

# Continuous civic education would help to engage the young and women to politics



## **Maputo, 19 May 2010 -**

Laura Wache (photo) is Mozambican civil society activist that would know "the remedy" for poor participation of Mozambicans in the electoral processes. "We need continuous civic education that would include all the groups of the civil society. Young, women, old, illiterate - all of them should be sensitized and mobilized at every turn", she suggests.

This was her main message to STAE (the Electoral Administration Technical Secretariat) when attending a workshop on civic and voter education that was that was held by STAE and City of Maputo in Maputo, last week. The capacity building concerned the poor participations of the youth and women, the turnout and its causes, the electoral process, civic education in rural areas, and the full and equal participation of women in political activities.

The purpose of these provincial workshops, organized with the support from UNDP, is to strengthen the capacity of civil society organizations in their participation in the civic and voter education. "We expect that this knowledge would increase turnout and reduce tension and intolerance", says UNDP's Chief Technical Advisor Abdoulaye Kourouma, working at STAE.

Laura Wache from AMOPROC (Mozambican Association for Promotion of Citizenship) would like STAE and the civic society organizations to put more emphasis on women's education.

"We have a relatively high representation of educated women in politics on central level but the rural and women lacking higher education need continuous information in-depth on their rights and the electoral system. There are women and young people that are not fully aware of all the concepts; having a right to choose the party or fulfilling your citizenship by voting is sometimes misunderstood that you have to be a member of a party, and that is not the case."

