



2009 Elections



Mozambique political process bulletin

Number 24
28 October 2009 - 1700

www.elections2009.cip.org.mz
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Published by CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública and AWEPA, the European Parliamentarians for Africa
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At 1500: Mixed picture – long queues in some places but only a trickle of voters elsewhere

By mid-afternoon, big queues remained in many places, suggesting that some polling stations will not be able to close at 1800.

But in others, including central Maputo and Beira; Ribaue and Ilha de Moçambique, Nampula; Macanga, Tete; and Tambara, Manica, there were long queues when polling stations opened, but most people voted in the morning and there were no queues by mid-afternoon. This mixed picture comes from our 100 journalists spread across the country, who reported at 1500.

In Nacala, for example, polling stations on the outskirts of the city had few voters this afternoon, while other polling stations in the city were still packed with people.

In general, nearly all polling stations have opened, except some which still have problems with register books.

Observers arrested and run out of town in Dombe & Changara

Two domestic observers of the Electoral Observatory were arrested and run out of town. In Dombe, Sussendenga, Manica, the observer, Marceta Andre Madina, wanted to spend the night before there, but was told he could not stay the night. When he arrived back in the morning at the school where he was observing, EPC de Machire, and presented his credential to the first polling station, the polling station president (presiding officer) immediately called the police, who arrested him. He was handcuffed, beaten and told to leave town.

In Changara, Tete, the observer presented his credential, was told that observers were not recognised. Again the president called the police, who told the observer to leave Changara immediately. Similar problems occurred in 2004, and without observers or opposition party delegates present, there was extensive ballot box stuffing.

Missing and switched register books

Switched and missing register books are proving to be a problem across the country. Our journalists report polling stations which could not open in Maputo city (Escola Primaria Filipe Samuel Magaia); Mucumbura, Tete; Gondola, Manica; Meconta, Nicoadjuni, and Namialo in Nampula; Machanga and Maringue, Sofala; and Cuamba, Niassa.

In Caia, Sofala, one register book was in a polling station 3 km away. Some voters walked the extra distance, but others simple went home.

In Mapolo Inhabando, Magoe, Tete, there was no polling station at the registration location, and 170 voters had to walk 10 km to the next village, Missão.

Campaigning and confusion

In Muipini, Machanga, Sofala in polling station 730, confusion reigns. There are still very long queues, and local Frelimo leaders who voted first this morning have returned and are talking to people in the long queue.

Left handed

Reports from Nacala are that some voters, for example from Escola Primaria Completa 7 de Abril, have the indelible ink on their left index finger instead of the right.

Meanwhile, a 17 year old (who is therefore too young to vote) is being questioned by police after being caught with the indelible ink on his right index finger. He is Fernando Antonio Trinta, son of Antonio Trinta who is a polling station president.

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