

2019 General Elections - 94

Mozambique Political Process Bulletin

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In secret, constitutional council gives 131,623 more votes to Nyusi - but fails to correct AR totals

In secret in the past few days the Constitutional Council changed its ruling on the 15 October 2019 general elections, because it had incorrectly omitted the votes of Mozambicans in Africa and Europe. The original judgement (acórdão) gave the wrong vote totals, excluding the votes in the diaspora, because it simply copied the National Elections Commission (CNE) decision which contained the mistake. The error was noted in this Bulletin (issue 93, 23 December) and by AIM (23 Dec).

However the CC secret change failed to correct the same error for parliament (AR, Assembleia da República), and still omits the AR diaspora vote.

No announcement has been made, and more seriously, there is nothing in the ruling that says it has been changed - it is still called "Acórdão no, 25/CC/2019, de 22 de Dezembro" with no indication of any change. The change is to the tables on page 31 of the ruling.

The CC judgement simply copied and pasted the CNE ruling, and did not correct the CNE's error in the presidential vote and turnout, which we pointed out in Bulletin 87 (27 Oct <http://bit.ly/EIBull87>). The total registration is given as 13,162,321 which is correct, but the vote for Frelimo Presidential candidate Filipe Nyusi is given as 4,507,549, which is wrong, because it only includes the votes inside Mozambique and not those in Africa and Europe, where Nyusi gained a further 131,623 votes. This takes his total to 4,639,172. Because the CC and CNE include the African and European registration but not their votes, they report a turnout which is too low, 50.74%. The actual turnout is 51.84%.

The CC judgement has a 448 page annex of tables, and the table on page 111 of Acórdão 25 includes the presidential votes of the diaspora, which seems to have been ignored when the CNE numbers were copied into the ruling itself.

The CC has corrected the error for the Presidential votes, but failed to correct the same error for AR, on page 32 of the ruling. Registered voters and number of assembly seats include the diaspora and match the table on pages 74 and 101. But the number of votes and turnout does not. Thus in the CC judgement, Frelimo loses 128,226 votes from the diaspora (but not the AR deputies elected by those votes).

Our previous link <http://bit.ly/CCAc25> now goes to the current partially corrected version. The original CC ruling is posted on <http://bit.ly/CCAc25Orig>. The changed tables are on page 31. The

simplest way to tell the two versions apart is slightly different formatting. At the bottom of page 3 in the original there are the first 2 lines of item ii), whereas in the corrected version this starts on page 4.

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There are two archives of historic elections data, at IESE on <http://www.iese.ac.mz/eleicoes-resultados/> and at London School of Economics on <http://bit.ly/MozEIData> The LSE archive now has detailed 2013 and 2014 results, by polling station.

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