



Electoral Commission of Namibia

STATEMENT BY
HONOURABLE PROF. PETER H. KATJAVIVI, MP
SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
DURING THE
MOTIVATION OF THE
BUDGETARY ALLOCATION OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF
NAMIBIA (ECN) VOTE 28
FOR THE 2024 – 2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

FRIDAY, 5 APRIL 2024

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS
WINDHOEK
KHOMAS REGION

Check Against Delivery

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

I rise to motivate the budgetary allocation of the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) for the 2024/2025 Financial Year. The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) is established by an Act of Parliament as a constitutional body. Further, the Electoral Act, Act No.5 of 2014, as amended, sets out clear objectives of the ECN which are to organize, direct, supervise, manage and control the conduct of elections and referenda in a free, fair, independent, credible, transparent and impartial manner as well as to strengthen constitutional democracy and to promote democratic electoral and referenda processes.

During the year under review, ECN was allocated an amount of **Four Hundred and Twenty-One Million, Nine Hundred and Thirty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$421,930,000)** for operational budget. The total expenditure for the year under review was **Four Hundred and Eleven Million, Nine Hundred and Ninety-Eight Thousand, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Two Namibia Dollars (N\$ 411,998,732)** giving an execution rate of 97.6%.

This budgetary allocation for ECN were committed to three key programmes namely;

- 1) **Administration of Elections,**
- 2) **Voter and Civic Education and Information Dissemination,**
and;
- 3) **Policy Co-ordination and Support Services.**

From the total appropriation of ECN during the 2023/2024 Financial Year an amount **Fifty-Nine Million, Seven Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$59,733,000)** was allocated for personnel expenditure while **Three Hundred and Sixty-Two Million, Two Hundred and Nineteen Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$362,219,000)** for non-personnel expenditure covering day-to-business and electoral operations of the Commission such as purchasing of voter's registration equipment, printing and advertising and rental of buildings for regional offices in all 14 regions across the country.

Honourable Chairperson of the Whole House Committee,
Honourable Members,

In compliance with Section 63(1) of the Electoral Act, the ECN is required to conduct the Presidential and National Assembly (PNA) Elections during this year. In terms of the Electoral Calendar launched on the 7th of March 2024, the Elections will be held on the 27th November 2024. The polling process will be preceded by the General Registration of Voters in compliance with Section 25 (1) of

the Electoral Act. In terms of this legal provision, the Commission is obliged to conduct General Registration of Voters (GRV) not later than 10 years after the last general registration of voters. The last General Registration of Voters took place from the 15th January to the 2nd of March 2014 over a period of 42 days. The next General Registration of Voters is therefore scheduled to take place from the 3rd of June to the 1st of August 2024 over a period of 52 days as outlined in the Electoral Calendar.

In preparation for the conduct of both the 2024 General Registration of Voters and the Presidential and National Assembly Elections, the Electoral Act requires the Commission to roll-out nationwide Voter and Civic Education programs marking the official commencement of the Democracy Awareness Campaign. The Civic and Voter Education Awareness Strategy adopted by the ECN in the build-up to the 2024 General Registration of Voters (GRV) and National Elections forms the basis for delivering Democracy Awareness Campaign, under the theme ***“Enhancing Electoral Democracy through Electoral Processes”***.

The Commission will require One Thousand Five Hundred (1,500) vehicles during the scheduled General Registration of Voters and Two Thousand Five Hundred (2,500) vehicles during the Presidential and

National Assembly Elections to be used at various levels of the registration and polling process respectively. As a result, the Commission will have no choice but to hire a pool of vehicles from the Government Garage as well as from the members of the public to cover for any possible shortfall.

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

Let me now focus on the ECN's budgetary allocation for the 2024/2025 Financial Year, and also on the specific programs to be carried out.

For the 2024/2025 Financial Year, ECN has been allocated a total amount of **Four Hundred and Thirty-Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$437, 983,000)** for the operational expenses. Out of that amount, **Fifty-Two Million, One Hundred and Twelve Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$52,112,000)** has been allocated for personnel expenditure and **Three Hundred and Eighty-Five Million, Eight Hundred and Seventy-One Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$385,871,000)** for non-personnel expenditure covering day-to-business and electoral operations.

The ECN has two (2) crucial programmes under its budget, namely: **Administration of Elections**, and **Voter and Civic Education**. These two programs are complemented by the Programme on **Policy Coordination and Support Services**

Programme 01 – Administration of Elections

An amount of **Two Hundred and Sixty-Nine Million, One Hundred and Fifty-Two Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$269,152,000)** has been allocated for this program.

The ECN, through this program conducts and facilitates the participation of voters in regular free and fair elections. During the 2024/2025 Financial Year, the Commission will focus on conducting the General Registration of Voters (GRV) and the 2024 Presidential and National Assembly elections in order to ensure greater operational efficiency in the conduct of electoral processes.

Furthermore, the ECN must also make contingency provisions for any by-elections that could occur at any time during the 2024/2025 Financial Year. Therefore, a portion of the budget is set-aside to cover costs related to any by-election that may occur. Hence, an amount of **Three Million and Five Hundred Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$3,500,000)** has been allocated for this purpose.

Furthermore, in order to improve the registration process of voters, the Commission will procure additional Mobile Voters Registration Kits (MVRKs) which will cost around **Twenty-One Million, Eight Hundred and Twenty Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$21,820,000)**, while an amount of **Eighty-Three Million, Seventy-Five Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$83,075,000)** is earmarked for the procurement of office materials and supplies, election materials, other goods and services including rental of election venues. Additionally, the ECN will be expected to recruit, train and deploy around Sixteen Thousand (16 000) election officials to conduct the general registration of voters and for the subsequent polling process which will cost the Commission **One Hundred and Sixty Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty-Seven Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$160,757,000)**. During the 2024/2025 Financial Year. This time around the commission extended the training period for Supervisors of Registration/Returning Officers, Registration Officers and Polling Officers from one-week to two-weeks to ensure intensified and adequate training.

Programme 02: Voter and Civic Education and Information Dissemination

In terms of Section 4 (3) of the Electoral Act, the Commission is required to promote knowledge of sound democratic electoral

processes. ECN is also required to supervise and control the disclosure and dissemination of information regarding electoral matters and establish and maintain the necessary facilities for collecting and disseminating of information.

For this reason, this program will focus on the conduct of Civic and Voter Education as part of the voter awareness campaign adopted by the ECN in the build-up to the 2024 General Registration of Voters (GRV) and National Elections. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the importance of participating in elections by encouraging individuals who meet the voting eligibility requirements to register and participate in the electoral process, as well as fostering a sense of civic duty and engagement among citizens. Promoting awareness and providing timely, accurate, accessible information will ensure that all eligible citizens have the opportunity to exercise their democratic rights to register and vote.

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

Various channels of communication will be used, taking into consideration the communication needs of each target audience. To ensure inclusivity and access to information for all, information materials will be reproduced in accessible formats for persons with

disabilities such as Braille, Audio and sign language. The commission also introduced the Lead Youth Ambassador to lead the awareness campaign and will also employ around Two Hundred (200) Youth Ambassadors across the country as part of new initiatives to ensure participation of the youth in electoral processes. An amount of **Forty-Seven Million, Six Hundred and Thirty-One Thousand Namibia Dollars (N47, 631, 000)** has been allocated to this program.

Program 03: Policy Co-ordination, Supervision and Support Services

The programme **Policy Co-ordination, Supervision and Support Services** will be allocated an amount of **Sixty-Nine Million and Eighty-Eight Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$69,088,000)**. This amount will cater for non-personnel expenditures, which is for the procurement of goods and other services which include rentals, license renewals, commission and boards fees, electoral reports and membership fees to regional and international electoral bodies amongst others.

To conclude, I now present to this august House the request of the amount of **Four Hundred and Thirty-Seven Million, Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three Thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$437, 983,000)**

for the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the 2024/2025 Financial Year to implement its constitutional mandate.

I thank you.