

2014 National Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin



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COLLECTIVE ACTION: This newsletter is based on reports from 150 journalists in nearly every district, working together to give the most up to date coverage of the election. We are also working with the Community Radios Forum (FORCOM) and the Human Rights League.

Calm and busy final weekend of the campaign - *except in Nampula*

Sunday, the final day of campaigning was calm and festive - except in Nampula city. Elsewhere 65 of our journalists across the country report parades and rallies without problems as the parties stepped up their campaigning. Nearly all campaigning has been by the three main parties, Renamo, Frelimo and MDM, and little has been seen of the 27 other small parties.

Police use tear gas at Dhlakama rally in Nampula after day of skirmishes

Police launched tear gas into the crowd before the Renamo presidential candidate Afonso Dhlakama's final rally at 25 de Setembro stadium in Nampula. This occurred a half hour before the start of the rally, our local journalist reports. Some people were affected and fled, including to the nearby Lopes building and the yard of the church of the Nazarene. Most stayed for the rally, which started two hours late because of the tear gas.

Ivone Soares, a Renamo MP who was affected by the gas, said: "Luckily journalists were present and could see first hand what happened."

A policeman at the rally told our journalist "we had orders from the most senior commander to launch the tear gas. We just followed orders." The tear gas was shot by the national police (PRM). Shortly after, a loudspeaker car of the traffic police (a different police group) arrived and appealed for calm.

This followed a morning of skirmishes between Frelimo and Renamo which left 11 people arrested and 15 injured admitted to Nampula Provincial Hospital, one in serious condition. A police spokesperson that the "This morning (Sunday) members of Renamo spread across the city and

practices acts of violence, including throwing stones at cars and people." He called it "savage comportment". AIM reports Renamo militants wandering the streets and confronting people with Frelimo t-shirts and caps, and demanding that people take them off.

There are also reports of skirmishes in Angoche with injuries and damaged cars. There have been no other reports of violence or misconduct in the final weekend of the campaign.

Parties could not find enough polling station staff

The three main parties have been unable to find more than 17,000 polling stations staff (MMVs) each. Under the revised law, the three main parties have the right to nominate one person to actually be a member of the polling station staff. This is in addition to the right to have a party observer in each polling station.

There have been two training sessions for party-nominated MMVs, but even Frelimo did not send enough people for training, and there are large shortfalls in numbers from MDM and Renamo.

In the Mozambican electoral system, the biggest control of fraud is having party people in the polling stations. Having party-nominated MMVs was seen as a way of reinforcing that check. But it does not work if opposition parties are not well enough organised to recruit quite a large number of people.

Elsewhere in the campaign

Quelimane: Sunday was a day of parties as the political parties finished their rallies and parades and moved on to music and street parties. Frelimo, for example, used its loudspeaker cars to broadcast dance music late into the evening. There are no reports of violence or illegal actions.

Most campaigning was by the three main parties, although PDD/AD campaigned in the last two weeks and ALIMO and PAZS campaigned in the final week.

Cuamba (Niassa): Frelimo and MDM both held rallies yesterday in Rimbane neighbourhood to close their campaign, and sometimes the two parades met, but there were no incidents. Renamo just organised parades and finished with a rally at its district headquarters. Again only the three main parties were visible, although PRDS joined in the final week.

Maxixe (Inhambane): Frelimo had a rally in 25 de Setembro square headed by former governor Francisco Pateguane and Frelimo afterwards paraded through most neighbourhoods. Renamo paraded down the main street, while MDM concentrated on Manhala and Chicucue. Campaigning was calm. Most campaigning was by the three main parties, although PDD did put up posters.

Mocuba (Zambézia): Frelimo closed its campaign Sunday with a rally and parade in the centre of Mocuba. Renamo held its rally at its headquarters. To avoid conflicts, MDM closed its campaign Saturday with a rally in CFM neighbourhood. The only incidents of the campaign were on 8 October and 8 MDM members are still being held by the police. All three parties complain of their posters being torn down.

A detailed report on the 2009 elections is available, in two parts, on
<http://bit.ly/MozElec2009-1a> and <http://bit.ly/MozElec2009-2>

The Portuguese edition of the Bulletin is more detailed, and can be read on
<http://www.cip.org.mz/election2013/> Portuguese Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CIP.Eleicoes>
Some English bulletins cover two Portuguese bulletins and have a double number.

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