

## Mozambique's Post-Election Crisis: ITUC-Africa Urges Peace, Justice, and Protection for Workers.

The African Regional Organisation of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC-Africa: <https://www.ituc-africa.org/>) expresses deep concern over Mozambique's ongoing civil unrest and violence following the general elections held on 6th October 2024. As a Pan-African trade union organisation committed to promoting workers' rights, social justice, and democracy, we are alarmed by the recent developments which have seen the rise of political violence, alleged electoral fraud, and the assassination of political figures.

From the perspective of workers and trade unions, we understand that democratic elections are a cornerstone of political governance and vital for fostering an inclusive economy and protecting workers' rights. Peace, stability, and trust in the electoral process are prerequisites for ensuring decent work, fair wages, and a conducive environment for trade unions to operate. The current situation threatens these fundamental pillars and puts the lives and livelihoods of Mozambican workers at risk.

### Our Key Concerns

- **Violence and Assassinations:** We are dismayed by the barbaric assassinations of political figures during this electoral period. The use of violence as a tool to silence dissenting voices undermines democratic values and fosters a culture of impunity. These acts of violence, especially those targeting political and civil society figures, further erode public trust in democratic institutions. Workers and trade unionists, who already face challenges in securing their rights, are often the ones most affected by political instability, leading to job losses, deteriorating working conditions, and violations of labour rights.
- **Electoral Integrity and Fraud:** ITUC-Africa notes with deep concern the reports of electoral fraud, ballot-stuffing, and manipulation of polling station results. These actions not only violate the democratic process but also deepen the sense of hopelessness and disenfranchisement among the population. Workers who depend on stable governance for economic growth and job security are particularly vulnerable when the integrity of elections is compromised. A free, fair, and transparent electoral process is essential to uphold the rights of all citizens, including workers, to participate in shaping the future of their country.
- **Voter Apathy and Disillusionment:** The high voter apathy, with more than half of registered voters failing to participate, reflects a deep-seated disillusionment with the electoral system. When workers and citizens feel that their votes do not count, it undermines not only political democracy but also economic and social justice. Trade unions depend on a functioning democracy to engage in meaningful dialogue with the government and employers to improve working conditions, wages, and social protection.
- **Youth and Workers at Risk of Manipulation:** We join the call of other civil society actors in urging Mozambique's youth and workers not to be used as instruments of violence or destabilisation. Young

workers, in particular, are often drawn into political conflicts due to the lack of opportunities and the erosion of trust in the system. We call on political leaders to engage with the youth constructively and address their legitimate concerns regarding employment, dignity, and a peaceful future.

## **ITUC-Africa's Call to Action**

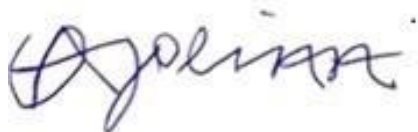
In light of these developments, ITUC-Africa makes the following appeals:

1. **Stop the Violence:** All parties must immediately refrain from inciting or participating in violence. Peaceful resolution of conflicts is the only viable pathway to ensuring Mozambique's future as a stable, democratic society. Workers, trade unions, and civil society must be included in the dialogue and protected from political violence and instability repercussions.
2. **Restore Electoral Integrity:** We call for an independent and transparent review of the election results. To ensure credibility and legitimacy, stakeholders, including trade unions, civil society organisations, and international observers, should be involved in this process. The government should open spaces for dialogue and consider mechanisms, such as a Government of National Unity, to restore confidence in the political system.
3. **Protect Workers' Rights Amidst the Crisis:** The ongoing unrest threatens workers' livelihoods, especially in agriculture, tourism, and public services. The government must prioritise protecting workers' rights during this period of instability. Employers should ensure that workplaces remain safe, and there should be no retaliation against workers participating in peaceful demonstrations or labour actions.
4. **Promote Dialogue and Inclusive Governance:** Political actors must prioritise dialogue over conflict. Mozambique's future lies in inclusive governance that embraces all regions and social groups, including workers and trade unions. We call for establishing a framework that allows genuine dialogue between political leaders, civil society, and labour representatives to chart a path toward peace and prosperity.
5. **Safeguard Democratic Processes:** The National Election Commission (CNE) must address the allegations of electoral fraud seriously and take the necessary steps to restore public confidence in Mozambique's democratic processes. A robust, transparent, and accountable electoral process is essential for ensuring that the people's voice, including workers, is heard and respected.

## **Conclusion**

ITUC-Africa stands in solidarity with Mozambique's workers, trade unions, and all those advocating for peace, democracy, and social justice. We call on all Mozambicans, regardless of political affiliation, to work together to restore peace, uphold democracy, and protect the rights and dignity of all citizens.

We reaffirm our commitment to supporting Mozambique's trade unions in defending workers' rights, promoting decent work, and advocating for a fair and just society.



**Akhator Joel Odigie**  
**General Secretary, ITUC-Africa**  
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