

## Mozambique political process bulletin

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### New parliament:

## Frelimo 192, Renamo 48, MDM 8

Using the provisional count of 72% of polling stations, it is estimated that Frelimo will have 192 seats, Renamo 48, and MDM 8. MDM will have 5 in Sofala and 3 in Maputo city, and this is definite because 100% of the vote has been counted there. It is unlikely to win seats in Inhambane or Niassa, the other two provinces in which it is standing. This is our calculation:

Assembleia da Republica			31 Out 2009 - 1400					
Provincia	Seats	Counted	Votos válidos			Mandatos		
			Frelimo	Renamo	MDM	Frelimo	Renamo	MDM
Niassa	14	60%	91 239	16 935	4 039	12	2	
Cabo Delgado	22	41%	147 355	31 129		18	4	
Nampula	45	48%	195 716	78 188		32	13	
Zambezia	45	55%	172 908	97 845		29	16	
Tete	20	70%	300 967	34 395		18	2	
Manica	16	74%	130 680	40 280		12	4	
Sofala	20	100%	162 922	72 753	74 257	11	4	5
Inhambane	16	81%	180 031	15 310	10 378	15	1	
Gaza	16	89%	317 749	356 016		16		
Maputo Prov	16	100%	230 551	21 103		15	1	
Maputo Cidade	18	100%	263 819	18 902	56 136	14	1	3
Total						192	48	8

MDM did well in Maputo city and in Daviz Simango's home province of Sofala, and has done better than any third party in Mozambique. But this year did not allow enough time to organise, and Daviz was unable to break into any other province. He has won 8% of the vote in Maputo province, Manica and Zambezia, but only gained 5% or 6% elsewhere, and came a poor second to Afonso Dhlakama throughout the north. Not the great breakthrough he had hoped for, but enough of a base to build for 2013 local elections and 2014 national elections.

## If MDM had been allowed to stand everywhere?

We have also tried to estimate how many seats the MDM (Movimento Democrático de Moçambique) might have won had it been allowed to stand in all provinces, and we suggest it could have gained 9 more seats, at the expense of Renamo. We have done this estimate using the presidential vote and it is set out in the table below.

But note that the presidential vote can only be an approximation. It gives a correct distribution for Sofala but is slightly wrong for Maputo city (1 seat less) and Inhambane (1 seat more) – it is not strictly true that everyone who voted for Daviz would also have voted for MDM; some votes clearly went to small parties. So at best this gives a rough guess as to how MDM might have done, had it been able to stand.

Assembleia da Republica -								
Theoretical calculation, if MDM had been allowed to stand, based on presidential vote								
Provincia	Seats	% counted	Presidencias - votos válidos			Theoretical seats		
			Simango	Geubuza	Dhlakama	Frelimo	Renamo	MDM
Niassa	14	60%	6 395	103 021	17 422	12	2	
Cabo Delgado	22	59%	11 974	153 746	29 373	18	3	1
Nampula	45	51%	18 411	221 148	85 367	31	12	2
Zambezia	45	59%	24 020	190 091	100 946	28	14	3
Tete	20	70%	15 485	267 805	26 095	18	1	1
Manica	16	74%	15 427	139 617	41 912	12	3	1
Sofala	20	100%	82 270	166 302	71 987	11	4	5
Inhambane	16	81%	17 041	188 480	12 588	14	1	1
Gaza	16	93%	8 795	342 034	2 831	16		
Maputo Prov	16	100%	26 577	277 452	11 322	15		1
Maputo Cidade	18	100%	51 294	275 864	16 835	16		2
Total						191	40	17

## First evidence of improperly spoiled ballot papers

MDM is presenting the first evidence of polling station staff improperly and illegally spoiling ballot papers. In polling station 0056 at EPC Esturro, Beira, there were 124 invalid ballot papers (nulos) out of a total of 388 – this is 32% compared to a normal 3%, and so it is immediately suspect.

The MDM is distributing a video which it says is from this polling station, and the video goes through a whole stack of nulos. Nearly all have an X next to Daviz Simango and then an ink mark somewhere else on the ballot paper. There are many ballot papers in which there is a similar ink mark in exactly the same place on each ballot. This makes the ballot invalid, because there are marks for more than one candidate.

The only way this could happen is if someone in the polling station during the count had taken ink and invalidated many votes for Daviz.

In 2004 and 2008, there were a number of examples of this. In response, a new polling staff code of conduct make clear that this is a crime punishable by imprisonment. With the evidence of the result sheet and the video, it will be interesting to see if anyone is prosecuted.

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