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## Final day confirmed that machine breakdowns really are manipulated

In many posts in the districts dominated by the opposition in central and northern Mozambique, the registration posts on Saturday closed at between 17.00 and 21.00, because the electricity company (EDM) ordered a series of interruptions of electric current, and the STAE district directors ordered that computer breakdowns be declared. In Sofala, there was a strengthened police contingent at the posts that were still registering voters, but the machines broke down constantly.

Hence, thousands of potential voters were unable to register in these districts in the centre and north of Mozambique. In some districts in Sofala, Zambezia, Nampula and Niassa provinces, by 21.00 all the posts were closed, using the allegation that the machines were out of order, But in the south, most of the posts operated until zero hours.

During the 45 days of registration, these districts were characterized by blocking opposition voters and by prioritizing lists of people from non-municipal districts ([for more details see Bulletin 78](#)). The districts most affected were Gurue, Milange, and Alto Molocue in Zambezia; Marromeu, Caia, Nhamatanda and Beira, in Sofala; Mandimba and Cuamba in Niassa; and all the districts in Nampula.

On Saturday, the pattern of problems was not the same for all the districts, For example, Beira city had substantial posts that were working until the close. Electricity was not a problem, but the posts were affected by breakdowns and slowness in attending to voters, which caused discontent.

In the registration post at the Sansao Mutemba Secondary School, by 20.00 the machine had supposedly broken down. The technicians had not yet appeared. The potential voters gave up.

The posts in Beira at the Chota EPC and the Jorge Traquino ESG were full of voters trying to register, until the close of the post.

In Manga neighbourhood, some voters dropped out of the queue at the post in Manga Loforte EPC because of the crowd, allegedly because they could not register before zero hours. Slowness and breakdowns were the dominant notes.

In the 12 October EPC, voter registration was paralysed because the computer was not restarting. The supervisor promised that the technician was on his way, but he never arrived. Eventually the voters gave up. There was an enormous queue.

At the post in the Sansao Mutemba Secondary School, the machine was out of order since 16.00. Up to the time of writing, there was no sign of technical staff.

In the town of Caia, the problem was electricity. Some posts were forced to stop registration for lack of power. That was the case at Chandimba EPC. In the Amilcar Cabral post, registration was taking place but slowly. There were more than 300 people crowded together waiting to register. The post closed with many people not registered. There was a similar scene in the 4 October EPC.

In Marromeu, there were large crowds in some posts, but registration was slow. This caused some agitation in the queues, and some citizens insulted the brigade members. In the 25 September EPC, the brigade members took a long time to register just one voter. This blocking technique is called “sleeping on the computer” ([for more details see Bulletin 96](#)).

In Nhamatanda, registration was also slow, which caused confusion until the post closed. As an example, one could cite the post at the Jossias Tongogara EPC. The police (the protection police and the riot police) had to boost security. The post at the Sebastiao Marcos Mabote EPC, in the same town, closed at around 18.00, allegedly because there were no voters.

In Zambezia, many posts closed between 17.00 and 21.00. In Gurue, Alto Molocue, Milange, Morrumbala and Maganja da Costa almost all the posts closed by 21.00. In Quelimane also some posts closed well before the official closing time of zero hours, namely the posts at Morropue EPC, Mariana, Mborio, Micajune, and Namuinho, among others located on the periphery of the city. The reasons given were breakdowns of the mobiles and lack of electricity. In some posts, a lack of charge in the powerbanks was alleged.

In Mandimba and Cuamba, in Niassa, the posts were closed after a power cut, which led to the despair of many people.

In Nampula, there were also posts closed before zero hours, due to the lack of electric power and equipment breakdowns. The technique used in Nampula to prevent registration of opposition voters was to cut the electricity, and reconnect it late, when people had already given up.

## **Observers found posts closed in Zambezia and Cabo Delgado**

On Saturday night, during the extension to zero hours, the observers visited 67 registration posts, between 20.00 and midnight, and found 12 of them closed. In Morrumbala, Zambezia, the head of STAE closed the registration posts and sent the staff home. In Gurue, the two posts visited were both closed – at the Gurue ESG and the 25 June EPC. In Cabo Delgado, posts were closed in Mocimboa da Praia and Chiure, and some in Montepuez. In Montepuez, the post at Nihuhula EPC was open but nobody was registering. In Insaca, in Niassa, the registration officially closed on Saturday at 15.00

In some places, there were enormous queues and not everybody managed to register. In other places, the observers found registration posts empty. In Mocuba, in Zambezia, there were numerous queues and some people were unable to register, in the Mocuba ESG and in the Josina Machel ESG. In Beira, voters who complained of the slowness of the registration, invaded the post at the Chota EPC. At the Aeroporto EPC, some people were unable to register. In Pemba, there long queues of people waiting at the Marcelino dos Santos Secondary School.

In Matola city, at the Matola-Gare EPC, the brigade was working with two computers because of the long queues. At midnight, two people who were still in the queue offered money to brigade members to remain open a while longer, but they refused. Some citizens arrived after midnight at the Nelson Mandela Secondary School.

In Maputo city, there were long queues at the Chamissava Primary School and the Jardim Primary School but at the Unit 10 and Unit 27 Primary Schools, nobody was registering.

In Marromeu, in Sofala, at the Julius Nyerere EPC, there was nobody registering, but when one person did arrive, the computer suddenly “broke down”. At the 3<sup>rd</sup> February-Kaunda EPC, there was nobody registering when our correspondents passed by.


In Gaza, nobody registered on Saturday night in Chokwe. In Tete, there were very few registrations in Unit 6 (Algodoeira) in Moatize.

In Alto Molocue, there was a power cut from 15.00 to 23.30, at the Pedreira EPC. At the Muzuane EPC in Nacala-Port there was a two hour power cut which prevented some people from registering.

There were also power cuts, in Malema, Mozambique Island and Quelimane.

Two observers were not authorized to observe in Nampula. In Angoche, at the Nelson Mandela Secondary School, the observers were taken to the police station, because they had been taking photographs (which is permitted). In Nacala-Port, an observer was prevented from entering the post in the Upper City EPC.

The observers from the “Mais Integridade” (“More Integrity”) civil society consortium visited 67 registration posts between 20.00 and midnight, when the registration was due to end.

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