-Rio, Matola, Marromeu, Tete city, Nacala-Port, Lichinga and Metangula. The RD candidates for Chimoio and Nampula were rejected because the RD had not managed to correct irregularities in their papers.

The long saga was over the RD party symbol, which originally had portraits of two of Renamo's former leaders, André Matsangaia (1997-9, named by Rhodesia's founders of Renamo and killed in battle in Gorongosa) and Afonso Dhlakama (1984-2018, became commander in chief in 1984 when Renamo was under South African tutelage, upper right in the logo). RD claims to represent the founders and opposes Ossufo Momade elected at a Renamo congress in 2019.



CC 1: In July, RD had submitted its candidacy for this year's municipal elections, which was approved by the Frelimo majority on the CNE. But Renamo opposed allowing the RD to stand, and submitted an appeal against the CNE decision to the Constitutional Council (CC) on the grounds that the RD symbol would confuse voters.

The CC ruled in favour of Renamo, arguing that the use of Renamo symbols might lead electors "to vote by mistake for the candidates of the RD when, in fact, they wanted to vote for Renamo". But RD would be allowed to stand with a new symbol.

CC 2: RD submitted its candidates nomination papers after the 11 August deadline, and CNE rejected them as being too late. The time RD appealed to the CC, which ruled on 30 August that the CNE should have given RD extra time because of the delay caused by the earlier CC appeal, and also ruled that the decision had been taken by a subcommittee in violation of the electoral law.

The CC ordered that the CNE should receive the RD's nomination papers within 48 hours, and accept or reject at a plenary session. RD submitted its nomination papers and lists in 8 municipalities were accepted, with 2 rejected.

CC3: Renamo appealed to the CC on 4 September, because RD still had not changed its symbol. RD submitted a new symbol, and on 6 September Renamo withdrew its appeal to the CC. Thus RD can stand in the 8 municipalities.

MDM and Renamo concerned at collection of voter card numbers in Homoine

Late on Wednesday (6 September), there was agitation in Homoine, Inhambane, after a teacher was caught taking the names of potential voters, urging them to vote for Frelimo in the 11 October elections, and promising to give some money to the voters after the elections. MDM and Renamo reported the matter to the police. ([Reactions of Renamo and MDM mayoral candidates, in Portuguese.](#))

In Maputo and Matola cities there are also denunciations that the block chiefs have redoubled their efforts to collect the numbers of voter cards from voters in their blocks.

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