



PRESS STATEMENT

Maputo, 18 November 2009

**The EU EOM observes numerous irregularities during tabulation,
which, however, do not significantly affect the results**

The European Union Elections Observation Mission (EU EOM) observed several cases of electoral irregularities and inconsistencies in the application of procedures during the tabulation of results in 73 districts across the 11 provinces of Mozambique.

During tabulation, the EU observers *directly witnessed* the following situations:

- Presiding officers refusing to register complaints from political party representatives, in numerous polling stations throughout the country. A full pattern of complaints being refused became clear during the counting and tabulation phases of the process.
- Political parties representatives not allowed to be present at the tabulation process, in Maravia, Angónia, Changara and Tsangano districts (Tete) and Manica and Cabo Delgado provinces;
- Figures indicating polling stations with a turnout of 100 percent and above in 40 polling stations in Gaza province, 61 polling stations in Tete province and two in Ilha de Moçambique (Nampula province);
- In Ilha de Moçambique, indication of ballot box stuffing as evidenced by discrepancies between the numbers of ballots cast for each of the three elections and by discrepancies between the results announced after counting and these publicly posted outside the polling station;
- High number of invalid ballots showing patterns of intentional invalidation as observed during the requalification of ballot papers at national level.

The EU observers received copies of six (6) complaints filed by political parties regarding irregularities during polling day and tabulation in Lichinga, Mutarara, Angónia, Chimoio and Quelimane. This complaints were officially registered by the electoral officers at the polling stations.

The EU EOM also notes that it was prevented from observing tabulation in several districts and from observing provincial level tabulation in Tete, Niassa, Cabo Delgado and Nampula provinces.

Although these irregularities and others relating to polling day itself do not affect significantly the results of the Presidential, Legislative and Provincial Assemblies elections, they represent a serious weakness of the process. For Tete and Gaza provinces, the extent to which these may have altered the distribution of parliamentary seats cannot be statistically assessed.

The EU EOM will publish a final report with a comprehensive analysis of the electoral process and recommendations after the declaration of results by the Constitutional Council.

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