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Gaza: registration posts almost deserted

Over the last four days, our correspondents visited 25 registration posts, at various times, in six districts of Gaza province and they describe an absence of voters in most of the posts. Others have just a few voters. There are registration posts which haven't managed to register more than five voters in days.

One of our correspondents says that in all ten brigades that were visited – Unit10 Communal Centre, Eduardo Mondlane EPC, 24 July EPC, Brigade installed in Xitinine neighbourhood, Fenicelene EPC, Patrice Lumumba Second Neighbourhood Secondary School, 7 October EPC and Third Neighbourhood EPC – the scenario is one of posts that are virtually empty. In each of the brigades, “We waited for about 30 minutes in the hope that some voter would appear to register, but none showed up”. The brigade members say that in recent days “the situation is getting worse. The voters have not appeared. We don't know what's going on”.

According to some supervisors, in past registrations, at this time, towards the end of the registration period, the voters appeared en masse, and long queues were formed.

In Massingir the registration posts visited – namely, the Graça Machel Secondary School, mobile brigades nos. 305 and 306, 6th neighbourhood EPC, and the technical school - showed very low levels of voter turnout. They were registering between 5 and 9 voters a day. Only now has the Technical School registration post closed its second voter registration book. Brigades at other schools have not even managed to close the first book. This is in contrast with what is happening in many parts of the country, where the brigades have already closed more than five books.

This Monday (29 May), our correspondents in Massingir visited the Tihovene B and A EPC registration posts. In Tihovene B, between 07.00 and 09.28, only one voter registered, In Tihovene A, by 11:45 not a single voter had yet registered.

In the town of Macia, the situation is better. The registration posts at the Macia Secondary School, the Macia Third Neighbourhood School, and the Macia primary school, have already closed the fourth book, but they complain that few voters have shown up in recent days.

In Mandlakazi, attendance at the posts is much better in the centre of the town, where they are still managing to register more than 50 voters a day. For example, in the post at the Eduardo Mondlane 1st and 2nd degree EP, on Friday (26 May) there was a good turnout, with about 20 voters in the queue. By 12.00, 16 voters had been registered. On the previous days, Wednesday and Thursday, 152 and 86 voters were registered, respectively. There was also good attendance at the post in the Maguiguane EPC.

But in the Rural Family School of Mandlakazi, the scenario is completely different. During the time our correspondents were present at the post, not a single voter registered. One of the brigade members, when asked about voter attendance, merely shook his head, indicating that he did not want to answer.

At the post set up in the CAIP, voter attendance was also feeble. By midday, only seven voters had registered.

In Xai-Xai city, the scenario was the same. The brigade stationed at the Amilcar Cabral EPC, in the Coca-Missava neighbourhood 6, had only registered three voters when our correspondents visited. The supervisor and the data input operator complained of the poor attendance by voters. On the previous day, Thursday (25 May), the post only registered 13 voters in the entire day. They say they have filled three registration books and in recent days, the machine has never broken down.

In the Unit "11" EPC, in the eleventh neighbourhood of Xai-Xai city, not a single voter was there when we visited the registration post. The brigade had also not closed the fourth registration book.

Guro STAE district director threatens and hinders observation of the registration

This denunciation comes from the Manica Civil Society Platform (PLASOC), which is observing the voter registration with more than 200 observers in all districts that contain municipalities in Manica province.

According to PLASOC, while an observer was carrying out his activities, the STAE district director, Dinis Braunde, in the Guro town Secondary School, preventing him from noting down information to share with the CDE (District Elections Commission) so as to improve the electoral process.

“The director told the observers that if they need any information, they should approach STAE, but we all know that STAE does not have any voter registration table, and the information that the observers collect is about what is happening in the posts which is then, if possible, communicated to those in authority so that they can take a position”, declared PLASOC, in a statement.

More than 30 households refuse to register in Maputo

These municipal citizens are opposed to the newly demarcated boundary between Maputo City and Matola. They are residents of the so-called “Magude neighbourhood” which, in the past, used to belong to the Luís Cabral neighbourhood, in Maputo City.

Magude neighbourhood is located between Luís Cabral neighbourhood (Maquinag) and the Maputo toll gate. According to the new demarcation, the residents of that zone now belong to Trevo neighbourhood, in Matola municipality, but they did not know about this because in the past they were always registered as residents of Maputo. They were surprised when they were told they should register in Matola. In this place no fixed or mobile registration brigade has been placed.

The residents are threatening not to vote because of the costs of travelling from their homes to the Matola registration posts. They say that travelling to register costs 36 MT.

One of the residents, who has lived in that zone for 23 years, said he also does not understand when Block 8 stopped belonging to Maputo and became part of Matola.

The block chief recognised that that block always belonged to Trevo neighbourhood, but that citizens were free to deal with their affairs in Maputo municipality, since Matola is a long way away. They were also free to register in Maputo city.

We learnt that the boundary between the two municipalities is the Maquinag bridge, but there is no signpost that indicates this separation.

Two more mobiles for the Pista Velha post


The registration post at the Pista Velha EPC, in Alto Molócuè town, now has two more registration computers (known as “Mobiles”), to speed up the registration. But, even with this boost, slowness prevails at the post, as well as payment of the monitors with food and money to facilitate registration.

Also in Alto Molócuè, the leader of Mumahi neighbourhood is accused of collecting citizens’ documents and of demanding 30 MT from them, supposedly to facilitate their registration.

Maganja town has registered 123.9% of its voters

According to the district electoral authorities, by Friday (26 May) the town of Maganja da Costa had already registered 16,300 voters, which is over 3,000 more than its target. It was expected to register 13,100 voters just in the town.

As for the Maganja da Costa district target, 72,500 voters have been registered – this is 81.9% of the 88,800 voters forecast.

	FICHA TÉCNICA:	ENDEREÇOS:
	<p>Editor: Lázaro Mabunda</p> <p>Advisor: Joseph Hanlon</p> <p>Director: Edson Cortez</p> <p>Translator: Paul Fauvet</p> <p>Sub-editor: Samuel Monjane</p> <p>Layout: Alberto Manguela</p>	<p>Centro de Integridade Pública</p> <p>English To subscribe: https://cipleicoes.org/eng/</p> <p>Web: https://cipleicoes.org/eng/ Portuguese Web: https://www.cipeleicoes.org/ Facebook: @cipeleicoes Instagram: @cip_eleicoes Tiktok: @cipmoz Telegram: +258 843890584</p>

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