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Zambézia: Morrumbala district court sentences 40 teachers for committing election crimes

Forty teachers have been found guilty and sentenced for registering as voters within the parameter of Morrumbala municipality, although they do not live within the municipality. Their names were on the priority lists from Frelimo that were given to the voter registration brigades.

Furthermore, the court sentenced three brigade supervisors for unduly registering the teachers. In Mopeia district, one woman was sentenced for registering illegally in Morrumbala. The judge of the Morrumbala District Law Court, Soraia Ibrahimo, sentenced all those involved in the crimes to penalties of between three to five months imprisonment.

But the prison terms were converted into fines equivalent to between three and five times the monthly minimum wage.

Those sentenced to pay three times the minimum wage (27,000 meticaís) are all teachers, including the citizen from Mopeia district. The three supervisors were ordered to pay sums equivalent to five times the minimum wage plus ten per cent (50,000 meticaís). The supervisors were accused of facilitating the lists of “priority citizens”, and of receiving as voters citizens who do not live in the municipal area.

Those sentenced showed repentance, but are concerned at the deadlines fixed (10 days) to pay the fines. One of those sentenced is a Level Four teacher who earns less than 10,000 meticaís a month. After the sentence, he asked where he would find the 27,000 meticaís to pay the court, if he earns a monthly wage that is less than a third of the fine he should pay?

Not only are the fines much higher than their wages, but the teachers are already in debt to the banks. Now they will have to find a formula that will allow them to pay the fines. Everything indicates that they will appeal, which will have the effect of suspending the sentence.

The judge explained that the accused could appeal, by proving that they are residents of the town.

President Nyusi confirms that the general elections will be held on 9 October 2024

The “CIP Eleições” Bulletin announced last March that the 2024 general elections will be held on 9 October, but that the President would only announce the date after the approval this month (August 2023) of the Constitutional Amendment on the district elections ([see more here](#)). This week, the Head of State confirmed this information.

The date was announced in the same week that the parliament (through the majority Frelimo parliamentary group) approved the alteration to the Constitution which allows the postponement sine die of the date for holding the elections of district assemblies.

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