

NYUSI RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF FRELIMO

Election with 100% of the votes reflects the culture of authoritarianism that marks the leadership of Filipe Nyusi

- Unsurprisingly, Filipe Nyusi was re-elected yesterday (Sunday) President of Frelimo with 100% of the votes. A re-election that reflects the “unanimity” prevailing in the party that has governed Mozambique since national independence in 1975. A “unanimity” imposed through the culture of authoritarianism that marks Filipe Nyusi’s leadership in the fate of Frelimo and Mozambique. The repression of the fundamental freedoms of citizens that characterizes the Mozambican civic space is also felt within the ruling party.



The disciplinary process aimed at expelling Samora Machel Junior (son of the first President of independent Mozambique) for having tried to run for mayor of Maputo through the civic association list (AJUDEM), in the 2018 municipal elections; and more recently the rebuke by the Political Commission against Castigo Langa, a member of the Central Committee, who asked Filipe Nyusi to clarify the rumors of a third term, are just two examples that externalize the sedimentation of authoritarianism in Frelimo.

Castigo Langa used his rights as a member of the Central Committee and as a Mozambican citizen to question the Frelimo President about rumors of a third term. And he did so in his own seat, that is, in full session of the Central Committee. He did not go outside the party organs. But Nyusi saw the request for clarification as an affront and used the Political Commission to publicly reprimand Castigo Langa. And leave a warning to all delegates on the XIIth Congress about the risks of questioning Frelimo's leadership.

Therefore, the election with 100% of the votes was not surprising and documents the regimentation of the delegates and the fear of thinking differently. The election with 100% of the votes also serves to hide the fracturing moment that the party is going through, represented by the "open war" between Armando Guebuza and Filipe Nyusi. At stake is the financial scandal of "hidden debts" that led to the arrest of his son (Ndambi Guebuza) and former collaborators of Armando Guebuza.

Aware of the internal divisions, Joaquim Chissano insisted on calling for reconciliation within and outside Frelimo. Reconciliation at all levels. Not an easy task, but a necessary one, as Chissano recognized. "We must reconcile so that we can fight tribalism, so that we can talk to each other", appealed the honorary president of Frelimo, moments after swearing in Filipe Nyusi for his second term in front of the ruling party.



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For Chissano, reconciliation is the most important thing to achieve, because without it, there will be no peace and Mozambicans will continue to wage war against each other. Recalling his experience as President of the Republic, Chissano said he had to "swallow live frogs" in order to negotiate with Renamo to end the bloody 16-year war. And now it's Filipe Nyusi's turn to "swallow live frogs" to negotiate, because the "country remains troubled".

Filipe Nyusi was the only candidate and was running for a second term, after being elected for the first time in 2017, during the XIth Congress that marked the end of Armando Guebuza's leadership. 1,136 delegates to Congress participated in the vote and, despite the official record of 100% of votes in favor of Nyusi, there is indication that there was a blank vote. Honorary Frelimo presidents, namely Joaquim Chissano and Armando Guebuza, did not vote in Nyusi's election. But the

wives of former Frelimo Presidents (Marcelina Chissano and Maria da Luz Guebuza) are delegates to Congress with the right to vote.

In addition to the re-election of the Frelimo President, the third day of the XII Congress was marked by the proclamation of six honorary members of the Central Committee, the most important organ of the party. The names were proposed by Filipe Nyusi and include three founding Frelimo members and three former party general secretaries. They are Feliciano Gundana, Lopes Tembe and João Munguambe (founding members), and former general secretaries Manuel Tomé (1995 – 2002), Filipe Paúnde (2006 and 2014) and Eliseu Machava (2014 – 2017).

This Monday the vote for the Central Committee took place. The new Central Committee will elect today the Political Commission – the most important managing body of the party in the interval between the Central Committee meetings.



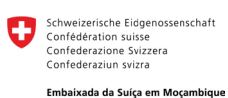
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