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Absent and late brigade members irritate voters in Beira

By about 13.00 this Thursday (1 June), the brigade members chosen to operate the second machine at the Chota EPC had not come to work, leaving dozens of voters waiting. They had been queuing up since early morning to exercise their civic right.

We learnt that the other operator is ill. The situation is compromising the registration, since the only brigade member working cannot deal with the enormous crowd in the queue.

In the Eduardo Mondlane EPC, brigade members and monitors arrived late at the registration post, which irritated the voters who had been queuing up since early morning.

When our correspondents went to this post, at about 07.00 on Thursday, only potential voters were present. No brigade member was there and they only arrived at 07.40. The voters are protesting and are demanding that the election administration bodies intervene to solve the problem.

The other posts visited by our correspondents, namely the IFafa EPC, and the Marrocanhe Secondary School posts, had large crowds of voters.

The same was true of the posts at the Irmaos Macombe, Munhava, and the Beira Industrial and Commercial Institute. The average attendance varies between 140 and 200 voters a day.

In the Sao Jose ESG, also in Beira city, the brigade members deliver cards to the voters the following day, because the printer is not working. On average the post continues to register 149 voters a day.

Many voters may not be able to register in Malema

The MDM and Renamo monitors have no doubt that many voters will not be able to register in Malema, because of what they regard as “Various manoeuvres of the brigade members, who during the process, are always inventing breakdowns of the mobiles”. As other factors they point to the admission of unqualified and unskilled brigade members.

Crowds are continuing to fill some registration posts in Malema district, a stronghold of the opposition, For example, at the posts at the Eduardo Nihia Secondary School, the Malema-Sede EPC, the 19 October EPC, and the 25 June EPC, there were many people in the queues until the late afternoon.

Mobiles continue to break down in the problematic municipalities

Some municipalities where there is a high level of political competition are continuing to register equipment breakdowns. In Niassa, at the Ngame Chanica EPC, in Mandimba, the mobile broke down when it had registered 37 voters.

In the Cuamba General Secondary School, voters were waiting in the hope of registering but both mobiles at that post had broken down and the supervisor was absent. We learnt that he had been summoned to court to answer for the electoral crimes he had committed.

In Milange, in Zambezia, a breakdown of the Mobile ID paralyzed voter registration at the Manganira EPC. The machine has ceased to recharge since Wednesday (31 May). The case has gone to STAE and the brigade is waiting for a solution. Up to the time of the breakdown, there was still a large crowd of citizens waiting. The post is about 5 kms from Milange town.

Police found transporting equipment

A policed agent was found transporting the Mobile from the Nhahoco EPC, on the outskirts of Gondola town, in Manica province, supposedly to the police station. Two policemen were allocated to this post, and they swap places during day and night. We learn that one of the policemen, when he is on duty at night, prefers to take the mobile to the police station. The Renamo monitors discovered this and informed their provincial delegate. The delegate, accompanied by the Renamo election agents, rushed over to the post.

The Renamo provincial political agent, Manuel Macocove, said that this is clear evidence that the ultimate goal was to set up a clandestine registration post. He promised to take the case to higher authorities to hold responsible the brigade members and the police agent who carried the equipment to a place unknown.

90 citizens tried to register in three posts in Alto Molocue

The mobilization of people living outside the municipal area is continuing, even when there are only two days left before the end of the registration period. In Alto Molocue town, 90 citizens were found trying to register at three different posts. They are citizens from Nivava locality, specifically from Mahuline village. They were paid 5,000 meticaïs to travel to the town and register at the registration posts of Futuro Melhor EPC, Malutxasse, and the Alto Molocue Sede EPC. A group of 30 citizens was to have registered at each post.

The Renamo monitors discovered these movements and went to the posts. One of the citizens neutralized confirmed that he came from Nivava to register on the instructions of the locality chief, and that after registration they would be paid 5,000 meticaïs.

Huge queues and lack of printer rolls mark the final days in Nacala

In Nacala-Port, the main registration posts in the city, namely at the Maiaia EPC and the Nacala Secondary School, are characterized by enormous queues, despite an increased number of mobiles. The problem remains of photographic rolls for printing the cards.

No less important is the fact that, with an additional mobile at the Nacala Secondary School, this post is now managing to register an average of 320 to 350 voters a day. Nonetheless, the voters complain of slow attendance.

Poor attendance continues in the south

The entire southern zone of the country, a stronghold of Frelimo, continues to show poor attendance at the posts, including the most populous districts of Matola and Maputo City, which, taken together, will register more than 1.4 million voters. Many of the posts are deserted.

In the visits made by our correspondents, some posts have few people. For example, Post 226, in the Malhampsene market had just five potential voters who wanted to register.


In the post at the Sikwama primary school, until about 14.00 there were no citizens at all trying to register. The supervisor said that few people had showed up in recent days. The same was true at the post in the Malhampsene Secondary School. The supervisor noted that recently the post registered an average of 30 to 40 voters a day.

By the time we left, the chairs for potential voters were empty. This scenario is repeated in almost all the posts in the three provinces in the south of the country.

Tete follows the pattern of the south

Tete province is also showing little voter attendance at the various posts. A round undertaken by our correspondents this Thursday (1 June) found, for example, that the posts at the Bawe and Maenda EPCs recently were registering between 2 and 6 people a day. But in recent days, the Dona Ana EPC attended to a minimum of 40 people.

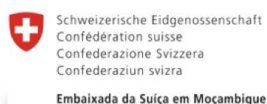
In Ulongue, the post at the Chideque EPC, 5 kilometres from the town, closed at 15.00 due to a machine breakdown. It was, on average, registering 80 voters.

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	<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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