

2.8 million voters in 43 municipalities; Beira now 3rd city

The total number of registered voters in the 43 municipalities is 2.8 million, which means that 31% of voters live in cities and towns which will be holding municipal elections on 19 November. There are now six cities with a more than 100,000 registered voters: Maputo city 661,034, Matola 323,412, Beira 230,720, Nampula 222,884, Chimoio 113,011, and Quelimane 110,073.

Registration data also gives a picture of significant population shifts. Beira is no longer the second city.

Details of numbers of voters and assembly seats in the 43 municipalities were finally agreed by the National Elections Commission on Sunday 25 August, five days late. This gave parties and citizens lists less than two weeks to complete their candidates lists and finish collecting the 1% of voters' signatures required for all mayoral candidates by 5 September. The number of assembly seats depends on population, from 13 in the smallest municipalities up to 67 in Maputo city. The smallest municipality is Manjacaze, with only 6,978 voters.

Three provinces showed significant migration to the capital. In Gaza, Chokwe, Chibuto, and Manjacaze lost population while Xai-Xai gained 21%, compared to 2003. In Manica, Dondo lost population but Beira gained. In Nampula, Nacala, Angoche and Ilha de Moçambique on the coast all lost voters, while Nampula city gained. Migration to the capital area is also apparent – Maputo and Matola each gained 60,000 voters.

An attached table gives details for all 43 municipalities. Note that 2003 figures were inflated because the names of voters who had died or moved since the registration of 1999 had not been deleted. Thus the increase in registered voters is actually larger than shown.