



LAST HOURS OF VOTING

In the afternoon of October 9, voting day in Portugal, there was a relatively calm atmosphere in some places, with the queues being better organized and the level of agitation greatly reduced, even though the turnout was still notorious in many places in the five provinces where the DECIDE Platform carried out the observation, such as: Nhangau Sede, Cidade da Beira; Maguiguane Secondary School, Cuamba; EPC Manhaua, Quelimane; Nacala Porto Secondary School, Nacala Porto and, Nacate Secondary School. A relevant fact that DECIDE Platform observers noted in most of the provinces where coverage was carried out in person and remotely through the computer system developed for the purpose, is the presence of electoral rolls that did not belong to the respective polling stations, where we highlight the Ilê Secondary School, in the District of the same name, in Zambézia, specifically at polling station 082281-03 where the voting rolls were changed, making it impossible for voters to exercise their right. Similarly, ASEM Macurungo, in the city of Beira, at polling station 050042-03 and Chiuaulua School in Lichinga.

One of the clearest examples of this was at polling station 100517-02, at Merige Primary School in the city of Montepuez, where more than 15 voters complained that their names were not on the electoral roll and ended up returning home.

According to the statistics collected from around 327 polling stations in the five provinces where we were on the ground, we found that 43.2% do not have the conditions to receive wheelchair users, such as the case of the Cerâmica Basic School in Lichinga District, where an elderly man was taken out of his wheelchair to enter Polling Station 110547-05, due to the lack of conditions.



In the same number of assemblies, we found that around 14.3% of the priority group did not enjoy their rights due to a lack of organization at the tables they were at.

One fact that marked the last two hours of voting was the fact that some voters assigned to some polling stations in Sofala, specifically at the Matadouro School (polling station 02) in Beira City, and at the Antigos Combatentes EPC in Dondo at polling stations 050196-03 and 06, were unable to vote because their ballot papers had run out and they were unable to exercise their voting rights without them. Curiously, the ballot papers were only for the President of the Republic, with large quantities of the others left over.

It should be noted that at the Matadouro Secondary School, most of the presiding officers are teachers and directors of the school.

Closing of polling stations

During the voting process, we found that around 69% of the 327 polling stations we observed closed on time, while others did not, due to the late arrival of voters, slow service and/or the exchange of electoral rolls. At some points, voters had access to passwords, as in the case of the Namacula Basic School, in Niassa, at table 03, where voters had passwords. In most of the polling stations, the rest hour was checked so that they could start the voting process.

At several polling stations in Niassa province, it was noticeable that there was insufficient lighting for the count at the Messenger EPC in Lichinga. At Samora Machel School in Morrumbala District, polling stations No. 08038201, 02 and 03 were also a practical example.

In Usinde village in Bandua, Búzi-Sofala district, the situation was not favorable.

The counting process was interrupted because the population wanted to invade the polling station, which was unsafe and forced the police to call in reinforcements.



In the district of Mecanhela, at the Samuel Graciano secondary school, people wanted to hear the results and the polling station staff refused.

Violence after the start of the voting process

- At the 25 de Setembro School in Mafarinha, at polling station 050189-06 in the district of Dondo, there was a heated fight between the presiding officer and a delegate from the MDM party, the latter accusing the presiding officer of introducing votes into the ballot box.
- In Bandua, 30 km from the town of Búzi, a PODEMOS supporter was shot in the foot by the police when he and other people tried to invade the perimeter where the vote count was taking place to watch closely.

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