

Mozambique Political Process Bulletin

2008 Local Election Issue 4– 12 November 2008

Published frequently during the election period

Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk) – Deputy editor: Adriano Nuvunga

Published by AWEPA, the European Parliamentarians for Africa, and CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública

Local elections:

General calm with isolated violence

Frelimo dominance but some real contests

A generally calm campaign for local elections on 19 November continues to be marred by incidents of violence and arrests, notably in Sofala and Tete provinces. In Beira on Monday the Christian Council held a press conference to call on the parties for calm and restraint.

In some places, both main parties seem to be encouraging youngsters (below voting age) to pull down posters and disrupt marches of the other party – and in a few cases even to throw stones at members of other parties.

Our correspondents report a lower key and more locally focused election than in the 1998 and 2003 local elections. In places such as Vilankulo, where Frelimo's dominance is clear and the mayor is popular, there is little interest in the campaign. But in others, such as Gorongosa, which is a new municipality and there is a serious contest between PDD, Renamo and Frelimo, there has been more interest shown in the campaign.

Frelimo has been showing its power and support from local business through large caravans of cars. In Maxixe, Frelimo opened its campaign with a parade of 100 cars, while Renamo started with just one car. In Beira, cars willing to join the Frelimo parade were given free 10 litres of fuel by a local petrol station. Reports continue to come in from our correspondents of Frelimo using state vehicles and of many government officials working on the campaign instead of carrying out their normal jobs.

Renamo candidate released

The Renamo candidate for mayor of Manjacase, Sarmento Bernardo Malombe, who had been arrested on 31 October for allegedly forging a signature on one of his candidacy documents, was released from jail on 11 November.

Nampula market ejects opposition

Candidates of both PDD and Renamo have forcibly be expelled from Resta market in Nampula, reports our correspondent Luis Rodrigues. Allegedly the market head said the market was built by Frelimo and thus other parties could not campaign there. The market head denies this. Police were called to the market to protect the PDD mayoral candidate Monday.

In Mocimboa da Praia Renamo complained that the police were disrupting their campaign by not allowing them to campaign in two neighbourhoods, Muengue and 30 de Junho, seen as Frelimo strongholds, in order to avoid violence. The policy deny this, noting that when Renamo submitted its campaign plan, it did not propose going to those neighbourhoods. District Commander Silva Paulo added, however, that if Renamo did plan to campaign in those neighbourhoods, the police should be told in advance so that they could provide protection.

21 in jail in Sofala

Sofala police said Monday they were holding 21 people in jail on election related charges. They are members of Frelimo and Renamo and supporters of independent candidate Daviz Simango, and from Beira, Dondo and Marromeu. They are accused of being involved in violence and in destruction of opposition posters (which is illegal under the electoral law). The most serious incident of the election so far occurred in Dondo last week when members of Frelimo and Renamo clashed with catanas (machetes), causing serious injuries requiring hospitalisation on both sides.

Individual Renamo members have been hospitalised in Tete and Nampula after attacks by youths, in one case wearing Frelimo t-shirts. Renamo is also claiming intimidation by Frelimo in Chibuto and Maxixe.

Six Renamo members were arrested in Nampula province during the weekend – four in Nampula city and one each in Ilha de Moçambique and Angoche. Four are accused of attacking Frelimo members and two of attacking a Frelimo car.

One Frelimo member in Mocimboa da Praia has been arrested for tearing down Renamo posters.

Parties sign conduct code in Mocimboa da Praia

In Mocimboa da Praia Frelimo and Renamo have signed an agreement committing themselves to tell their members and supporters to conduct themselves with civility and without aggression, to avoid the violence that occurred in 2005 after a very close and hard fought by-election, reports our correspondent Jonas Wazir.

=====

Mozambique Political Process Bulletin

Editor: Joseph Hanlon (j.hanlon@open.ac.uk)

Deputy editor: Adriano Nuvunga

Material may be freely reprinted and circulated. Please cite the Bulletin.

Published by AWEPA, the European Parliamentarians for Africa, and CIP, Centro de Integridade Pública

=====

To subscribe: Para assinar:

In English: <http://tinyurl.com/mz-en-sub>

Em Português: <http://tinyurl.com/mz-pt-sub>

=====

Also on the web: Também na internet:

In English: http://www.cip.org.mz/pub2008/index_en.asp

Em Português: <http://www.cip.org.mz/pub2008/>

=====