

## **Mozambique Elections**

### **Media reports a landslide victory for President Guebuza**

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Mozambique's President Armando Guebuza has been declared a 'landslide' winner by local media in Maputo and the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa.

Frelimo, Mozambique's ruling party since independence in 1975 had 71 percent of the vote, with 89 percent of polling stations reporting. However, the National Electoral Commission will not confirm the official winner until November 15 once province level results have been added and rejected ballots reviewed.

Last Wednesday's vote was Mozambique's fourth national poll since a 16 year civil war ended in the establishment of multi-party democracy in 1994. Based on its share of the vote, Frelimo had won 192 seats in the 250 seat National Assembly, against 48 for Dhlakama's Renamo and 8 for the new Movement for Democratic Change (MDM) party led by the mayor of Beira city, Daviz Simango.

From the votes counted, around 5 million people or around half of all 10.3 million eligible voters participated in the synchronised presidential, parliamentary and provincial assembly elections. This win for the Frelimo party is expected to reassure foreign investors, who want continuity in the country's economic policy.

Guebuza is seeking a second and final term in office, although fears have risen that the party may amend the constitution to allow Guebuza to run for a third term. The Commonwealth Observer Group has deemed the voting free and fair, but criticised the electoral commission for a lack of transparency over the exclusion of the MDM candidates in a number of constituencies.

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