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CNE: different rules for different parties?

PLD was allowed by the CNE to substitute candidates without the right documents with new ones who had documents, although other parties appear not to have been able to do this.

Caetano Sabile, president of the Party for Liberty and Development (Partido de Liberdade e Desenvolvimento, PLD) told the *Bulletin* in an interview yesterday (25 September) that his party had been notified by the CNE that there were problems with some of the candidates, because they had not presented copies of birth certificates or identity cards. Obtaining an identity card takes a long time, and it appears the CNE has not accepted the receipt that says that an identity card has been applied for. Similarly, where a person does not have a birth certificate, a life history document (Certidão de Narativa Simples) can be presented instead, but this takes more time to obtain than was available.

PLD hit on the neat idea of simply asking the candidates without documents to write a letter withdrawing from the list, and substituting those people with others who had documents. This was accepted by the CNE, said Sabile. But when another party, PARENA, tried to do the same thing – at the suggestion of Sabile – it claims that this was rejected by the CNE, and thus the party was excluded.

Is the CNE being inconsistent in applying the law? It is impossible to know. PARENA says that until now, it has not been given details as to why it was excluded. There is a strong suspicion that some parties are being treated more benevolently than others, and without more transparency on the part of the CNE it will be impossible to dispel this suspicion.

PLD candidates are from Maputo and Chiúre

PLD candidates for the ten provinces in which it is standing “are not all from Maputo, but the vast majority are living in Maputo and Chiúre in Cabo Delgado,” admitted PLD president Caetano Sabile in an interview with the *Bulletin* yesterday. Chiúre is Sabile’s home district.

There is nothing improper or illegal about this. Candidates for national parliament are not required to live in their constituency, and small parties have often built their lists from Maputo residents because it is easier to pull together the necessary documents. It appears that PLD

has used its base in the Centro de Formação Artística e Cultural which is in Maputo and Chiúre.

PLD only became a legal party at the last minute. Until December 2008 Sabile was part of the PADELIMO party and attempted to stand for Maputo mayor last year. But he fell out with party head Joaquim Nhota, and has set up PLD. The *Bulletin* has seen the various registration documents, and PLD was approved as a party by the Ministry of Justice on 11 June, registered on 30 June with the Conservatória dos Registos Centrais, and received its certificate only on 29 July, the last day it could submit its documents to the National Election Commission.

Normally the CNE requires that the party statutes be published in *Boletim da República*, but this was waived. Indeed, PLD had to wait until it received its funding as a party from the CNE last week before it could pay Imprensa Nacional to publish the statutes in *Boletim da República*. It is not known if PLD was alone in being allowed to stand when it had not published its statutes, because details of CNE decisions on excluding parties and candidates are secret.

PLD began its campaign in Inharrime, Inhambane on 24 September.

Nampula: 19 arrests since the start of the campaign

Since the start of the election campaign two weeks ago, police in Nampula have arrested 19 people in connection with 29 election campaign incidents. António de Oliveiras Manique, head of public relations for the provincial police command, confirmed that most of those detained are from Renamo. He also said that on 23 September, members of Renamo president Afonso Dlakama's personal guard violently attacked two Frelimo members in Mogovolas.

Sticks and stones against Renamo

A Renamo caravan of cars passing through Chiúta, Tete, on the way to Marávia was ambushed by a group of people wearing Frelimo t-shirts and armbands at 9 am on 22 September. Using sticks and stones, the attackers injured six people, one seriously, and vandalised one of the cars, a double cabin Ford Ranger, MMJ 89-46, belonging to a Renamo MP for Tete, Rui de Sousa. Renamo claims that police were present but did nothing to stop the attack.



Paulino Mponha, Renamo member injured in Chiúta, Tete

Opposition complaints in Tambara

Local opposition party delegates for Renamo (Francisco Ferro) and MDM (Humberto Escova) in Tambara, Manica, accuse the police and civil servants of favouring Frelimo. Ferro said that in one incident at the start of the campaign, there was a confrontation between parades (*caravanas*) of cars of Renamo and Frelimo in which Renamo members were beaten. But when they went to the police to complain, it was the Renamo people who were

arrested and accused of provoking the violence. So far Renamo has made 11 complaints denouncing violence against its members, including five injuries, but none has been accepted by the police as serious enough to deal with. In contrast, when Frelimo complained about Renamo destroying Frelimo campaign posters, the cases were sent to court.

On 25 September Frelimo members burned MDM pamphlets. MDM accused Frelimo of threatening to kill MDM members, saying Tambara belongs to Frelimo. These threats were treated seriously enough that the MDM has withdrawn to Macossa.

MDM accuses the Frelimo first secretary, Manuel Singano, and Frelimo members of destroying their local headquarters and flag on 20 September. Singano said the MDM intransigence justified the action, because it had put its headquarters at the side of the road instead of on the land allocated.

A civil servant working in Tambara told the *Bulletin* that the district administrator Gilberto Canhaze told all government staff in Tambara that it was mandatory to attend a Frelimo rally on 24 September at 15.30. Frelimo first secretary Manuel Singano denies that the instruction came from the party.

Campaign incidents, in brief

Election violence

Correction: Parties were mixed up in an incident reported in Bulletin 6. It should have read: **Chokwé, Gaza:** On 17 September a group of Frelimo youth grabbed and took away the party banner and t-shirts being carried by the local Renamo delegate, Ricardina Nhumaio.

Sussundenga, Manica: Frelimo member Rachidi Mário was hit by police on the morning of 24 September when he was caught trying to infiltrate an MDM parade with the objective of disrupting the MDM campaign.

Barué, Manica: A Frelimo member was arrested on 23 September at 17.00 in the military neighbourhood when he was caught throwing stones at a Renamo parade; a day later he was still detained.

Sussundenga, Manica: MDM member Alexandre Alberto Macambene was arrested on 23 September when he was caught with a Frelimo poster in his pocket.

Macomia, Pemba, Cabo Delgado: Renamo member of the district election commission, Mário António Samade, said that on 24 September, community police in the village of Machova beat one of his colleagues, Ali Machado, who had been out campaigning.

Namarrói, Zambézia: Renamo members on 24 September prevented a Frelimo rally by blocking the access road to the administrative post of Regome, stopping Frelimo campaign cars from passing.

Muanza, Sofala: Two Renamo members were arrested in Wiliqueze locality, accused of preventing a Frelimo rally on 16 September.

Muanza, Sofala: Three Renamo youth (Titos João, Elias Joaquim e Chaque Inácio) were arrested 19 September in Muchinaeanimda for destroying Frelimo election material. They were charged, convicted, sentenced to be whipped 20 times, and released immediately after the flogging.

Cahora-Bassa, Tete: Frelimo members attacked an MDM member at 18.00 on 21 September in Xitima village.

Mutarara, Tete: Three Renamo members arrested in the early morning of 19 September accused of provoking a fight with a Frelimo party brigade in Sinjal locality in the administrative post of Nhamaiaague.

Mutarra, Tete: Renamo members attacked a department of health driver, Vinte Jaime Vinte, in bairro 1 de Maio, on 22 September, accusing him of using the health car to distribute Frelimo leaflets.

Frelimo use of state cars and other resources

Machanga, Sofala: 24 September, Toyota Hilux MBF 82-09 and motorcycle MLU 43-61, belonging to the Serviços Distritais das Actividades Económicas.

Montepuez, Cabo Delgado: 25 September, motorcycle MTC 05-93 belonging to serviços distritais de Educação, Juventude e Tecnologia.

Cahora Bassa, Tete: 22 September campaign parade – white Ministry of Health Nissan MMM 20-14.

Tete, Tete: 22 September campaign parade – grey double cabin Toyota Hilux belonging to direcção Provincial de Educação, Toyota Hilux belonging to Health, Isuzu e Mitshubishi cars of the Conselho Municipal de Tete. All registration numbers covered by Frelimo posters.

No classes

Buzi, Sofala: 22 September for a campaign rally of Frelimo Secretary General Filipe Paúnde. Classes cancelled in various schools – Escolas Secundária de Buzi, Primária 3 de Fevereiro, Primária do II grau da vila sede, Primária 25 de Setembro, Primária Completa 1 de Junho.

Vilanculos, Inhambane: 23 September Frelimo rally addressed by Aires Aly. No classes in several schools – Escolas Secundária de Mucoque, de Vilanculos, do Instituto de Formação dos Professores, da Escola Superior de Desenvolvimento (ESUDER).

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