**Dr Adriano Nuvunga, Director of the Center for Democracy and Development & Steering Committee of the Mozambique Human Rights Defenders Network *“****Three decades of Multiparty Politics in Mozambique: Framing Party Dominance and Democracy Capture in Context.”*

This article travels through 30 years of multipartyism in Mozambique and argues that the former national liberation movement, Frelimo, pre-empted the former rebel movement, Renamo, to initiate a top-down democratization that paved the way for its victory in the founding elections of Mozambican democracy in 1994. This was quite vital for Frelimo to control the institutions of electoral governance, its main workhorse for its rise to the position of dominant party, without ever having shaken the two-party system that reflects the country's political reality. Frelimo later captured democracy, without electoral legitimacy, in a framework characterized by recurrent return to civil war, electoral fraud, exclusion of opposition parties and candidates, voter abstention, denial of the principle of universal suffrage, including the refusal to accredit independent civil society organizations for election observation and impoverishment of the population.