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Observers report bad start to public check of registration books

40% of registration posts visited by observers yesterday were not open or did not have register books (cadernos) available for inspection. This week it is possible for voters to inspect the register, in part to check the accuracy of their own record. Registration posts must print out copies of their own register books, and many did not do so. Observers from the civil society consortium Mais Integridade visited 138 registration posts yesterday, and 25 were not open and another 31 had problems - mostly no registration books to display. Problems were particularly notable in Zambézia and Cabo Delgado.

Few voters were attending to check the register. Many more were still trying to register or came to collect voter cards which had not been printed during the registration period.

In two registration posts in Alto Molocue, party monitors said that extra registration books had been secretly added. At Pista Velha EPC, which had been a contentious post throughout the registration, the monitors said there should only be 8 books, but 11 appeared. At Malua II EPC they said there were 8 books instead of the 7 there should be.

Supervisors refused to sign protests and Renamo complains to the PGR in Mandlakazi

Renamo submitted a protest to the District Attorney's Office in Mandlakazi, in Gaza province, denouncing the introduction, on the night of 29 May, of an extra 200 voters in one of the computers ("Mobiles"). But the supervisor refused to sign the complaints form.

Renamo says it was not just the supervisor of the brigade where there was clandestine registration at night, but all the supervisors of other registration brigades where the opposition submitted complaints. According to Renamo, the supervisors received an instruction from STAE not to receive any complaint from the opposition.

In its protest, sent to the District Attorney's Office in Mandlakazi, Renamo says that the brigade in question never registered 50 voters a day.



Position:

Failure to Deliver Cards to Thousands of Voters by the End of the Voter Registration

From 20 April to 3 June 2023, millions of citizens living in the 65 municipalities of Mozambique registered as voters, in compliance with their legal duty and their constitutional and civic rights, so that they can take part in the 6th municipal elections, as voters and as candidates.

However, by 24.00 on 3 June 2023, the date and time of the end of voter registration, thousands of registered citizens had not received from the registration body their voter cards, the only proof of their registration and the main means of electoral identification.


Failure to deliver the voter cards will call into question the exercise of electoral rights, since without the voter card, a citizen cannot, for example, be a candidate for the elections, and is unable to prove that he is duly registered so that he can vote on 11 October 2023.

This situation is the entire responsibility of the electoral administration which, because of its incapacity to guarantee the adequate operation of the electoral equipment which it acquired and managed, in particular the printers that print the cards, and to provide the registration brigades with sufficient material to operate the printers, did not comply with its legal obligation to register the eligible citizens that appeared before it, in a complete manner, including the issuing and delivery of the voter card.

Thus thousands of citizens who left their houses and queued up for many hours, and sometimes for several consecutive days, to comply with their legal obligation, because of the failure to deliver their cards, find themselves at risk of not being able to enjoy their constitutional right to vote and to be elected, as a result of non-compliance with legal obligations on the part of the electoral administration.

From 5 to 8 June 2023, the voter rolls will be on display at the places where the voter registration posts operated. This means that, in this period, the registration brigades and their equipment will remain in places near to the citizens they registered.

The electoral consortium “Mais Integridade” (“More Integrity”) is thus urging the National Elections Commission to identify the brigades that did not issue all the cards of the voters they registered, and to create urgently the technical, material and logistical conditions so that the cards are printed and delivered to the voters during this period of displaying the voter rolls while the brigades remain near the homes of these voters. It said that an intensive information campaign should be undertaken to make voters aware that they should go to the registration posts to receive their cards. If necessary, the presence of the brigades at the posts should be extended beyond 8 June, to ensure the delivery of all the cards.

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