

### Number 36 – 02<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

Published by Centro de Integridade Pública, Maputo, Mozambique

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## Frelimo has already decided: there will be no district elections in 2024

The Frelimo parliamentary group believes that holding the district elections in 2024 would be inopportune, according to the daily paper “Notícias” (28/02), citing the head of the Frelimo group, Sérgio Pantie. The next step will be submitting to parliament a proposal for a specific amendment to the Constitution of the Republic.

The district elections are part of an agreement between the late leader of Renamo, Afonso Dhlakama, and the President of the Republic, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, seeking to put an end to the resurgence of clashes in the centre of the country. At this time, the constitution was amended to accommodate the demand for these elections.

Afonso Dhlakama has died, the Renamo guerrillas have been demobilized, and the government has abandoned the agreement.

Frelimo is suggested that in 2024 only the presidential, parliamentary and provincial elections should be held. For Frelimo, the whole process of decentralization should be gradual, secure, and viable, and should bring added value to the functioning of institutions. In this context, according to the argument used by the head of the Frelimo group, the district elections will not consolidate the democratic institutions. In addition, they will involve high costs for the public finances, since it will be necessary to set up new bodies: the new district administrator, the representative of the State and the district assembly ([Link](#)).

A further Frelimo argument is that holding these elections would make management complicated and would cause tremendous confusion among citizens, because they would call into question the role of the provincial governor. Each district would have an administrator, who would not be accountable to the provincial governor.

The rehearsal for announcing that district elections will not be held in 2024 had already begun the previous day. For example, the daily paper “Notícias”, on 27 February ([link](#)), published a news item, in which some analysts, one of them linked to the Frelimo Party, advised against holding the district elections next year. Pedro Nguiliche presented the same argument as that of the Frelimo parliamentary group. For him, it is neither strategic nor opportune to go into district elections before consolidating, deepening and improving the design of the provincial government, implemented in past elections.

For its part, the weekly paper “Público” ([link](#)), acquired by Frelimo in 2013, put on its cover Abdul Carimo, a serious member of Frelimo, also advising against holding the district elections in 2024.

Faced with this scenario, Frelimo will propose a specific amendment to the Constitution of the Republic. To approve a constitutional amendment, Frelimo does not need any votes from the opposition, since it has 73% of the deputies in parliament, much more than the two thirds required by the Constitution.

This position reveals the reasons why the President of the Republic, Filipe Jacinto Nyusi, is not setting up the commission he promised in December to discuss the viability of these elections.

In fact, the decision not to go ahead with the district elections was taken in May last year, during a meeting of the Frelimo Central Committee. At the time, Filipe Nyusi, speaking as president of the party, warned of the need for the country to reflect on the viability of the district elections, on the grounds that Mozambique may not be prepared to accommodate this event ([for more details, see Bulletin 34](#)).

The Government should announce, within a month and a half, the date for the 2024 general elections, which is why there is no time for the reflection promised by the President of the Republic.

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