



REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE MEMBERS OF THE BOUNDARIES DELIMITATION AND DEMARCATION COMMISSION (BDDC).

1. Article 104(1)(a) and (b) of the Namibian Constitution, provides for the establishment of the Boundaries Delimitation and Demarcation Commission (BDDC), as follows: “there shall be a Boundaries Delimitation and Demarcation Commission, which shall – (a) delimit and demarcate the boundaries of Namibia, subject to Article 1(4); (b) recommend the determination of the boundaries and names of Regions, Constituencies and Local Authorities in accordance with this Constitution and the provisions of an Act of Parliament, and shall report thereon to the President.”
2. Furthermore, Article 104 (2) articulates the composition of the BDDC, as follows: “the Boundaries Delimitation and Demarcation Commission shall consist of a full time Chairperson and other part time Commissioners, as may be appointed by the President, with the approval of the National Assembly.”



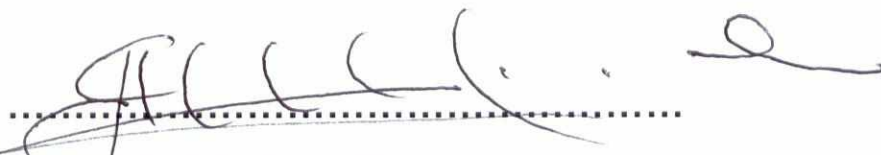
3. For purposes of Sub-Section (1) of Section 5 of the Regional Council's Act, 1992 (Act Number 22 of 1992), it becomes lucidly clear that: the BDDC is fundamentally and specifically tasked to make specific and clear recommendations, in relation to, amongst others:
- (i) Changes to the boundaries of existing Regions;
 - (ii) The creation of new Regions;
 - (iii) The division or re-division of existing Regions into Constituencies.
4. The Commission's recommendations which must be based upon concrete and verifiable factual information; are to be made to the President of the Country, for the purposes of Regional Council Elections; as well as Local Authority Elections. Currently, Namibia is divided in the Fourteen (14) Regions and HUNDRED AND TWENTY ONE (121) Constituencies.
5. Both the Country's demography and geography are very important factors, which must be taken into account, in the process of delimiting and demarcating the boundaries of Regions and Constituencies. Geography is the study of the physical features of the earth and of human activities, as they relate to those features. Demography, on the hand, is really the study of the structure of human populations, using statistics relating to births, deaths, wealth, disease and so forth.



6. The delimitation criteria and requirements, contained in the Regional Councils Act Number 22 of 1992; read together with the relevant Articles of the Namibian Constitution, must continue to serve as guidelines for the Commission, in deciding on which specific changes to recommend. Furthermore, it is my considered view that: the criteria are not and cannot be static! They are dynamic! They are ever evolving and subject to change! Issues such as distance from the administrative Capital Centre of a specific Region; the Voter Population count, migration trends; potential developmental growth points in a specific area; and effective and efficient provision of Public Services by Regional- and Local Authorities, are important issues to be considered when delimiting and demarcating boundaries of Regions, Constituencies and Local Authorities in our Country.
7. Finally, I notice that, Article 104 (2) of the Namibia Constitution talks about “a full-time Chairperson and other part-time Commissioners.” What is the meaning of “full-time” and “part-time,” respectively and in this specific context? When the Constitution in Article 106 (1) talks about: “shall be no fewer than SIX (6) and or more than TWELVE (12) Constituencies in each Region” – Is this cast ins tone? Ad infinitum? Not subject to amendment and review?



8. I congratulate the appointed distinguished Members of the Boundaries Delimitation and Demarcation Commission (BDDC) of Namibia. I wish them only the best, in executing their very important assigned national duties, responsibilities, tasks and assignments; with a sense of: loyalty, patriotism, professionalism, hard work and zeal. Thank you Honourable Speaker and Colleagues Honourable Members of the National Assembly!



John MUTORWA, MP

MINISTER

