

9 parties and 6 local lists stand in 19 Nov local elections

Frelimo and Renamo are the only parties with candidates lists for assemblies in all 43 municipalities in local elections on 19 November, according to definitive lists published by the National Elections Commission (CNE). Frelimo has candidates for mayor (*presidente*) in all 43, and Renamo in 40. Five smaller parties, two coalitions, and six citizens lists are also contesting some municipalities.

Of the 43, 10 are new municipalities. Of the 33 old municipalities, 28 mayors are Frelimo and 5 Renamo. Frelimo has seats in all 33 municipalities and a majority in 29; Renamo has seats in all but 2 and a majority in 4.

Two parties which won seats in 2003 are again contesting the elections:

+ PDD (Party of Peace, Democracy and Development) is standing candidates for mayor in 17 municipalities, and is fielding candidates for the municipal assemblies in 24. This is Mozambique's third largest party, and is led by Raul Domingos, who was expelled from Renamo in 2000. IPADE, the Domingos-led predecessor of PDD, won one seat each in Beira and Dondo in 2003.

+ PIMO (Independent Party of Mozambique) is running for 16 municipal assemblies. In 2003, PIMO won a single seat in each of Nampula, Cuamba and Angoche.

The order of the first four parties on the ballot paper will be Frelimo, Renamo, PDD, PIMO.

Three citizens lists with seats in individual assemblies are standing again:

+ JPC (Juntos pela Cidade – Together for the City) won 15 seats in Maputo in 1998 and 5 in 2003.

+ OCINA (Oranizacao de Candidaturas Independentes de Nacala Porto - Organisation of Independent Candidates of Nacala) won 11 seats in Nacala in 1998 but only 1 in 2003, standing for assembly and mayor.

+ UM (Uniao para a Mudança, Union for Change) won a single seat in Gurue in 2003 and is standing again, as well as putting forward a candidate for mayor.

Five other parties and coalitions are standing in a few municipalities:

+ PT (Labour Party) is standing for 3 municipalities. It was the only small party to win seats in 1998 but gained none in 2003.

+ UNAMO (Mozambique National Union) is standing for three municipal assemblies; its president, Carlos Reis, is a candidate for mayor of his home town of Milange.

+ AND (National Democratic Alliance, a coalition of four small parties) has candidates for mayor and municipal assemblies in Matola and Pemba.

+ MONAMO (Mozambique Nationalist Movement) is standing for both mayor and assembly in Cuamba.

+ CEV, a coalition of two green parties, is standing for the Maputo and Matola assemblies and for mayor of Matola.

Finally, three new citizen's lists are standing for both assembly and mayor in individual cities:

+ GDB, Grupo para a Democracia da Beira (Group for Democracy in Beira).

+ GMM (Grupo para a Mudança de Marromeu, Group for Change in Marromeu).

+ NATURMA (Grupo de Naturais e Residentes da Manhica, Group of Natives and Residents of Manhica).

But a citizens list which had a single seat in Ilha de Moçambique is not standing again.

The only independent candidates for mayor is Daviz Simango, the current mayor of Beira, who was expelled from Renamo in September. He is now backed by the Beira independent citizen's organisation, the Group for Reflection and Change (GRM), in his bid for re-election. This means there are five candidates for mayor in Beira, which could lead to no candidate gaining a majority, forcing a second round between the two candidates with the highest vote.

There are 111 candidates for 43 posts as mayor and more than 6000 people are standing for assembly seats. Renamo is standing in local elections on its own, and not part of the Renamo Electoral Union with smaller parties as it did in the past and as it serves in parliament. Renamo has, however, included two prominent figures who once led minor parties as candidates for mayor. Jose Samo Gudo, former head of the Mozambique United Front (FUMO), is Renamo candidate for mayor of Matola, while Jose Palaco, former head of the Patriotic Action Front (FAP), is Renamo candidate for mayor of Alto Molocue.