

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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Few know who the candidates are

So far, the only lists of candidates for the elections next week are the scruffy lists posted outside the National Election Commission offices in Maputo. Lists have not been posted on the CNE website because staff are “too busy”, according to a senior CNE official.

The lists were posted outside the CNE more than a month ago, but were not submitted to Imprensa Nacional for publication in *Boletim da República* until after the various Constitutional Council rulings. The lists are now being organised by Imprensa Nacional, but must be returned to the CNE to be checked before publication. Imprensa Nacional says it is still possible to publish the lists this week, but that seems unlikely.

As happened with local elections last year, it seems that voters will only know the names of the parties, and not who are the individual candidates on the lists.

Did CNE help UDM?

Repeated claims that the UDM (União dos Democratas de Moçambique) was given special help by the National Elections Commission (CNE) have never been denied by the CNE, and have privately been confirmed by an election administration insider.

According to CNE rules, upheld by the Constitutional Council, once a party has submitted its lists on 29 July, those lists could not be changed. The new opposition party of Daviz Simango, MDM, was excluded from most provinces because it was not allowed to add names or combine lists – in particular, it could not take names from one list which was too short and would be excluded, and use those candidates to fill out others lists.

But the government news agency AIM reported on 14 September that the CNE did just that for the UDM. AIM reported that in mid-August “the CNE suggested to the UDM election agent that the party should regroup its candidates so that it could at least cover completely a few provinces (this is possible because parliamentary candidates do not have to live in the province they wish to represent).” This was later confirmed by an election source.

The story was picked up again by *Magazine Independente* on 14 and 21 October. *Magazine* quotes party president José Ricardo Viana to say that they party agent Aida Jorge Pires was allowed to merge candidates lists from three provinces so long as the complete list was for Sofala. Viana was angry, and said he did not want to stand in Sofala, and wanted

a combined list for Zambézia instead, and tried to dismissed Pires as party agent. Pires reacted angrily to the complaint, but confirmed that she was allowed to add a candidate to the Sofala list after 29 July.

Magazine suggests that the CNE helped the UDM to stand in Sofala – the only place where the UDM had a list accepted – because Frelimo wants an opposition party there with initials close to MDM, so as to take away a few votes from the party of Daviz Simango.

ALIMO launches campaign in Nampula

The Independent Alliance (Aliança Independente de Moçambique - ALIMO) which is standing in only two national parliamentary constituencies, Zambézia and Nampula, finally launched its campaign on Saturday 17 October. Alexandre Constantino, coordinator for the group in the north, said they would concentrate their campaign in the mosques, trying to gain support from Muslims, because the party says it is inspired by the Koran.

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