



# 2009 Elections



## Mozambique political process bulletin

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Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)  
Deputy editor: Adriano Nuvunga Research assistant: Tânia Frechauth

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## Domingo attacks observers for doing a good job

In an unprecedented attack on the EU observer mission, the Sunday newspaper *Domingo* yesterday claimed that EU observers “violated established observation norms”. Yet one example they give is an almost textbook description of observers doing a good job. And their other claim is rejected both by the EU and journalists in the field as simply not being true.

*Domingo* reports that EU observers Rumiana Decheva and Eduardo Salvador in Lichinga “visited the headquarters of political parties, Renamo (5 October), MDM (6 October) and Frelimo (7 October). On these visits they asked various questions of the party officials, including (i) the level of organisation of the party, (ii) its representation on CNE and STAE, (iii) if it was training party delegates for polling stations, (iv) if it had enough members to cover all polling stations, and (v) if they had noted any confrontations and had registered any complaints with the authorities.”

That is a model of how observers should act. Observers are trained to make contacts with parties, and to invite complaints and comments. They visited all three parties, asked all of them the same questions (showing no favouritism), asked about their preparations to monitor the election, and gave them an opportunity to report any violations of electoral law and procedure.

The second allegation from *Domingo* is much more serious. They say that EU observers Sten Gurrick and Carl Olle Blomberg in a white Toyota Hilux, registration 666-SCM, accompanied by an RTP (Portuguese television) camera crew, “escorted” Daviz Simango from Maputo to Xai-Xai on 5 October, and over the next two days spent all their time with Daviz.

But AIM reports today that although the observer names and car registration are correct, the EU says that Gurrick and Blomberg actually arrived in Xai-Xai the day before, and slept there the night of 4 October. The next days were spent arranging communication and other requirements, and they did not observe any MDM event until Friday, 9 October.

The EU adds that when they were informed that Daviz Simango was canvassing in a Xai-Xai market on Monday 5 October, the observers went to watch but arrived there too late. Our journalist Carlos Mula confirms that he saw the two observers that day at the central market, but by the time they arrived, Daviz had already left because Frelimo members had locked the market to stop Daviz from entering.

Our journalist in Xai-Xai confirms that EU observers were seen seated at a rally where Daviz was speaking, but did not mingle with Daviz or MDM during the meeting. AIM

spoke to two Mozambican reporters covering the Simango campaign, and they saw no EU Observer vehicle accompanying the Simango parade.

A third allegation is odd. *Domingo* accuses Hendreyes Son, the Dutch proprietor of the Bassopa security company, of “subtly distributing Renamo campaign material”. They also accuse him of having CIA links in the late 1970s and of being part of a South African raid on the ANC in Maputo during the war in the 1980s – very serious charges which have not been made before, and seem to have no foundation. But also totally irrelevant, since Son has no known links to the EU observer mission.

**COMMENT:** I have trained observers in the past, and the *Domingo* monitoring of the observers in Lichinga shows that they were doing exactly what they were trained to do. Their question list was excellent. Indeed, the EU should be pleased that a hostile outsider reports that their conduct was so correct.

It is also important to remember that observers are trained to talk to parties, and are also told to attend party rallies. One important role of international observers is to be *seen* to be present and watching, so their obvious presence at meetings and demonstrations of all parties is a key part of their role.

Finally, one role of observers (and journalists) is to follow up complaints. We have already reported in the *Bulletin* that a number of Daviz rallies have been disrupted by Frelimo “shock groups” and thus it is the role of observers and journalists to keep a closer eye on opposition rallies to see if such incidents are repeated.

The *Domingo* report is a nasty and unjustified attack, but it does confirm that the EU observers are doing their job.

*Joseph Hanlon*

## **MDM makes formal complaint alleging theft of files**

The MDM says it will submit today a formal complaint to the attorney general’s office (Procuradoria Geral da República) saying that files it submitted were stolen from the National Elections Commission (CNE). Bernabe Nkomo, deputy party agent and head of the MDM training department, said that the complaint is based entirely on the differences in two CNE documents already published in *Bulletin* 11 – a formal notification letter from CNE inviting corrections to documents, which seems to imply that the files exist, and the *mapa de controlo* which lists all document movements and was used by the Constitutional Council, which says the files do not exist.

In interviews with *Notícias* and TVM, CNE President João Leopoldo da Costa argued that CNE security is so good that files could not have been removed.

MDM claims it submitted enough complete candidates’ files to allow it to stand in more provinces, but the CNE says that such files did not exist. Therefore, says the MDM, someone stole them.

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