



## STATEMENT

By

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**At the Occasion of the Stakeholder Engagement on Preparation for 2024  
Presidential and National Assembly Elections**

**12 November 2024**  
**ECN HEAD OFFICE – WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**

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**Program Director, Mr De Wet Siluka**  
**Esteemed Representatives and Members of CCN**  
**Esteemed Representatives and Members of Various CSOs**  
**Esteemed Members of Management and Staff of ECN**

**Good Morning!!!!**

It is with great honor and privilege that I address you today on this occasion of stakeholder engagement aimed at sharing insights, updates, and progress on electoral activities as outlined in our **2024 Electoral Calendar** as we are nearing the polling days, **13 and 27 November 2024**.

On behalf of the Commission, I wish to extend our deepest gratitude to all electoral stakeholders, *including churches and civil society organisations*, who have demonstrated unwavering support towards ensuring effective voter education campaigns leading to a successful 2024 General Registration of Voters (GRV).

I am pleased to inform you that the Commission has successfully executed electoral activities outlined in the **Pre-Election Phase** of the Electoral Calendar with a **100% execution rate**. I am also pleased to appraise you that the Commission is well **on track** with the execution of the electoral activities outlined in the **Election Phase** of the Electoral Calendar including preparation for *special voting and voting abroad*.

## KEY DATES AND ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE 2024 PNA ELECTIONS

At the occasion of launching our 2024 Electoral Calendar on the 7 March 2024, the Commission has shared **Five Key Dates and Electoral Activities** which are **statutory and cornerstone of the Electoral Calendar**:

- ◆ **3 June – 1 August 2024: GRV (52 Days)** (*Inside Namibia and Namibian Diplomatic Missions Abroad*) – *Completed*
- ◆ **14 October 2024: Nominations (Independent Candidate - If Any)** - *Completed*
- ◆ **16 October 2024: Nominations (Political Parties – Final Day and Public Sitting-Commission)** - *Completed*
- ◆ **13 November 2024: Voting** (*Inside the Country and Namibian Diplomatic Missions Abroad*) – *On Track with preparations*
- ◆ **27 November 2024: Voting** (*Inside Namibia*) – *On Track with preparations*

Today, we gather not only to share state of preparedness for the conduct of **special voting and voting abroad** on the **13 November 2024** but also to share updates on the level of preparations for the conduct of **voting on the 27 November 2024**. This is to reaffirm our commitment to conducting free, fair, and transparent elections. *Let me now provide update on the special voting and voting abroad scheduled for Wednesday, 13 November 2024.*

## REQUISITE ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES IN PREPARATION FOR VOTING ON 13 NOVEMBER 2024

### Polling Stations

The Commission has established **33 polling stations** in all 14 regions across the country to enable the conduct of special voting in accordance with the law. Factors considered were, *amongst others*, the places in which these categories of voters are mostly located and voter density.

In respect of registered voters outside Namibia, voting will take place at all 35 Namibian Diplomatic Missions abroad in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Electoral Act No.5 of 2024 (as amended).

**Polling Stations will open from 07:00 am to 21:00 pm inside the country and at Namibian diplomatic missions abroad.**

## Categories of Voters Qualify to Vote on the 13 November 2024

The Electoral Act **only** allows the following categories of voters to vote on **13 November 2024**:

- ◆ **Members of the Security Cluster:** This category consists of eligible voters who will be on duty on 27 November 2024. This category includes the Namibian Police Force (NAMPOL), Namibia Correctional Services, and the Namibia Defence Force (NDF).
- ◆ **Seagoing Personnel:** This category includes sea-going personnel who will be on duty on 27 November 2024.
- ◆ **Namibians in the Diaspora:** This category includes eligible voters living in other countries; as well as Namibians who registered back home, but who will find themselves outside the country on 13 November 2024 and will not have the opportunity to vote in Namibia on 27 November 2024.

### Expected Number of Voters

Based on the information provided by the security cluster and fishing institutions, an estimated number of *8,000 voters* is expected to cast their votes on 13 November 2024 inside the country.

During GRV, the Commission registered *2,159 eligible voters* at all 35 Namibia Diplomatic Missions. However, there could be slight variations to this figure because Namibians who registered inside the country, but find themselves outside the country on the special voting day, will be allowed to vote, provided that such citizens will still be outside the country, and therefore unable to vote inside the country, on 27 November 2024.

### Requirements to Vote in 2024

According to the Electoral Act, eligible voters, **can only vote in the upcoming National Elections, including special voting, if they were registered during the 2024 GRV**, and can only vote after presenting a **voter's card**, which will be verified against their particulars on the voters' register. **No voter will be allowed to vote without a voter's card.**

I urge our electoral stakeholders, including *churches, civil society organisations and political parties* contesting in the upcoming national elections, to extend this information to the electorate as an integral part of voter education campaigns. This is to ensure that, on **13 November 2024** and eventually the **27 November 2024**, **voters only present voter cards issued during the 2024 GRV.**

### Administrative and Logistical Measures

The Commission will deploy **307 polling officials (231 locally and 76 abroad)**, and requisite election materials to manage the voting and counting process on 13 November 2024.

Polling officials have been adequately trained to enable them to discharge their duties with diligence. These initiatives are designed to fortify the voting process, ensuring that every aspect meets the highest standards of transparency and reliability

### **Monitoring and Observing Polling Process**

For the special voting, the Commission requested all 21 political parties participating in the elections to submit and place their election agents and counting agents as required by the Electoral Act to monitor the polling and counting process and announcement of the election results.

*The election/counting agents are the eyes and ears of the political parties and their reports assist in validating the process and contribute greatly to the acceptance of election results.* It is therefore very critical for political parties to appoint election agents and counting agents in the best interest of our electoral democracy and the integrity of our electoral process.

Equally so, the Commission also expects all organisations (Churches, CSOs) accredited to observe 2024 national elections to do so on the 13 November 2024 as part of Commission's efforts to guarantee transparency and retain the trust of all stakeholders throughout the election process.

### **Counting and Announcement of Election Results**

Upon close of polls at **21h00**, counting of votes will commence immediately at all **33 polling stations** countrywide in the presence of all *counting agents of political parties* that are assigned to monitor voting at each polling station as well as *accredited election observers*.

The presiding officer for each polling station will complete the prescribed Election Results Form, *which must be certified by counting agents*; and announce and paste the election results at the polling station as required by the Electoral Act.

The results from the special voting will be submitted to the Returning Officer for the constituency concerned for safe-keeping together with all election materials used on special voting day until the Election Day (27 November 2024).

Similarly, upon close of polls, **21h00**, at polling stations established at all 35 Namibian Diplomatic Missions, counting of votes will also commence immediately. The presiding officer for each polling station will complete the prescribed Election Results Form; and announce and paste the election results at the polling station as required by the Electoral Act.

The results from all 35 Namibian Diplomatic Missions will be submitted to the Returning Officer who is located in the country for safe-keeping while waiting to receive all election materials which are going to be dispatched immediately to ECN after the announcement of the election results as per Electoral Calendar.

Upon receipt of election materials, the Returning Officer will be required after the polls, **21h00**, on Election Day (27 November 2024) to verify, collate, announce and transmit preliminary election results to the Central Election Results Centre (CERC) in the same manner that the 121 Returning Officers in charge of all 121 Constituency Collation Centres countrywide will be required to manage and transmit preliminary election results.

The final declaration of national election results by the Commission will therefore take into consideration the *election results for special voting inside the country and voting abroad.*

## **REQUISITE ELECTORAL ACTIVITIES IN PREPARATION FOR VOTING ON 27 NOVEMBER 2024**

- ◆ **Polling Stations:** The Commission has established **4,677 polling stations** countrywide, comprising of **1,621 fixed polling stations** and **3,054 mobile polling stations**. These polling stations have been gazetted and shared with electoral stakeholders as indicated in our media statement released on 7 November 2024.
- ◆ **Polling Teams:** The Commission will deploy **2,521 polling teams** across the country covering fixed polling stations and mobile polling stations.
- ◆ **Recruitment and training of Returning Officers:** The Commission recruited and trained 122 Returning Officers (consisting of 121 for all constituencies under the leadership of 14 Regional Electoral Officers and 1 for the 35 Namibian Diplomatic Missions Abroad).
- ◆ **Accreditation of Observers and Media:** The advert for applications was published on ECN Media Platforms, with 31 October 2024 as the closing date. Consideration of all received applications is at an advanced stage, and the Commission will provide further updates on the number of both accredited local and international observers and media.
- ◆ **Distribution and dispatch of sensitive and non-sensitive election materials:** This process commenced on **Monday, 11 November 2024** following the conclusion of the distribution and dispatch of election materials for voting abroad and special voting in the country on 13 November 2024.
- ◆ **Printing of Ballot Papers:** The Commission printed **1,611, 000 ballot papers** for the Presidential and National Assembly elections *respectively*. The 1,611,000 ballot papers are derived from the **1,449,569 registered voters**, plus a 10% contingency which equals to **144, 957** and then rounded up to ensure an equal number of **100 ballot papers per ballot book**.
- ◆ **Packaging and Distribution Schedule:** For transparency and safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process, the Commission has availed to every contesting political party copies of the *Packaging and Distribution Schedule*, which contains the *serial number of ballot papers* and the *region, constituency and polling station* where the ballot books will be sent.

- ◆ **Sample of Ballot Papers:** Each political party was also provided with a *Sample of Ballot Papers* to use as part of voter education campaigns. The Commission will avail same to *churches and civil society organisations* as electoral stakeholders as part of collective efforts aimed enhancing voter education campaigns during polling process.
- ◆ **Training of election/counting agents and police officers:** All agents to be deployed by all political parties participating in the 2024 National Elections as well as police officers to be deployed to all **2,521 polling teams**, will be trained during the period of **9 - 12 November 2024** countrywide.
- ◆ **Recruitment and training of polling officials:** The Commission recruited **17,684 polling officials**, who are **unemployed Namibians**, to undergo intensive training from the **15-23 November 2024** in cluster training centres established countrywide. These officials include *presiding officers, polling officers, IT Officials, collation centre results verifiers and logistics officers*.
- ◆ **Issuance of Duplicate Voter Cards:** The Electoral Act requires the Commission to issue duplicate voter cards to registered voters who have lost their voter cards or whose voter cards are damaged. This is scheduled for the period of **18 - 26 November 2024 in all 121 Constituencies Offices**. The application for duplicate voter card requires a POLICE declaration stating the circumstances under which you are applying for a duplicate as well as proof of a voter's identity. *To ensure the public is aware of this exercise, we are busy running a campaign to inform the electorate, and the Commission appeals to Churches and CSOs to complement its efforts in this regard.*
- ◆ **Deployment of teams:** Election teams will be deployed to their respective polling stations from **25 - 26 November 2024** in preparation for the polls on 27 November 2024.
- ◆ **Voter and Civic Education:** The Commission rolled out voter education campaign since **3 August - 27 November 2024** using various platforms to disseminate information and educate voters of which Churches and CSOs have a fundamental role to play.

Given the above, it is evident that we have a collective responsibility to encourage all Namibian citizens eligible to participate in elections to exercise their democratic rights by jointly putting efforts together to educate all registered voters as we are nearing the day of the polls, **27 November 2024**.

I must underline that elections reflect our collective voice as citizens. Disruptions or acts of violence tarnish the democratic process and undermine the progress we have worked so hard to achieve over 30 years. Peaceful elections are a testament to our maturity as a nation and our commitment as electoral stakeholders to resolving differences through dialogue and democratic means.

In conclusion, we look forward as a Commission to your views and suggestions how to assist the Commission in delivering its mandate in the same manner we have collectively done during the 2024 GRV. Together, let us affirm our commitment to a robust electoral democracy and successful election.

Thank you for your attention. I now allow interactions and deliberations as electoral stakeholders

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