



**Electoral Commission of Namibia**

**STATEMENT BY**

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**SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**DURING THE MOTIVATION OF THE**

**ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA (VOTE 28)**

**FOR 2021/2022 FINANCIAL YEAR**

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,  
Honourable Members,**

- The ECN successfully conducted the 2020 Regional Council and Local Authority elections during the 2020/2021.
- During the aforementioned financial year, ECN was allocated an appropriation amount of ***Three Hundred and Thirty-two Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty-two Thousand Namibia Dollar*** (N\$332, 821,000) as its operational budget. The total expenditure for the year was ***Three Hundred and Thirty-one Million, Nine Hundred and Eleven Thousand, Nine Hundred and Fifty-four Namibia Dollar*** (N\$ 331,911,954) resulting in an **execution rate of 99.82%**.
- The funds allocated to Vote 28 in the previous financial year were committed to 3 key programmes namely;
  - 1) Administration of Elections**
  - 2) Voter and Civic Education and Information Dissemination and ;**
  - 3) Policy Co-ordination and Support Services.**

Out of that total appropriation amount, ***Fifty-five Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty-eight Thousand, Two Hundred and Forty-Nine, Namibia Dollar*** (N\$55,838,249) has been allocated for personnel expenditure and ***Two Hundred Seventy-six Million,***

***Seventy-Three Thousand, Seven Hundred and Five, Namibia Dollar*** (N\$276,073,705) for non-personnel expenditure.

- Funds allocated for personnel expenditure was mainly spent on payment of polling and registration officials and private vehicle rental while non-personnel expenditure was primarily on election material, printing of ballot papers, voter's registration equipment, printing and advertisement, rental of polling venues and consultation and research to mention but a few.

#### **For the 2021/2022 Financial Year**

- For the 2021/2022 financial year, ECN has been allocated a total amount of ***Seventy-two Million, Four Hundred and Nineteen Thousand, Namibia Dollar*** (N\$72, 419,000) as its operational budget. Out of that total, ***Forty-five Million, Five Hundred and Twenty Thousand, Namibia Dollar*** (N\$45,520,000) has been allocated for personnel expenditure and ***Twenty-Six Million, Eight Hundred and Ninety-Nine Thousand, Namibia Dollar*** (N\$26,899,000) for non-personnel expenditure.
- The ECN has two (2) crucial programmes under its budget, namely: **Administration of Elections**, and **Voter and Civic Education**. The above two programs are complemented by Programme; **Policy Co-ordination and Support Services**

## **Program 01: Administration of Elections**

- The ECN through Program 01 conducts and facilitates the participation of voters in regular free and fair elections.
- During the 2021/2022 financial year, the Commission will focus on enhancing its business processes by implementing innovative solutions and will conduct a detailed review of its logistics management, stock register and the Biometric Voters Registration System (BVRs) in order to ensure greater operational efficiency in the conduct of electoral processes.
- Further to evaluations and reviews, the ECN must also make contingency provisions for by-elections which could occur at any time during the 2021/2022 financial year. Therefore, a portion of the budget is meant to cover costs related to any by-election that may occur.
- The ECN is currently preparing to conduct a by-election in the Opuwo Rural Constituency, following the death of Honorable Uaurikua Kakuva on 04<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
- The ECN will thus be expected to recruit, train and deploy election officials to conduct registration of voters and for the subsequent polling process. The conduct of the aforementioned by-election will cost approximately ***Two Million and Eight Six Thousand, Namibia Dollars*** (N\$2,086,000).

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,  
Honourable Members,**

An amount of ***Fourteen Million, Six Hundred and Three Thousand, Namibia Dollars*** (N\$14,603,000) has been allocated for **Administration of Elections** of which an amount of ***Eight Million, Four Hundred and Twenty-three Thousand, Namibia Dollar*** (N\$8,423,000) is for Personnel Expenditure and ***Six Million, One Hundred and Eighty Thousand, Namibia Dollar*** (N\$6,180,000) remaining will cater for non-personnel expenditures, which is for the procurement of Goods and Other Services including all election related expenditure.

**Program 02: Voter and Civic Education and Information  
Dissemination**

- The Voter and Civic program informs and educates the public continuously on electoral democracy with a view to strengthen participation in electoral processes.
- In terms of Section 4 (3) of the Electoral Act (Act No 5 of 2014), the Act requires that the Commission promote knowledge of sound democratic electoral processes as well as supervise and control the disclosure and dissemination of information regarding electoral matters and establish and maintain the

necessary facilities for collecting and disseminating the information.

- For this reason, Program 02 will focus on facilitating the conduct of a research paper on voter participation in electoral processes.
- The survey will further be expected to measure public perceptions and trust in how the ECN is conducting programmes within its mandate.
- Research optimises available data in order to inform organisational planning and other decision making processes.
- The findings from this research will be used as a yardstick that will determine how ECN will implement its programmes and improve its stakeholder's satisfaction ratings in response to the institutions' strategic objectives of strengthening constitutional democracy and improving stakeholder relations.
- The voter education activities will also be intensified during the forthcoming weeks and months for the Opuwo-Rural constituency to encourage the electorates engagement with and participation in electoral processes in order to facilitate the right to vote as enshrined in the constitution.
- The public information campaign regarding the forthcoming elections will be developed taking into consideration the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and following the

correct guidelines in preventing transmission as provided for by the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

- During this financial year the ECN will also embark on a critical examination, in close collaboration of all stakeholders, of the Electoral Act, Act No 5 of 2014 in order to propose amendments to the Electoral Act in the near future. Furthermore, the ECN is currently developing a report and consulting relevant stakeholders focusing on its relationship with other state institutions in the context of the provision of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia which in Article 94B states that, “The Electoral Commission of Namibia shall be an independent, transparent and impartial body”.

**Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,  
Honourable Members,**

An amount of ***Twenty-one Million and Forty-four Thousand, Namibia Dollar*** (N21,044,000) has been allocated for Voter Education. From this amount ***Sixteen Million, One Hundred and Sixty-four Thousand, Namibia Dollar*** (N\$16,164,000) is for Personnel Expenditures and ***Four Million, Eight Hundred and Eighty Thousand, Namibia Dollar*** (N\$4,880,000) remaining will cater for non-personnel expenditures, which is for the procurement of Goods and Other Services.

### **Program 03: Policy Co-ordination and Supervision and Support Services**

- The programme **Policy Co-ordination and Supervision and Support Services** received an amount of ***Thirty-six Million, Seven Hundred and Seventy-two Thousand, Namibia Dollar*** (N\$36,772,000). From this amount ***Twenty Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty-three Thousand, Namibia Dollar*** (N\$20,933,000) is for Personnel Expenditures and ***Fifteen Million, Eight Hundred and Thirty-Nine Thousand, Namibia Dollar*** (N\$15,839,000) remaining will cater for non-personnel expenditures, which is for the procurement of Goods and Other Services which includes rentals, license renewals, Commission and Boards, electoral reports and membership fees to Regional and International electoral bodies amongst others.

In Conclusion, I urge all Honourable Members of this august House to support these motivations and approve the budget of ***Seventy-Two Million, Four Hundred and Nineteen Thousand, Namibia Dollar*** (N\$72, 419,000) for the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the 2021/2022 financial year.

**I thank you!**