



Centro de Pesquisas sobre Governação e Desenvolvimento

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Maputo

PRESS RELEASE

Mozambicans Want Civil Society Participation in Appointing Members to the Electoral Commission

The Afrobarometer is a comparative series of public attitude surveys, covering up to 35 African countries in Round 5 (2011-2013). It measures public attitudes on democracy and its alternatives, evaluations of the quality of governance and economic performance. In addition, the survey assesses the views of the electorate on critical political issues in the surveyed countries. The Afrobarometer also provides comparisons over time, as four rounds of surveys have been held from 1999 to 2008 and Round 5 is currently underway.

Afrobarometer's work in Mozambique is coordinated by the Centre for Research on Governance and Development. Fieldwork for Round 5 was conducted in Mozambique from 17 November to 9 December 2012. The survey interviewed 2400 adult Mozambicans, and a sample of this size yields results with a margin of error of +/-2% at a 95% confidence level.

FINDINGS

The November-December 2012 Afrobarometer survey reveals that most Mozambicans want civil society organizations to participate in the naming of members to the National Electoral Commission.

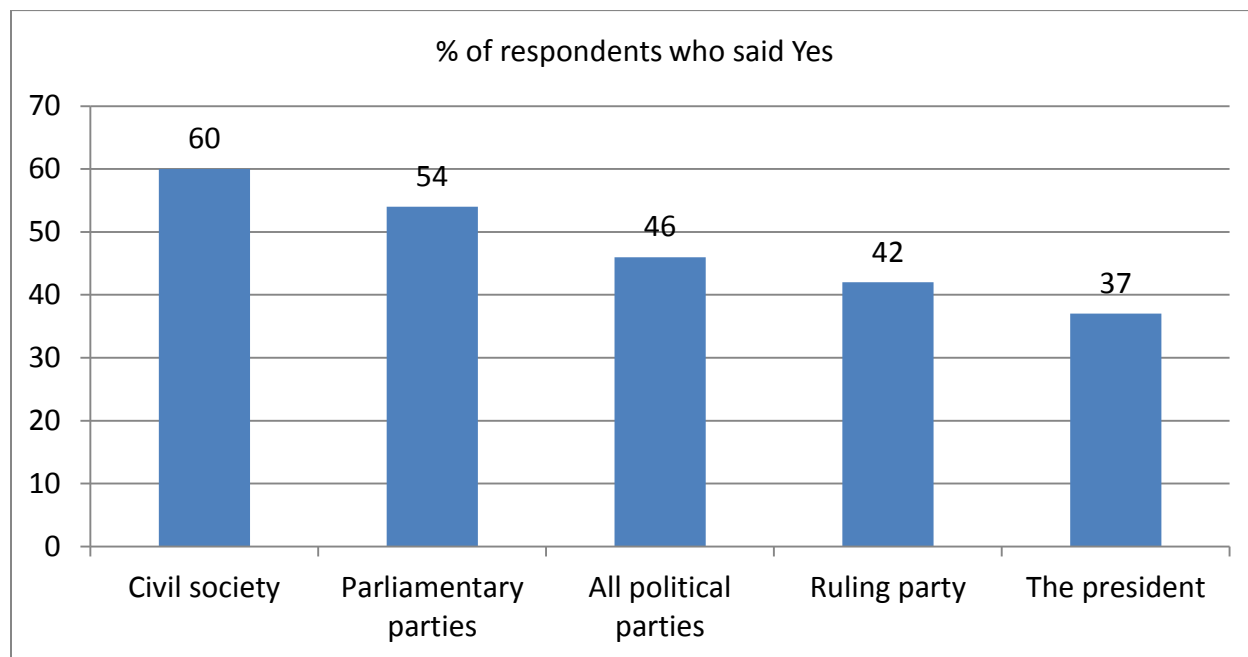
Currently, political parties in parliament, with some help from civil society organizations, select members of the commission. The party with the most seats in parliament controls the process, which means the ruling party has great influence over the composition of the board.

The majority (60 percent) of Mozambicans said that civil society organizations should participate in appointing members to the National Electoral Commission (Figure 1). About half (54 percent) say that parliamentary political parties should also be involved and below half say the same with respect to all political parties (46 percent), the ruling party (42 percent) and the president (37 percent).

Comparing rural-urban residential locations and gender on supporting civil society in naming electoral commission members, males (64 percent) and urban dwellers (67 percent) are more likely to say that civil society organizations should be involved in naming members of the National Electoral Commission than females (56 percent) and rural residents (56 percent) (Table 1).

By comparing provinces, the findings show that Mozambicans who live in more rural provinces (Niassa, Tete and Cabo Delgado) are less likely to support civil society in naming members to electoral institution than those living in more urban provinces. Exceptions apply, however, to Inhambane and Gaza, for instance, which are more rural but are more supportive to civil society in this process (Figure 2). These exceptions suggest that there are other factors affecting the support for civil society in naming members of electoral institution. These factors need to be discussed and taken into consideration in further investigation.

Figure 1: Who should be Involved in Naming Members to the National Electoral Commission



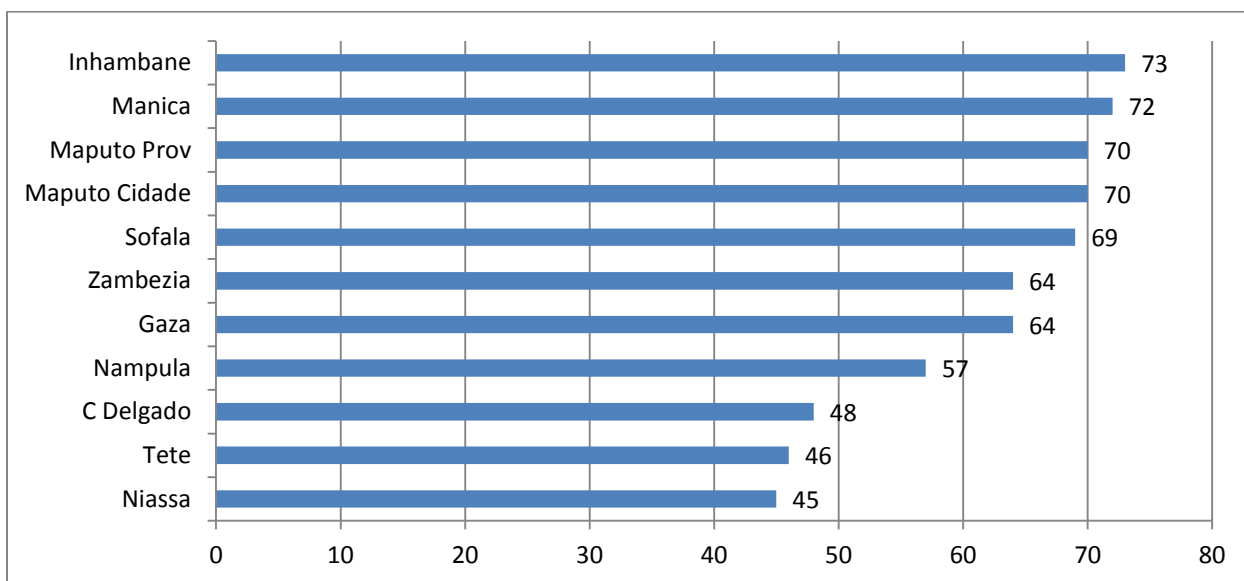
Question: Which of the following do you think should participate in naming members to the National Electoral Commission? A) The ruling party, B) Parliamentary political parties, C) All political parties, D) civil society organizations and E) the president.

Table 1: Supporting Civil Society in Naming National Electoral Commission Members by Rural-Urban Residential Location and Gender

	Residential location		Gender		Total
	Urban	Rural	Male	Female	
No	17%	16%	18%	14%	16%
Yes	67%	56%	64%	56%	60%

Note: Don't know figures were removed from the table.

Figure 2: Supporting Civil Society in Naming National Electoral Commission Members by Province



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