12th International Electoral Affairs Symposium
Symposium Report

13th – 15th June 2016
Swakopmund, Namibia

**Electoral Commission of Namibia
and
International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS)**

INTRODUCTION

Electoral management bodies (EMBs) all over the world, howsoever titled, face similar challenges. EMBs, for example, are grappling with the challenge of achieving real and perceived institutional, functional, administrative and budgetary independence. Devising innovative ways to broaden access to the electoral process for key populations such as women, people with disabilities and young persons is yet another challenge faced by EMBs. Similarly, questions on how to effectively monitor the contentious issues of political financing and curbing the potential abuse of incumbency by ruling parties are also universal challenges faced by EMBs. They are also confronted with the challenge of enhancing the use of ICT and embracing the various social media platforms within the electoral process without compromising the integrity of the process.

To address these and other challenges, the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS), hosted its 12th International Electoral Affairs Symposium in Swakopmund, Namibia, on the 13th and 14th of June 2016. The symposium essentially served as an international forum for policy discussion, for debate, networking and EMBs sharing best practices in their endeavours to improve electoral governance in their respective counties. It was further aimed at gaining insight on how best to manage these challenges. To this end, the symposium focused on the following thematic areas:

- ✓ Improving accessibility voters;
- ✓ Effectively regulating political party financing;
- ✓ Social media and leveraging technology for efficient and credible elections;
- ✓ The impact of training in the Electoral Process;
- ✓ Modernising the electoral processes with minimal disrupt; and
- ✓ Ensuring EMBs are independent and free from interference.

Structured broadly in accordance with the agenda of the symposium, this report is divided into three sections: the first presents a summary of the ceremonial matters attended to as part of the opening of the symposium. This part also reflects on the special presentations made by representatives from the Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC and Smartmatic, the main sponsor of the symposium, respectively; the second section hones in on the thematic areas covered on day one, namely, expanding access to the electoral process to all eligible voters; regulation of political

party financing; leveraging technology and the social media to deliver efficient and credible elections; and the importance and impact of continuous training and education in the electoral process; the third section considers the thematic areas covered on day two i.e. the independence of EMBs, and the call to modernise the electoral processes with minimal disruption as far as possible. The report summarises the presentations made during each of the sessions.

In addition, it offers commentary on the key issues that emerged from discussions and raises questions as to where further reflection is merited. The commentary consolidates observations made by participants relevant to each section. In line with the spirit of the symposium, comments made during the discussions are not attributed to individuals, although verbatim quotes are noted as such (" ").

Day 1, Monday, 13th June 2016

Opening & Welcoming Remarks

The symposium was opened with opening and welcome addresses by Joram Rukambe, Project Leader, United Nation Development Project (UNDP), Mr. Matt Gokhool, Chief Executive, International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS), and Adv. Notemba Tjipueja, Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN), respectively.

Mr. Rukambe acted as chairperson of the morning session. He started by extending warm greetings and a hearty welcome to all dignitaries and invited guests, heads of the various electoral management bodies (EMBs) in attendance, industry experts, solution providers, participants, and members from the media covering the event. He noted that the symposium is an international forum for policy discussion, for debate, networking and EMBs sharing best practices in the endeavours to improve electoral governance in their respective country. He expressed the hope that the debates will be done in an open and frank manner. He called on participants to regard each other as equals and on EMBs to be willing, and open-minded to adopt, embrace, and adapt good practices that have worked elsewhere to their own peculiar situations. He then proceeded to introduce and acknowledge the delegations of the different countries in attendance. Thirty one (31) countries were altogether in attendance.

Mr. Matt Gokhool, in his capacity as Chief Executive of ICPS started by acknowledging the democratic strides Namibia has made over the years. He noted that the ICPS regards Namibia as a beacon of democracy. This view, reportedly led to the decision to host the 12th International Electoral Affairs Symposium in the country. Namibia, in their view, has shown that openness and constant interaction with the different parties and stakeholders instill confidence in the EMBs.

This, for example, in his view, explains why the country so far had successive, alternative, respected, and accepted governments.

He then proceeded to acknowledge the presence of Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, who was chosen to be the keynote speaker for the symposium. He also signaled out and acknowledged the role that Adv. Notemba Tjipueja played in making the symposium a reality. He further thanked all his local and international guests as well the industry sponsors in attendance. He noted that electoral affairs have been one of the areas where private public partnerships (PPPs) have been a real success. He observed that a lot of the innovations in the electoral process have been as a result of such PPPs. He expressed the hope that such collaboration will continue. He stressed that ICPS does not believe in silo cultures, i.e. where different sectors are moving in different directions seeking to achieve the same goal. To this end, the ICPS always endeavours to bring the public sector and private sectors role players together in the same room to share experiences consistent with the PPP philosophy. He stressed that the best interests of the voter form the basis of this approach. He ended by thanking the staff members of the ECN for the excellent work done in organising the symposium and receiving the various local and international guests.

Adv. Notemba Tjipueja, on her part, also welcomed the invited dignitaries, representatives of the ICPS, local and international guests, heads of the various EMBs, industry experts, solution providers, participants, and members from the media in attendance. She noted that the corner stone of multi-party democracy is the delivery of regular, free and fair elections. EBMs, in her view, as the custodians of democracy have the onerous obligation to jealously guard democracy within their legislative mandates in their respective countries. She called for open and frank discussions and a mindset to learn from each others' experiences with the view to improve the electoral process. With that said, she then proceeded to introduce the key note speaker, Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab, former Speaker of the National Assembly of Namibia.

Keynote Address

 Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab started by extending a warm welcome to all the international guests. He congratulated the ICPS for having chosen Namibia as the host of their 12th International Electoral Affairs Symposium. He expressed the conviction that the symposium would serve as an excellent platform for the sharing of information, ideas and experiences amongst EMB leaders, industry experts and solution providers on contemporary issues and good governance. He acknowledged the practical work done by the ICPS in the areas of research, building networks, consultancy and training. He then proceeded to share his thoughts on some of the themes to be address by the symposium.

With reference to the theme: **"…Leveraging technology for efficient and credible elections"** he hailed the pioneering role played by the ECN for having introduced the electoral voting machines (EVMs) into the Namibian electoral system. Through this, he observed that Namibia became the first country in Africa to have introduced such technology during elections. He expressed appreciation that a number of African countries showed interests and willingness to learn from the Namibian experience and example in this regard.

On the theme on: **"Improving accessibility for voters"** he stressed the importance of establishing credible mechanisms to provide, promote, enhance, and sustain the integrity of the entire electoral process. To this end, he called on EBMs to establish mechanisms to address the challenges in the areas of access to information, consultation, transparency, accountability and the rule of law. This, in his view, also calls for the establishment of clear complaint processes and procedures to enhance greater transparency and access to the electoral process.

In commenting on the theme: **The impact of Training in the Electoral Process,** he noted that change, even good change, requires continuous adaptation. In this context, he then emphasised the need for continuous training and supervision of election officials to achieve greater professionalism and efficiency in the electoral process. Those charged with the responsibility to administer the electoral process, in his view, must be properly trained so as to add positive value to the process and deal promptly with shortcomings. He stressed that such training should, necessarily, addresses issues such as general integrity, accountability, and requires effective control mechanism as a way to safe guard the integrity of the electoral system.

In respect of the theme of: "**Effectively regulating political party financing",** he called for the development of clear policy goals and the adoption of a legal regulatory framework to govern this contentious issue. He further called for the effective implementation and enforcement of such laws. The issue of political financing, in his view, must be viewed from the vantage point of ethics, fairness, equity, accountability, transparency, accessibility as well as the public's right to information in this regard. All these, in his view, are non-negotiable imperatives to safe guard and maintain transparency, integrity and public confidence in all phases of the electoral cycle.

In summary, he echoed and offered the recommendations of the Global Commission on Elections, Democracy and Security as possible ways to overcome the challenge of conducting elections with integrity. In this regard, he stressed the necessity of:

  ✓ Building the rule of law to substantiate claims to human rights and electoral justice;

- ✓ Building professional and competent EMBs with full independence of actions to administer elections that are transparent and merit public confidence;

- ✓ Creating institutions and norms of multiplicity, multi-party competition and division of power to bolster democracy as a mutual security system amongst political contenders;

- ✓ Removing all barriers i.e. legal, administrative, political, economic, or social to universal and equal political participation; and

- ✓ Regulating uncontrolled, undisclosed and opaque political finance.

Dr. Gurirab ended his address with the following quote from the UN Secretary General, Mr. Ban Ki-moon:

"The true measure of an election is whether it engenders broad public confidence in the process and trust in the outcome.An election run honestly and transparently, respecting basic rights, with the effective and neutral support of State institutions and the responsible conduct of participants (leaders, candidates and voters) is most likely to achieve an accepted and peaceful outcome."

The keynote address was followed by presentations by **Ms. Hilda Modisane**, Program Manager of the Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC countries (ECF-SADC/the Forum), and **Mr. Gerrit Hubers,** EMEA Project Manager from SMARTMATIC**,** one of the key industry experts and solution providers in attendance and the main sponsor of the symposium, respectively.

Ms. Hilda Modisane, started her presentation by giving a short background about the Forum, and reflected on its vision, mission, values, the past and current programmes and projects. She also used the SWOT-analysis scheme to highlight the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges/threats of the Forum.

By way of background she noted that the ECF-SADC is a regional, independent organisation comprising of EMBs of the 15 SADC members States. The EMB of Madagascar (CENI) is currently the only body which is currently not a member of the Forum. The Forum was officially launched in 1998. The permanent Secretariat of the Forum is currently based in Gaborone, Botswana. Leadership positions in the ECF-SADC are occupied by the respective EMBs in the SADC and not by individuals. Leadership positions are elected bi-annually. Elections for the new leadership corps of the Forum will take place in August 2016. She claimed that during the 18 years of its existence the Forum earned respect and recognition in the SADC region and the continent as a frontrunner of building sustainable democracy.

The Forum is guided by 10 objectives including: encouraging the development of a democratic culture; promoting a conducive environment for holding transparent and credible elections; encouraging the development and enactment of electoral management laws that adhere to regionally and internationally accepted principles; promoting conducive relationships between EMBs in the SADC region and other stakeholders; and facilitating access to technology, sharing of experience and other research initiatives on electoral management.

She then went on to elaborate on the vision and mission of the Form. She proceeded to highlight the values which inform and guide the activities of ECF-SADC. These are: integrity, participation, lawfulness (rule of law), impartiality and fairness, professionalism, independence, transparency, timeliness, non-violence, freedom from treat and violence, regularity; and acceptance.

She then presented the symposium with a concise account of the Past and Ongoing/Current Projects of the Forum. The P**ast projects** of the Forum include:

1. **The compilation of country profiles:** this involved country audits and provided valuable comparative data on electoral processes in each of the member EMBs.

2. **The establishment of an efficient information and technology system**: this was/is aimed at developing new capacities and, improve communication and technology facilities in selected countries.

3. **Conflict Management Programme:** This was jointly designed by ECF-SADC and EISA to introduce facilitation in problem solving and conflict handling skills for electoral staff.

4. **Electoral Observation:** Deployment of election observer missions in the SADC member States since 1998 to date. The Forum adopts a unique approach to observation in that it provides peer response, sharing impressions and recommendations to improve future electoral processes. She acknowledged the challenges experienced in respect of observation missions, namely, challenges with observer missions, and the issue of how to make observer missions more meaningful.

5. The production of the **Principles for Election Management Monitoring and Observation (PEMMO)** in the SADC region which was developed jointly by EISA and ECF-SADC in 2003.

6. The production of the **Guidelines and Principles on the Independence of EMBs in the SADC region** developed by the member EMBs themselves in 2007. These Guidelines/Check-lists addresses issues of impartiality, independence of action, integrity, transparency, financial probity, accountability, professionalism, and service mindedness amongst others.

Others past projects of note include a Symposium to mark the **10ᵗʰ Anniversary of the Forum** which was held in Zanzibar in 2008 under the theme **'Enhancing Democratic Governance through Credible Elections in the SADC region'**. The most common challenges flagged by EMBs during this symposium related to issues around:

- ✓ Voter registration and the management of the voters' rolls;

- ✓ The role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in election management; and

- ✓ The relationship between EMBs and CSOs.

The **On-going** activities of the Forum include Election Observation missions, Forum meetings (EXCO, CEOs, and sub committees); partnership with other Institutions; post- election reviews; training; research; development of tools and setting framework standards; technical assistance to its member commissions; and mobilising EMBs' own expertise to support one another.

Through the SWOT analysis scheme she listed the following as the strength, weaknesses, opportunities and threats/challenges of the Forum. She flagged the following issues as the **Strengths** of the Forum:

- ✓ A permanent dedicated institution for election authorities with a Constitution;

- ✓ Strong sense of ownership;

- ✓ Regular annual peer-networking, sharing information, equipment and reporting on electoral activities per country;

- ✓ Rotational hosting of activities by member commission;

- ✓ Institutional memory within commissions and staff;

- ✓ MoU with SADC (in progress);

- ✓ MoU with the Botswana Government; and the

- ✓ Maintenance of linkages with other regional electoral bodies such as the AU, EAC, GEO conference and others.

She noted that the Forum is faced with the following **Weaknesses**:

- ✓ Lack of articulation on mission and objectives;

- ✓ Short term observer missions- reactive;

- ✓ Budget constraint to run forum programmes;

- ✓ Inconsistent payment of membership subscription fees;

- ✓ Limited rotation of forum's leadership positions to avoid dominance through elective process; and the

- ✓ Failure to criticise member commissions / member States that flout regional standards.

She counted the following as amongst some of the **Opportunities** of the Forum:

- ✓ The SADC being a stable region with regular elections;

- ✓ Regional electoral calendar which facilitates planning;

- ✓ Recognition by SADC governments;

- ✓ Fund raising opportunities;

- ✓ Capacity to plan for regional and country specific programmes;

- ✓ Exchange of best practices on electoral laws, and functional independence

- ✓ Establish partnerships with universities;

- ✓ Bi-lateral support for dealing with election-related violence, new technology, handling results and post-election evaluation;

- ✓ Overlapping mandates with SEAC

- ✓ Establishment of new EMB networks, namely, the African Association of Electoral Authorities.

In conclusion she highlighted some of the following issues as amongst the major **Threats** faced by the Forum:

- ✓ Inadequate financial resources;

- ✓ Donor dependency;

- ✓ Lack of committed participation of member commissions in some activities; and

✓ Inability of the forum to support EMBs with limited functional independence.

Mr. Gerrit Hubers from SMARTMATIC shared the experience of their Ugandan election project with the symposium delegates. To this end, he chose four main areas i.e. the scope, schedule, project team and success factors of the project.

The client of the project is the Electoral Commission of Uganda. The project is aimed at modernising the electoral process in Uganda using voter biometric verification as a first start. The second area of modernization relates to managing the voter data by setting up of a centre for the upcoming 2016 elections and beyond. The elections covered under the project were the recently held presidential, district, local, municipality and sub-county elections in that country. For these elections the project was restricted to biometric voter verification only. The overall project deliverable was the provision of 32, 334 devices. Of these, the Uganda Electoral Commission retained 2, 000 devices to cater for by-elections until the next main election. The equipment was assembled in Taiwan and finished off at a factory that was set up in Uganda. The shipment was by air because of the time constraints in implementing the project. In fact, instead of the initially agreed eleven months timeframe the project had to be implemented in four months. Another major challenge of the project related to the training of the EMB's staff. Through the training-of-trainer (ToT) method some 300 technical staff members of the commission were trained. These trainers in turn trained in excess of 60, 000 election officials across Uganda. SMARTMATIC had instructions to produce a simple, easy to use application which they reportedly managed to do. The software was specifically designed to suit the Ugandan context.

With reference to the **project schedule** he noted that the project plan as handed down to them in October 2015 was strictly adhered to.

A multi-cultural **project team** was set up to execute the project. A core team of 22 people comprising of SMARTIC specialists from the Netherlands and Venezuela and Ugandan consultants was set up. Additionally, 124 warehouse operators, 70 call-centre agents, and 130 field support staff were employed during the duration of the project.

He observed that the biggest **challenge** of the project related to governance. Challenges in this regard related to issues such as interaction and communication, as well as getting people to deliver on time. He listed the following as some of the **success factors** of the project:

✓ The delivery of the devices six days ahead of schedule; this was reportedly mainly achieved through the support and collaboration of the Uganda Electoral Commission to get custom's clearance;

- ✓ The intensive training of nearly 67,000 elections officials;

- ✓ The provision of loaded demonstration devices to 116 districts which allowed for easy and random verification of whether or not one's biometric data existed;

- ✓ The production of television advertisements to explain the use of the devices;

- ✓ The customers' testimonials, customers' surveys, competence certificates, certificate of completion, and a letter of recommendation from the commission all of which confirming that the project was successfully carried out.

Commentary

The two special presentations were followed by a question and answer session to allow participants to interact and engage with the two presenters. The discussions that followed drew out a broad range of issues related to matters such as the costs and sustainability of electronic voting devices; the rationale behind electronic solution providers also providing training solutions despite the fact that they are not training companies; the quality, as opposed to mere functionality, of the mass training provided by electronic solution providers; similarly, the career mobility of commissioners and the concomitant issue of '*life after electoral commission work'*, as articulated by one participant, were also highlighted; likewise, the sustainable utilisation of people trained in handling the electronic voting devices came up for discussion.

In framing the discussion on '*life after elections,* Ms. Hilda Modisane observed that this issue is, indeed, a challenge to EMBs and the Forum. She noted that the EMBs are investing a lot in the training of commissioners, directors and other electoral staff only to lose them after a few years. In this regard, she called for the establishment of a platform to tap from the expertise and lived experience of former commissioners and EMB staff members.

In response to questions in respect of the pricing of the devices, Mr. Huber noted that their devices are either sold or leased to EMBs. On the availability of the devices he stated that their devices are readily available provided sufficient notice is given in this regard. On the issue of training and the retention of knowledge he noted that SMARTMATIC usually trains a core team of trainers from the EMB staff. Those selected are then ordinarily deployed as master trainers and tasked to train the complete contingent of ToTs. Furthermore, locals contracted by SMARTMATIC during the main elections were used by the Ugandan Electoral Commission during the by-elections thereafter.

Session One: Improving accessibility for voters

This session considered voter access to the electoral process. The issues to be considered in this context, as framed by the chairperson, Mr. Rukambe, included voter registration, who is allowed to register as a voter, issues pertaining to the voters' register, diaspora voting, the voter's access to voting, inclusive participation in the electoral process with specific reference to the interest of women, people with disabilities, the youth, and other marginalised and vulnerable groups in society. Furthermore, measures taken to enhance voter access to the electoral process, the challenge of voter apathy, the role ITC plays in enhancing voter participation in the electoral process, the issue of security of voters, and gender-based violence were also flagged as issues related to the theme.

To interrogate the above listed issues, **Ms. Betty Sungura**, Deputy Chief Elections Officer of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission from Kenya, **Mrs. Patience Fule-Buang Elango**, Press and Information Secretary, of Elections Cameroon, and **Ms. Hilde Nakakuwa,** Former Deputy Director, Democracy Building, Electoral Commission of Namibia, respectively, were invited to share their experts views and lived experiences on these issues.

Ms. Betty Sungura in her contribution noted that the voting age in Kenya is 18 years. Accordingly, every Kenyan of 18 years or above and who is in possession of a national passport or identity card is eligible to register as a voter. Kenya is using biometric voter registration. The Kenyan electoral system makes provision for continuous voter registration. This allows for voters to continuously register at constituency level. This process is also done biometrically and is subjected to periodic inspections. In addition, the system also makes allowance for mass/general voter registration which is conducted nationally for a full month. The Kenyan Constitution provides for the progressive realisation of diaspora voting. To this end, Kenyans in Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, and Burundi were allowed to register to vote during the past general elections. The ultimate aim, depending on the availability of resources, is to progressively extend the ambit of diaspora voting in that country.

She noted that voter apathy is a real concern in Kenya. She cited social economic reasons and the fact that some people may not believe in an electoral system *per se* as possible reasons for this state of affairs. In an effort to address voter apathy the Commission is collaborating with the National Registration Bureau to facilitate ID releases. The Commission is also investing heavily in voter education to address the issue of voter apathy.

She further informed the symposium that her Commission is making use of various social media platforms and service providers to improve access to the electoral process.

With reference to expanding access to voters with disabilities she noted that their system allows for the capturing of the various type of disability upon registration. Armed with this information the Commission, accordingly, adjusts and package its goods, services and products and messaging to suit the special needs of such voters.

In ending her contribution, she noted that Kenya is having a robust electoral code of conduct. The Commission is also clothed with investigative and prosecutorial powers. This allows the Commission to engage with stakeholders including the political class to raise awareness of such with the view to mitigate against possible breaches in this area.

Mrs. Patience Fule-Buang Elango commenced her contribution with a breakdown of the Cameroonian voting population. She noted that Cameroon has an estimated voting population of 11 million. Close to 52 per cent of the voting population are women and around 60 per cent are youth. Voters with disabilities are estimated to be in the vicinity of about one million and more.

She observed that Cameroon has suffered from deep-seated voter apathy. This was reportedly fuelled by suspicion and rejection from the electorate. She went on to inform the gathering that the Cameroonian EMB was legally and formally established in December 2008. The first major assignment of the EMB was to organise the 2011 presidential election. Amongst the major challenges of the newly established EMB was the highly contested voters' roll. In the same vein, the independence of members of the EMB was also questioned because they were perceived as government agents.

In preparation for the 2011 presidential elections the EMB went all out to 'clean' and purge the voters' register. In this context, a biometric voter registration system was introduced through which a new voters' register was compiled. The new voters' register indicates the kind of disability i.e. visual, hearing, mental, physical, height, etc. The EMB has since organised the 2013 legislative and municipal elections, the maiden senatorial elections and is now planning for the 2018 presidential elections.

She went on to inform the gathering on how her EMB managed to gain the trust and confidence of the electorate. This included the introduction of the biometric voter registration system, and the rejection on party lists which did not feature women candidates. This was done in the absence of an explicit legal authority to do so. The fact that the ruling party was reportedly also affected by this ruling greatly bolstered the trust and confidence of the electorate in the EMB.

The voting age in Cameroon is 20 years. There are calls to have it reduced to 18 years. The registration of voters in Cameroon is decentralised and is done at constituency level. Voting, generally, is done at constituency level. However, for the presidential elections voting can be done anywhere in the country and at any of the Cameroonian diplomatic missions abroad.

Continuous voter registration is done during the period 1st January to 31st August each year. The cleaning of the voters' register is done during the period September to December. This process is also automated. A provisional voters' register for verification is then published. This list is manual and posted on the website of the EMB as well as at various public buildings. The voters' register is annually updated.

The EMB has managed to establish working relations with various CSOs and faith-based organisations. Diaspora voting, as noted earlier, is allowed in Cameroon. Postal voting is, however, not yet available under the Cameroonian electoral system.

Regarding special target groups, she observed that her EMB specially focuses on women, young people, and people with disabilities. To reach these target groups her EMB usually visits special social events organised by these groups in additional to its own outreach programmes. All these outreach initiatives are premised on the importance of access to information for all to the electoral process. Importantly, the message is packaged according to the special needs of the targeted audience. For instance, her EMB initiated various projects to make the electoral process more friendly and accessible for persons with disabilities. They have, for example, brailed their electoral code, produced sound documents, and provide sign language assistance, as a general rule. Similarly, billboards and poster have also been miniaturised and brailed to suit the special needs of visually impaired voters.

Ms. Hilde Nakakuwa started her presentation by stressing that inclusive elections require that voters be informed, be aware of their rights and have access to information. The ECN, according to her, has processes in place to facilitate easy access to the electoral process. The voting age is Namibia is 18 years. Furthermore, in Namibia a person that has reached the age of 21 has the right to be elected into public office.

The ECN is using the biometric system to register voters. Registration is done at constituency level to facilitate greater access to the electoral process. In the same vein, people without national documents such as IDs or passports, are allowed to register. However, such a registrant requires a supporting sworn affidavit of a registered voter vouching for his/her identity.

She observed that the ECN has taken various initiatives to broaden access to the voting process for key populations such as people with disabilities, prisoners people in hospitals, nomadic and island people. Such efforts, for instance, include the introduction of braille voting in 2004; the training of voter educators to read braille and to sign (sign language); conducting voter registration, voting and voter education programmes at all prisoners throughout the country. The radio and television services of the national public broadcaster, the Namibia Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) are also widely used for voter education purposes. Such media outreach programmes are ordinarily done in all national languages. The ECN is also using ICT and social media platforms to expand access to the electoral process.

In closing her contribution, she noted that the ECN's code of conduct for political parties has been effective in quelling electoral violence.

Commentary

To ensure greater access to the electoral process, as articulated by one participant, all local languages must begin to play a much greater role in achieving this objective. In the same vein, electoral laws and other relevant electoral information must be translated into braille and written in simple and user-friendly language. Similarly, the need for closer collaboration with civil society organisations such as trade unions, women organisations,youth associations must also be explored as part of the efforts to expand access to the electoral process. EMBs must also conduct post-election self-evaluations. Innovative measures must also be found to get political parties to comply with the constitutional dictates of gender equality.

The main thrust of the experts' contributions blended with the observations made by participants can be summarised as follows:

- ✓ Enhance the use of ICT within the electoral process without compromising integrity of the process;

- ✓ Provide continuous and tailor-made voter education to key populations;

- ✓ Address the challenges associated with diaspora voting; and

- ✓ EMBs should craft robust and enforceable codes of conduct for all electoral role players.

Session Two: Effectively regulating political party financing

This session interrogated the issue of financing of political parties and the effective regulation thereof. It was chaired by **Mr. Rukambe**. The panelists to lead the discussion were **Prof. Merga**

Bekana, Chairman, National Electoral Board, Ethiopia, **Mr Irakli Khorbaladze**, Commission Member, Central Electoral Commission, Georgia, and **Mrs Llefterije Lleshi**, Chairwoman, Central Electoral Commission, Albania.

By way of setting the scene for the discussion the chairperson observed that the role of money in politics cannot be underestimated. For this reason this aspect of the electoral process requires proper planning, a clearly defined legal framework setting out the rules which must be rigorously implemented. It also calls for the curbing and/or prevention of illicit financing of politics and/or political parties. He observed that the issue of political financing is handled differently in different jurisdictions. This for example relates to issues of disclosure, reporting on political financing, prohibition of sources, member contributions, and state funding of political parties election campaigns. The panellists were accordingly tasked to enlighten the gathering on what obtains in their respective countries regarding the regulation of political financing and to elaborate on the challenges and the opportunities in this regard.

The main source of income for political parties in Ethiopia, as pointed out by **Prof. Merga Bekana,** is generally from membership contributions. By law political parties are also allowed to receive donations and grants from Ethiopian companies. However, donations and grants from foreign companies to political parties are absolutely prohibited. Ethiopian law further provides for public funding of political parties. To this end, public funding of political parties is done every five years to coincide with general elections. It is also is done at two levels consistent with the federal system applied in the country. Political funding is done according to four different formulas. Firstly, political parties represented in the national parliament and the regional state council are funded according to the number of seats they garnered during the elections. Secondly, funding is also done according to the number of candidates contending/ fielded by a given political party in the actual elections. Thirdly, political funding is also allocated based on the number of female candidates fielded by a given political party for seats in the parliament (housed of representatives) and the regional state council. This criterion has seen the number of females increased from 2.2 to 38 per cent during the past five general elections. The fourth criteria and formula utilised is equity. In term of this criterion 10 per cent of the total funds available for political funding is allocated to every competing political party. For example, 10 per cent of the total funds made available for political funding for the 2015 general elections in that country was equally distributed to each of the 58 political parties which participated in that election.

He concluded his contribution by stressing that the formula used for political funding in Ethiopia has succeeded to solve the problem of money to a large degree. Democracy is dynamic. Elections are equally dynamic. This, therefore, in his view, requires careful planning, continuously studying, updating, for the betterment of democracy.

Georgia, according to **Mr Irakli Khorbaladze,** has complicated legislations regulating political party financing. He hastened to say that having a good legal framework, and the actual practice are two different things altogether. Latest reports, however, revealed that Georgia is reportedly also doing well in practice in this regard. He structured his contribution in terms of: i) the bands and limits on private income, ii) public funding of political parties, iii) spending limits, and iv) reporting, oversight and sanctions for violations.

Membership fees are supposed to be the main source of private funding for political parties in Georgia. However, given the economic situation and the sophistication of political life this is probably the least source of income for political parties in the country. Membership fee is capped at U$1,000 per annum. The allowable private donations from individuals are set at U$25,000. Similarly, the maximum donations from corporations to political parties are limited to U$50,000 annually. Donations exceeding these limits must be returned to the donor or are else forfeited to the state. In such an event the prescribed violation sanctions are then imposed. Another source of private funding is by way of organising public events and the selling of party paraphernalia. Income from such sources is also capped at U$15,000 per year.

Public funding of political parties in Georgia is done in three ways. The first is direct and unconditional funding given to political parties which received at least 3 per cent of the popular vote during the general elections. To this end, a party which received 3 per cent of the popular vote received basic funding of U$150,000 annually whereas those who received 6 per cent or more of the popular votes casted are given double the basic amount i.e. U$300,000. Additional funds are allocated depending on the number of votes casted in favour of each political party and the number members it has in parliament. Parties are also given targeted funding which is ring-fenced for education, training, and research. Such funding is allocated to all parties which obtained the required 3 per cent threshold of the popular vote. Parties are required to report and declare on how they spent these funds. All political parties eligible for political funding, are further allocated U$300,000 to produce televised advertisements during election campaign periods.

Georgian law also places a cap on the amounts political parties may spend on an annual basis. To this end, political parties are restricted to spend up to a maximum of 0.5 per cent of the previous year's gross domestic product (GDP) in a given year. Political parties are also limited to make presents/contributions up to a maximum of U$2,000 annually. Furthermore, the spending areas of political parties are also regulated and curbed. For instance, no political party is allowed to spend more than 10 per cent of their funds on consultancy work.

On the issue of reporting, oversight and sanctions for violations, he noted that all political parties in Georgia are registered with the ministry of justice. They must report annually on the receipt and use of all their donations. Such reports must be sent to the auditor general for auditing puposes. During non-election periods political parties are expected to declare and report on any donation within five (5) days of receipt of such donations or income. These reports must also be published on their websites. During election periods political parties are additionally required to report, every three (3) weeks, to the state monitoring agency on how much funds they received from the special fund for campaign financing and on how such funds have been utilised. All the reports on donations and spending for each political party are publicly available on the website of the state monitoring body. Every member of the public is also having the right to request for additional information on any issues not adequately reflected in the reports of a political party in this regard.

The issue of political financing and the regulation thereof, as noted by **Mrs Llefterije Lleshi**, is a relative new issue in the political life and electoral process in Albania. She informed the gathering that her EMB, the Central Electoral Commission (CEC), played a catalyst role in the realisation of the legislation regulating political financing in her country. For example, the CEC took the initiative to arrange a range of roundtables on the issue of political financing with all stakeholders such as political parties, representatives from the media, CSOs, and international organisations with expertise in this area. The outcomes of these roundtables called for changes and amendments in the electoral code and for a law governing the financing of political parties during election periods as well as off-elections times. These recommendations were posted on the website of the EMB and submitted to parliament for consideration. These and other initiatives of the CEC, supported by other organisations, eventually led to the enactment of legislation regulating political financing in Albania since 2009.

In terms of the law governing political financing in Albania, the CEC conduct financial audits of such financing through the appointment of specialised accounting auditors. To do this end, the EMB is keeping a special register in terms of which each electoral subject is required to declare and register each amount received, whether from natural or legal persons, during the electoral cycle. All amounts of €750 and more must be declared and registered with the EMB. The donor is also obliged to sign a declaration form the content which must be approved by the EMB. Through this declaration donors commit not to engage in any conduct in conflict with the electoral code. The constitution of Albania requires that the financial resources and their expenses be made public. Further to this, the CEC publishes annual financial reports of political parties, audit reports of financing of election campaigns of each electoral subject on its website and the election bulletin. Reports of non-public funding of electoral subjects and list of persons who donated amounts exceeding €750 are part of the audit reports and made public in the same ways. The

electoral code and the law do not place limits on the amounts which may be donated by private individuals. This requirement is thus aimed at avoiding situations whereby individual donors are promoted to public positions and ranks after the elections in the state administration or state-owned companies.

The EMB has developed and issued a package of regulations in fulfilling its mandate of monitoring political financing in Albania consistent with the electoral code and the law governing this matter. These, for example include various bylaws on financial reporting for political parties, standardised formats for reporting by accounting experts and political parties regarding their annual financial reports. The electoral code and the law governing political financing in Albania specify various types of violations in respect of this matter. These instruments, similarly, assign liability to the person(s) to be held responsible in case of violations. For example, based on the particular circumstances of each case, the administrative head of the political party, its head of finance, the donor, etc. may all be held liable and sanctioned by the EMB.

She observed that the monitoring of political financing is ideally supposed to be done proactively instead of *ex post facto* as is currently the case in Albania. She also highlighted some of the specific challenges i.e. incorrect physical addresses given by political parties which further hampers the effective monitoring of the financial resources of political parties.

She concluded by observing that the regulatory framework for financing political parties and electoral campaigns in her country has undergone a complex transformation during the last two decades. She stressed, however, that further reforms, to be achieved through broad consensus with all stakeholders, are still needed though. In this context, one reform currently debated in the Albanian parliament is the proposal by one of the opposition parties calling for the sole public funding of political parties to the exclusion of private donations.

Commentary

That short discussion which followed raised several pertinent issues relating to political financing. For example, one participant questioned the rational of saddling EMBs with overseeing and monitoring political party financing in addition to them carrying out their core mandate i.e. overseeing and administering the electoral process. Similarly, the issue of the unfair advantage of incumbency during election campaigns was also raised. The Georgian regulation governing this matter was flagged as a best practice in this regard. In Georgia, for example, the ruling party is barred from using any administrative resources for their benefit, also, no budgetary change may be made during the election period. Similarly, social benefits may also not be increased during elections periods. Furthermore, government advertisements, public cars, state-sponsored cellular

phone, etc. may also not be covertly used for campaigning purposes. Civil servants are also prohibited from engaging in political campaigning during official hours.

The main thrust of the discussion was that legislation is indispensable for regulating political financing. Also, that the legislation should place a ceiling on the types, and limits to spending. There was also consensus that the monitoring of political financing will be best achieved through an effective and independent oversight body, such as the auditor general. Lastly, laws governing political financing should also provide for sanctions for non-compliance and the enforcement thereof.

After this session the symposium adjourned for lunch. After lunch it reconvened into two parallel break-away technology workshops.

Workshop One was convened by the industry expert and solution provider, Bytes, and dealt with the topic: **Using 'light credentials to lower the costs of ID projects- A discussion.**

Workshop Two dealt with the topic **Electronic Voting Machines**, and was conducted by a representative from Bharat Electronics.

Session Three: Social Media and Leveraging Technology for Efficient and Credible Elections

Session three enquired into the extent to which social media and ICT is leveraged to run efficient and credible elections. The session was chaired by Commissioner, **Barney Karuuombe**, of the Electoral Commission of Namibia. Lt Col Allan Best, Managing Director of the Delian Project from Canada, **Mr. James Muhati Buyekane**, ICT Director of the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Kenya, and **Mr. Marian Muhulet**, Vice President of the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania, were the experts called upon to frame the discussion on the given theme.

Lt Col Allan Best started his contribution with a case highlighting the extent to which the social media, especially Twitter and mobile telephony, were used during the Arab Spring. He highlighted that during the period 24 – 30 January 2011 a total number of 1, 317, 233 tweets were made. This uprising, in his view, showed the significance of the use of social media and mobile phones. The staggering number of tweets transformed a mere uprising into a political movement. He observed that since then Tweeter and other social media platforms such as Facebook have been embraced by political organisations around the world.

The military, in his view, realised the strength/advantages of social media. Social media, regrettably though, also has some gruesome usage as can be seen by the use thereof by groups such as Boko Haram, Al Shabaab, ISIS, Al-Qaeda, and others. The use of the social media, in some

instances, may pose serious security threats. This, therefore, explains the military's interest in this area.

He went on to explain some of the methods used by unscrupulous people on the internet. To this end, he explained the meaning, use and targets of such persons. Some of the most common unconventional tools of warfare used are hybrid warfare, and denial of services, amongst others. Such warfare tools are primarily targeting the websites of government ministries, agencies and offices, the military, embassies, including EMBs. Social media and mobile telephony have also been used to stir social unrest.

He concluded by calling on EBMs not to be afraid of technology. He stressed that technology was designed by humans and can thus equally be controlled by humans, either for the good or the bad.

Mr. James Muhati Buyekane highlighted that various social media platforms are used by the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Kenya. These include, amongst others, Facebook, Twitter, and Blogs. He stressed that social media platforms are mainly used for dissemination of information i.e. the location of polling stations, trends in respect of elections progress, statistics, live streaming of elections results, etc. Their EMB uses social media platforms for awareness raising, voter education, the reporting of incidents, and interacting with the voters by means of frequently asked questions (F & Qs).

He further pointed out that the Kenyan EMB is employing technology during the various stages of the electoral process. To this end, the biometric system is used during the registration process. The nomination process is also automated and integrated with the systems of the various political parties. This system allows political parties to send the information, details and photographs of their candidates electronically to the commission. The commission, after having done the necessary vetting and verification processes, then automatically sends the list of candidates to the printers. Technology is also used during the actual voting process. During this stage technology is employed to identify the voter, keeping count of number of the number of voters at the polling station. Such information is used during tallying and reconciliation and for determining the actual voter turnout in a desegregated manner. Technology is also use for the transmission of election results. This is done in close collaboration of mobile telephony service providers. Results are transmitted via mobile phones to the EMB server and simultaneously to a web-portal. The latter allows for any person, anywhere on the globe, to get real time updates on election results.

Mr. Marian Muhulet, in his contribution, noted that the Permanent Electoral Authority of Romania only recently started using social media platforms. To this end, they started using Facebook, Twitter and You Tube. Their EMB invest a lot of energy and resources to attract young

voters in the electoral process. In this regard, he flagged their experience in the general local elections held on the 5th June 2016 in that country to amplify this statement. For these elections their EMB successfully implemented a computerised system for monitoring voter turnout and multiple-voting prevention. As part of this system each polling station throughout the country was supplied with a special designed tablet. These tablets operated in a closed secured IT network.

He observed that the said these tablets gave them real time (by the minute) desegregated statistics about the voting process at each polling station. Such stats related to the number of voters at a given polling station, the name, age, and gender of each voter. He noted that the system was configured to attract persons using smartphones, tablets and other mobile devices in their everyday life. Most of the users of such devices were found to be people below the age of 40 years. Taking this into consideration, he opined that in years to come the social media will play an indispensable role in the entire electoral process.

He argued that the use of the social media enhances transparency, trust, accessibility, professionalism, and information sharing. All these, in his view, further led to increased voter turnout. Also, through the use of social media their EMB is overcoming bureaucratic barriers. The real time communication facilitated through the various social media platforms proved to be of great benefit during the 5th June 2016 general local elections in Romania. Through the use of such platforms, real time assistance could, for instance, be given to electoral experts, and computer operators in polling stations. All this positively impacted the voting process.

In conclusion he stressed that the social media platforms allow EMBs to provide tailor-made messages to each segment of the population. He observed that once a piece of content went viral there is no limit in the number of people it could potentially reach. The adaptability of social media makes content management, generally, more flexible. This allows for instant updating, supplementation, discussion and publication of information. Thus, through the use of social media EMBs can ensure that their information remains current and relevant. The rapid and increasing usefulness of social media has made it an indispensable tool for EMBs. This is especially the case considering EMBs' duty to provide up-to-date information to the general citizenry, electoral competitors and other stakeholders.

Commentary

From the discussion that followed it became clear that the hacking of EBMs' servers is a real threat. In fact, some of the EBMs in attendance confirmed their experiences in this regard. To mitigate against this Lt Col Allan Best stressed the importance of EMBs using back-up servers. This option, in his view, is unfortunately very expensive but unavoidable. Another pertinent question

asked by one of the participants was: *"how should EBMs deal with the issue of campaigning on the social media after the close of the campaign period"*. In discussing this issue it became clear that "black-outs/suspension" of social media campaigning is difficult and/or impossible to control. Besides, it is also an undesirable option. The clarion call was on EMBs to fully embrace the social media and to use it for tailor-made messaging.

The next theme discussed **The impact of training on the electoral process. Ms Natia Zaalishvili**, Director of the Center for Electoral Systems Development, Reforms and Trainings, Georgia, **Mr Fesilberto Naife**, Director General of the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration of the National Electoral Commission of Mozambique, and Mr. William Addo Davies, Executive Secretary of the National Electoral Commission of Sierra Leone were the lead panellists to frame the discussions.

 Ms Natia Zaalishvili, started her input by pointing out that developing an electoral culture is the green pass to electoral democracy. She listed some of the features, in her opinion, that are crucial to ensure the credibility and integrity of the process. These include, professional conduct of the electoral body, the enhancement of the capacity of stakeholders i.e. political parties, NGOs, media practitioners, and the provision of continuous civic and voter education programmes. To increase and develop the electoral culture she noted that Georgia has developed and implemented an intensive action plan in terms of which a lot of training programmes are provided to all stakeholders. Some of such innovative projects include: opening the grant competition bids for the NGO sector. Successful NGOs are then granted funds to conduct the training in close cooperation with the training centre. All this is done on the basis of equality. The most recent grant was given to NGOs to provide capacity building training to political parties covering the whole of Georgia. She argued that this initiative will have a beneficial outcome for the upcoming parliamentary elections slated for 8th October 2016.

She went on to highlight some of the achievements the training centre has made in the area of civic and voter education. For example, in terms of a memorandum of understand standing (MOU) with the ministry of education the training centre provides civic and voter education to secondary school students of grades 11 to 12 throughout Georgia. The training centre also provides indirect training programmes as a way to build an electoral culture. For example, the training centre in close cooperation with the ministry of education maintain, organise and conducts the elections of members of the school governing bodies in Georgia. To this end, the training centre developed the training programme for the ministry representatives and all the people arranging the elections. The centre also developed and implemented a semester course for law and journalism students at all the 19 universities in Georgia. She further informed the symposium that the centre is also

offering an electoral summer school programme for out of-school and university graduates. This programme has proved to be very popular and in high demand.

She concluded her input by stressing that the design and delivery of continuous, intensive training programmes will assist EMBs in creating an environment that is conducive for the delivery of professional and credible election outcomes.

As part of his contribution to the theme **Mr Fesilberto Naife** noted that Mozambique conducted five general elections and four local elections since the advent of democracy in that country. He hastened to say that each country has a different legal framework, social environment,historical, political, resource, administrative infrastructure available to organise and conduct elections.

He concurred with other speakers that the electoral process in any given country requires the involvement of different stakeholders such as EMBs, political parties, the judiciary, amongst others. The ability of the different stakeholders to carry out their respective mandates with due professionalism can determine the success or failure of the electoral process and the consolidation of democracy. He observed that the issue of sustainability of EMBs and the electoral process is gaining more prominence and relevance. To this end, he went on to list four key pillars of sustainability applicable to the EMBs and other stakeholders. These are a legal framework, people, assets and service, as well as financial resources. Given the theme under discussion he decided to confine his contribution to the strategic pillar concerning people/human resources. To this end, he went on to explore the impact of training on EMBs, political parties, elections observers, media practitioners and the security forces in Mozambique.

The training strategy of any EMB should be based on its training need assessments, objectives and financial resources at the disposal of the EMB. To be sustainable an EMB should develop the capacity of its permanent and temporary staff. This, invariably, also deals with the issue of staff recruitment. Recruitment procedures are country specific and contingent of the EMB model. To this end, he noted that some EMBs rely on public servants whereas others engage in an open selection process with clear indications on required skills and qualifications. Mozambique follows the former model for the recruitment of permanent staff. The selections of temporary staff follow two processes. In respect of recruitment of polling staff the Mozambican law allows each contesting political party to nominate one party member to be trained as a polling agent. The remaining polling agents are selected through public tender.

The permanent staff members of their EMB are subjected to rigorous training throughout the election cycle. The objective of such training is to ensure a continuous improvement in the performance of their duties. Electoral staff are also trained to ensure the observance of good

electoral practices such as impartiality, transparency, the secrecy of the vote, equality of access, accountability and efficiency. He further argued that the training of electoral staff must be managed and conducted by senior EMB staff so as to ensure high standards and quality.

In respect of training needs of political parties he noted that most of the political parties in Mozambique lack the most basic knowledge of the electoral law of that country, the prescribed electoral procedures, and their obligations in terms of the law. This, according to him is more evident during the preparatory phase of election events. For instance, a number of political parties usually fail to meet the requirements for nominations due to a lack of understanding of the legislative requirements in this regard. Similarly, political party agents display high levels of ignorance during the polling and counting stages of the elections, especially, about the laid down dispute resolution procedures during this stages. Resultantly, quite often, contesting parties and candidates fail to meet the stipulated deadlines and have their cases dismissed.

As far as the training needs of elections observers are concerned, he emphasised the importance of observers, both national and international, to have a holistic knowledge and understanding of the reality of the country and be acquainted with the procedures of the electoral process to be observed.

The media, in his opinion, plays an important role in the electoral process. He further noted that the media can make or break an election. As such, both the public and private media need to be equipped with capacity and staff to perform their duties with impartiality, transparency, integrity, and professionalism. They need to be conversant with the legal provisions guiding the media and the reporting of elections. The training provided by the EMB in Mozambique during the electoral process is aimed at ensuring that the media has access to comprehensive and relevant information on all activities of the electoral commission so as to disseminate the correct information to the public.

Providing training to the security forces on the electoral process in Mozambique has proved to be a challenge. In terms of Mozambican law the national police is the only entity authorised to provide training to police officials. As such, the EMB can only provide training to a core group of officials who are then charged to train the rest of the police officials who will be on call during a given election.

Commentary

The main thrust of the discussion that followed emphasised the need and importance of training. Such training must cover the various stages of the electoral process. Training must be intensive

and continuous and not only during election periods. Training must be targeted and inclusive i.e. EBM staff, prospective voters, eligible voters, political parties, media practitioners, security forces, etc. EMBs must enter into strategic partnerships with NGOs to provide training. The Georgian example, in this regard, was considered as a good practice. Lastly, greater public funding is needed to achieve these noble objectives.

Day 2, Tuesday, 14th June 2016

Day 2 commenced with a discussion of the topic: **Ensuring EMBs are independent and free from interference.** The session was chaired by Commissioner **Ulrich Freyer** of the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

By way of contextualising the issue the chairperson noted that the independence of EMBs is a much talked about issue lending itself to different interpretations. For instance, it raises questions such as: Independence from whom? Independence from what? Similarly, independence to what extent? A panel of experts, comprising of **Mrs Valdete Daka**, President of the Central Election Commission, Kosovo, **Mr. Mahapela Lehohla**, Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, Lesotho, **Hon. Justice Abdenego Tafa**, Chairperson, Independent Electoral Commission, Botswana, and **Mr. Mr Joram Rakumbe**, Chief Technical Advisor & Project Leader, Namibia, respectively, were charged with the arduous task to unpack this highly provocative, but equally necessary topic.

Mr. Mahapela Lehohla began by stating that the requirement of absolute independence of members of an EMB is an illusion. This is so because all of us are shaped and influenced by our respective political history and context. Secondly, EMBs operate within a political environment which makes it difficult for them to operate without political interference. Interference with the independence of an EMB is not confined to political parties only though. Other entities such as donors, development partners, subtly politically aligned CSOs, international observer missions may equally interfere with the independence of an EMB. EMBs must, however, shun all forms of interference.

He argued that an EMB can only withstand interference if:
- ✓ its independence is constitutionally guaranteed;
- ✓ its members enjoy security of tenure;
- ✓ it enjoys financial independence; and
- ✓ it accounts to the legislature as opposes to the legislature.

Furthermore, the appointment of members of the EMB must be transparent and participatory. The criteria and method of appointment must be proactively disclosed to the public by the appointing authority so as to instil trust and confidence of the electorate in the EMB. Also, members of an EMB must perform their functions independently without fear, favour or prejudice.

He noted that political party liaison committees (PLCs), as established by EMBs in some jurisdictions, remain a good vehicle for consultation with political parties on the electoral process. The EMB must ensure, however, that such PLCs remain a consultative forum only and not be a disguised co-election management structure. Also, an EMB must treat all political parties equal irrespective of their size and consider all views before it takes a decision. This is particularly important in jurisdictions where there is a dominant governing party. He stressed that an EMB must retain its decision-making powers and should under no circumstances cede/abdicate this power to any political party.

In his view, an independent EMB should be understood to mean an autonomous and impartial body charged with overseeing the implementation of election procedures. He highlighted the three EMB models i.e. the independent model where the EMB is constitutionally entrenched and not responsible to government; the government model in terms of which the EMB acts as an agency of government; and the mixed model whereby the EMB is autonomous in terms of designing policies and election activities which is then carried out by government bodies. He flagged the independent model as the preferred one.

He stressed that the independence of the EMB should be guaranteed in the country's constitution and supported by a sound legal framework. The legal framework should provide for the composition of the EMB, the qualifications of its members, their selection, appointment and removal. Once appointed the EMB should act independently, transparently, and impartially during all stages of the electoral process. He emphasised that the perception of bias of an EMB can at times be more damaging than actual bias and should as such be avoided.

The enablers and critical attributes of an independent, transparent, and impartial EMB include: a sound enabling legal framework, adequate resources i.e. financial and human, financial autonomy, respect for the law, inclusion of marginalised groups, team workrespect of national diversity, accountability, professionalism, integrity, and dedication, amongst others.

He informed the symposium about a proposed Bill currently discussed by the Lesotho parliament intending to deprive the EMB of its powers to determine the date of local elections scheduled to be held during the 1st week of October 2016. The Bill purportedly empowers the Prime Minister to proclaim and/or postpone the said local elections. He decried the Bill as bad law and in variance of the standards and principles dictating that one cannot be a judge in your own case (player and referee at the same time). All this creates an environment of mistrust and brings the work of the EMB in disrepute.

In conclusion he flagged and hailed the insistence and steadfastness of the Malawian EMB to stick to the outcome of the last national general results held in that country. This was so despite of fears political manoeuvring and unprecedented legal challenges and calls for recounts and the

nullification of the results. He hailed this as a victory for democracy, independence, the rule of law, and a good practice worth celebrating and emulating.

Mrs Valdete Daka started her contribution by emphasising that democracy cannot be imagined without genuine elections. This, in her view, requires the establishment of an independent and professional institution tasked to organise elections. This will engender the necessary respect and trust in the electorate and competing candidates. In this context, she enlightened the gathering that the mandate and independence of the Kosovo EMB, the Central Election Commission, emanate from the Kosovo constitution. The chairman of their EMB is elected from amongst judges of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals. The other remaining 10 members are nominated from parliamentary political entities. All the nominated candidates must meet a number of criteria as stipulated in the enabling Act.

She offered the following pillars as a gauge for the genuine independence of an EMB:
- ✓ a clear legal framework;
- ✓ non-political composition of the institution;
- ✓ security of tenure of EMB members;
- ✓ internal organisational, structural, administrative, and functional independence; and
- ✓ whetheror not the EMB enjoys budgetary independence in respect of the planning, preparation, and implementation of its budget.

In respect of electoral law reform, she stressed the importance of EMBs being involved and consulted on such processes.

In conclusion, she reiterated that EMBs must shun all forms of control, political or otherwise, whether directly or indirectly so as to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

Hon. Justice Abdenego Tafa started his input by stressing that elections are a human rights issue. To this end, he stressed that all major international and regional human rights instruments recognise and guarantee the right of every citizen to take part in the governing of his/her country. He stressed that this right is thus legally guaranteed and then protected under internal human rights law. To give effect to this right countries establish EMBs. He then also briefly referred to the three EMB models. He argued that the independent model is the preferred one. This is so because it ensures the EMBs enjoy the requisite trust from the voting population as it guards against the arbitrary interference by the Executive and other pressure groups. He emphasised that where an EMB enjoys independence and freedom from interference the environment becomes conducive for the enforcement of conflict resolution mechanisms.

He went on to list some of the key ingredients for the success of an EMB, irrespective of the model used in a given context. These include the careful design of the legal framework, staff recruitment, political will, professionalism, political stability, credibility of the judiciary, and respect for the rule

of law. He opined that the attainment of the independence of an EMB is best derived from the establishment of clear legal provisions in the constitution of a country. Integrity of an election, on the other hand, is achieved through the adherence to the rule of law by all, including the government.

He went on to state that the independence of an EMB is best insulated against external inference when:
- ✓ the composition of such institutions does not include government officials;
- ✓ commissioners are selected on the basis of their skills, expertise, and integrity through a transparent nomination and selection process;
- ✓ members must enjoy explicit security of tenure;
- ✓ an EMB conducts all its affairs in a transparent manner; and if
- ✓ it enjoys full financial autonomy.

He suggested that the conduct of members of EMB including staff should be guided by a code of conduct. Such a code should ideally be jointly developed by the EMB and CSOs. Transparency further requires the inclusion of all stakeholders during all stages of the electoral process. Similarly, transparency also calls for the design and enforcement of different codes of conduct of all stakeholders i.e. politicians, media practitioners, observers, and CSOs, to regulate interference with the electoral process.

He stressed the importance of the provision of continuous political, civic and voter education as a strategy to cultivate political maturity and reduce interference in the electoral process. He further stressed the fine line between integrity of the EMB on the one hand, and the independence and credibility of the judiciary, on the other hand. He noted that with court challenges both institutions, i.e. the EMB and the court are put to the test.

In conclusion, he emphasised that the notion of independence of an EMB does not suggest that it should work in isolation. Consultation with all relevant stakeholders is imperative. So is listening to their concerns, and appreciating feedback. All this, importantly, must be done without comprising fairness and impartiality in decision-making.

Mr. Joram Rakumbe started his incisive contribution by concurring with the previous panellists that only an independent and impartial election administration body can guarantee i) the integrity of the process, and ii) the legitimacy of the electoral outcome. In this regard, the existence of an independent, impartial, non-partisan election administration body, howsoever titled, cannot be over-emphasised.

He stressed that independence and public confidence are earned and do not necessarily flow from the title designation of the EBM. There is higher public confidence and stakeholder trust when the EMB, the process and the procedures are able to guarantee certainty and credibility, even in the

face of substantive uncertainty of the election outcome. In other words, there must be clear processes and systems underpinning the electoral process. These must be clear and certain to all. The only uncertainty should be the electoral outcome. The converse in this respect, namely uncertainty in respect of the applicable rules and procedures, and certainty in respect of the election outcome, not only compromises the integrity and legitimacy of the electoral process but also fosters mistrust.

He opined that EBM independence revolves around three key things, namely, the law, culture and a resource base. In respect of the law, he stressed that the law should be the first port of call to define and guarantee the independence of an EMB. Such independence must be both real and perceived. It must also go beyond the law. To buttress this point, he observed that at times cultural practices cause EMBs to behaviourally, mentally, psychologically or otherwise to censor themselves. For instance, in some cultures it is considered acceptable for the President to arbitrarily sack members of the EMB without following the due process of law. Such practices are incompatible with the precepts of independence. It is for such reasons that it is best that members of the EMB enjoy explicit security of tenure. Others actors, such as the Executive, political parties including opposition parties, NGOs and donor agencies should, equally, not be given lee-way to interfere in the affairs of an EMB.

He went on to stress that EMBs must have the power to hire and fire their own staff. He also expressed strong opposition to the practice of secondment of public servants to the EBMs. This practice, in his view, invariably compromises the independence of the EMB. He further argued that seconded staff at times do not have the culture of independence. And, since they owe loyalty to the civil service they may not necessarily be loyal to the culture and value of independence that underpins the practice of an EMB. This calls for some serious introspection in this regard.

With reference to the resource base he called for the exploration of ways to ensure that EMBs will have a charge direct to the Consolidated Fund as is the case in some Eastern European countries. This would ensure that the EMB is guaranteed of full financial independence and not subjected to parliamentary or treasury manipulation.

He emphasised though that independence is not absolute. EMBs must be accountable. Furthermore, they must develop a culture of inter-dependence with other state agencies and other non-state entities to share resources. For instance, they should collaborate with the police on issues of security; similarly, working with the judiciary on issues of justice and human rights; and, explore ways to collaborate with CSOs in the delivery of voter and civic education.

In conclusion, he called on EMBs to move away from the misconception of absolute EMB independence without accountability. He called on EMBs to embrace the idea of calculated inter-dependence as a way to make elections less costly. They should show commitment to the

essentials of procedural certainty and substantive uncertainty which underpin the electoral process.

Commentary

During the discussions that followed a participant from Sierra Leone buttressed the idea of mutual inter-dependence. To this end, he shared with the participants how their EMB collaborated with their ministry of health in the sharing of vehicles during the Ebola outbreak in that country. Their EMB also shared their vehicles with the national statistics agency to conduct the last national census. There was a general consensus that the independence of EMBs is best guaranteed and supported by a sound legislative framework. There was also a clear bias and/or preference for the independent EMB model. A similar consensus existed that EMBs should enjoy true institutional, administrative and financial autonomy, as well as for the law to guarantee full and explicit security of tenure for members of EMBs.

Smartmatic Presentation

Dr. Khodr Akil, Sales Vice-president for Africa and **Mr. Juan Campodonico**, Product Support Manager of Smartmatic gave a joint presentation to the symposium.

Dr. Khodr Akil gave a concise profile of Smartmatic as a solution provider to EMBs. He introduced Smartmatic as a company providing state of the art services to its clients all over the world. He stressed that they provide custom-tailor solutions to fit the specific need of their clients. For instance, in Uganda they had to provide solutions suitable for the Ugandan situation. He noted that that their equipment is available on a rental basis.

From a product services point of view, he stressed that theirs is about project management. This relates to the provision of logistics, procurement, warehousing, production and readiness, quality assurance, network design and installation. They also provide call centre and a help-desk, training, amongst other services during an election project.

On the question: *why Smartmatic,* he stressed that they do not provide off-the-shelf products. They provide custom tailored solutions. They have the capability to provide an all-in-one machine. For instance, their machine functions in such a manner that it can do the registration of voters, the verification on the day of the elections, and to electronically transmit the elections results. Their product is readily available and can be refurbished to suit the specific need of a given EMB at a fraction of the initial production cost. Smartmatic reportedly has a 100% success rate in delivering on its election projects.

Mr. Juan Campodonico continued the presentation by speaking about their election project in the Philippines in 2015. He started by highlighting some of the daunting challenges they faced in

executing this project. For instance, there were more than 50 million registered voters spread over 7 000 islands, bad infrastructure regarding connectivity, 18 000 positions to be elected, security challenges, amongst others.

He then went on to explain in great detail on how they went about to handle the elections from the beginning to the very end of the electoral phase in that country.

After the Smartmatic presentation the panel discussion on: **Modernising the electoral processes with minimal disruption** of the previous day was entertained. The discussion was chaired by Commissioner **Nespect Salom** of the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

The panellists for the topic were **Mr. Tawanda Chimhini**, Executive Director of the Election Resource Centre, Zimbabwe, **Mr Vijoy Kumar Singh,** Chief Electoral Officer (Punjab), Electoral Commission, India, **Mrs Ana Maria Patru**, President, Permanent Electoral Authority, Romania, and **Mr. Nico Mingelius,** Head of Information Technology at Electoral Commission of Namibia

In framing the discussion **Mr. Nespect Salom** pointed out that EMBs have embarked on a process of introducing different technologies into the electoral process. Such technologies have been introduced in some of the different phases of the electoral process i.e. registration, voter verification, voting, and the transmission of results. Technology, according to him, provides many possibilities. However, what does the notion of modernising of elections entail? Does it only refer to the introduction of technology into the electoral process? Does it refer to the entire process of the electoral process? Also, to what extent does this cater for the needs and aspiration of the young generation? Similarly, are the intended improvements considering issues such as increased opportunity for voting, increasing the voter turnout, increasing the quality of voting, the reduction of spoiled votes, the costs of printing of ballot papers, expanding the electoral process to key populations.

Mr. Tawanda Chimhini started by acknowledging the attempts made by the Zimbabwean EMB to address the electoral challenges in that country. He stressed that his contribution would be given from a CSO perspective. In his view, modernising of elections cannot be done for the sake of doing it. To this end, he offered some key elements, which, in his opinion, must necessarily accompany the modernisation process in order to minimise disruptions of the electoral process. These are:
- ✓ Enhancing access to the various processes such as voter registration, balloting, and the provision of election information for all key populations;
- ✓ Expanding participation, especially with the view to entice young people to participate in the process;
- ✓ Seeking to increase and strengthen the credibility of the polls;
- ✓ Increasing transparency around the process and ensure that there is inclusivity in the management and administration of the electoral process;

- ✓ Modernisation should not be confined to the administration of elections though; this, for instance, calls for design of innovative efforts to mobilise and convince the voting population on the importance of voting;
- ✓ Modernising and adapting the observation process;
- ✓ It must be an informed process backed by evidence-based research; and
- ✓ It must be a gradual process to allow for public confidence and stakeholder engagement; and
- ✓ Importantly, it must done in a timely fashion and not shortly before an election.

He concluded by stressing that absence of any of these key elements is bound to lead to a disruption of the electoral process.

Mr Vijoy Kumar Singh began his contribution with a brief overview of the electoral system in India. He noted that the electoral process in India has modernised over the years. It became more precise. Indian elections, all over the years, have been accepted by the people. Election outcomes have never been disputed or rejected. Despite this, however, certain groups of the population were implicitly excluded and/or marginalised.

As part of modernising the electoral process in that country, the Indian EMB, through intensive consultations with all stakeholders crafted a model code of conduct. The code dictates the minimum standard of behaviour for candidates, political parties, how to conduct public meetings, the handling of complaints. The code places extensive limitations of the incumbent party during the official campaign period. These restrictions become operational three month before each election. Defaulters have been firmly dealt with by the EMB in the past. There is, generally, compliance with the code. He flagged all this as part of modernisation, albeit in the software part of the electoral process.

Election expenditure monitoring in India has also improved over the years. Ceilings have been set on how much candidates and political parties may spend on elections. Those violating the set limits in this regard are disqualified.

As part of improving the actual process he highlighted the computerisation of the voters' roll, the inclusion of photo rolls, issuance of voter cards, and the introduction of biometrics as part of the achievements which were gradually introduced as ways to modernise the Indian electoral system. Through such initiatives the EMB has been more successful to de-duplicate the voters' roll in a much better way.

In the area of civic and voter education, the EMB took a deliberate decision to provide ethnical education to voters. To this end, the EMB is educating the voter to exercise their right to vote for ethical purposes and not for sectarian and harmful reasons.

The EMB has also introduced the system of web casting. This is a system which allows for video streams to be picked up from within and around the booth using a web camera. It keeps a check on untoward activities and helps bringing about complete transparency in the voting process. Periodical live broadcast of feed is done to instil confidence among voters. He noted that this is an expensive initiative but one worth investing in.

In conclusion he explained that the EMB has introduced the electronic voting machine (EVM) as part of its efforts to modernise the electoral process. He noted that the EVM is a very simple, but robust machine. It has been developed with the philosophy of keeping it simple, and to save time and costs, amongst others. He stressed that this ideal has been achieved beyond measure.

Mrs Ana Maria Patru used her short contribution to inform the symposium about the ACP-based solutions her EMB has introduced to modernise the electoral process in her country. She also elaborated on the aspect of training of persons recruited to operate the various devices introduced by her EMB.

With reference to ACP-based solutions, she flagged the introduction of the electronic voters' register introduced and implemented in 2014 in Romania. She noted that the electronic voters' register is a nation-wide information system. It is used to register and update each eligible voter's personal data. It also provides information regarding polling stations. As of this year, the electronic voters' register would also be used by Romanians in the diaspora. Efforts are also underway to provide for postal voting for Romanians living abroad. She further noted that they have computerised all the polling stations to monitor illegal voting. This system was first successfully implemented during the local elections held on the 5th of June 2016. The system has proved its utility by preventing illegal voting, reducing voting time, offering voter turn-out data in real time, and fast tracking the transmission of results.

For all these computerised systems the EMB recruited and trained a total of over 35,000 persons over time to operate these electronic devices as well as the computerised system. The EMB also designed a system to monitor the financing of political parties and keeping oversight of electoral campaigns. The EMB also keeps an electronic data base of persons who may be used and trained as elections officials at the various polling stations. This project ensures the professional training of officials, eliminates suspicion, and fosters transparency in the electoral process.

In conclusion she emphasised that the citizen's involvement in the EMBs' activities, for example, with some of them performing as computer operators in the polling stations is another way of actualising the democratic expression of the people. It also serves as an additional guarantee of the fairness of the electoral process. This, in her view, will lead to an enhancement of the people's trust in elections. Similarly, making use of computerised systems minimises the potential of fraud and ensures the sharing of real times statistics.

The modernisation of the electoral process, according to **Mr. Nico Mingelius,** should be based on the need to improve. Attaining the mandate of an EMB can be complicated, cumbersome, and at times costly. Issues associated with attaining the mandate of an EMB relate to aspects such as the registration of voters, printing ballot papers, and human resources, amongst others. He opined that the issue of suspicion should also be factored into this. Suspicion, for example, have led to the ECN being challenged in court. Such suspicion, in the context of Namibia, usually revolves around the registration of voters, the voters' register, actual voting, the counting and transmission of results.

To address these challenges the ECN had to seek ways to address these issues. Technology was found to be the preferred option to address these and other challenges. In opting to modernise the electoral process through the use of technology the ECN was guided by the principles of: easy usage, retaining the integrity of the process, a good and holistic understanding of the electorate, a sound knowledge of the geographical and terrestrial environment; and safe guarding the secrecy of the vote.

Some of the biggest challenges encountered by the ECN in its attempt to modernise the electoral process were: obtaining the buy-in of the electorate and political parties, the low ITC literacy rate in the country, the fear of the unknown. Addressing the fear-factor, in particular, required a lot of transparency and tolerance on the side of the ECN. He noted, for instance, that the EVM was only introduced in 2014 after drawn-out consultations with political parties and other stakeholders and an extensive and intensive voter education campaign of the device.

Importantly, the technology to be introduced must conform to the applicable laws and systems of the country. For example, the EVMs have been customised to suit the Namibian situation in respect of the electoral system, the voting, and the voter.

Similarly, the issue of cost when it comes to the introduction of new technology can also not be simply wished away given that other competing national issues similarly require attention. The EVMs, for instance, were found to be a sensible option given the fact that it is a reusable device. As such, its initial costs will eventually be recovered from subsequent elections.

He concluded his contribution by emphasising that technology has become part of daily life the world over. It should, as such be embraced by EMBs to make the electoral process more efficient without compromising the same.

Commentary

No questions were posed from participants to the panellists. This notwithstanding, the take-home message from the experts' contributions was that EMBs should fully embrace technology; to do so, though, they must get the buy-in of all stakeholders; the introduction of any new technology

must be done in a consultative, participatory and transparent manner; also, the technology to be introduced must be custom-made to suite to the country's context; lastly, the introduction of new technologies to modernise the electoral process must be done with due consideration to costs.

Technology Workshops

After lunch the symposium went into two break-way parallel technology workshops. **Workshop One** was convened by the industry expert and solution provider, **A. Daga Group**. It was conducted under the theme: **A. Daga Election Projects- your trusted partner for elections products and service.**

Workshop Two was convened by **Lithotech.** It was conducted under the theme: **Learning from the Tanzania successful BVR exercise.**

Closing remarks

The symposium was closed with closing remarks delivered by Adv. Notemba Tjipueja, Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN), and Mr. Matt Gokhool, Chief Executive, International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS), respectively.

In her closing remarks **Adv. Notemba Tjipueja** hailed and celebrated the topical themes addressed by the symposium. She acknowledged the quality contributions made by the various speakers, experts, and EMBs on what is pertaining in their respective regions and areas of expertise. She noted that the ECN, for instance, has gained valuable insights on how to deal with the issue of political party financing, a matter introduced as recent as 2014 in their country's new Electoral Act. She, specifically, singled out the experiences of countries such as Romania and Kosovo as possible experiences to study and learn from in this regard. She also had high acclaim for the training approach and methodology shared by the Georgian delegation. She believed that the SADC region can learn a lot from such training approaches and called for the setting up of such centres of excellence in the region. She further noted that the discussions also gave them a fresh look on the importance of the issue of access to the electoral process, particularly, for vulnerable and marginalised groups such as people with disabilities.

She went on to hail the multi-lateral nature and composition of the symposium. She described it as a unique and an excellent way of assisting EMBs to form networks, share experiences and learn from each other. She congratulated the ICPS for the leading role they are playing in this regard. She then thanked the ICPS for having chosen Namibia to host the 12th International Electoral Affairs Symposium. She expressed the hope that everyone benefitted from the discussions. She also urged the ICPS to continue the trend of bringing up pertinent issues for EMBs to discuss for them to improve the delivery of elections in their respective jurisdictions. She then thanked the

ICPS Chief Executive and his team for having delivered an excellent and high quality symposium. She assured them of the ECN's continued support.

She then thanked all participants for their attendance and participation in the symposium. She concluded by thanking Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab who delivered the keynote address. She specifically acknowledged the fact that he attended the entire symposium. Having done that, he reportedly broke with the norm whereby keynote speakers would ordinarily excuse themselves from deliberations immediately after their addresses. She wished everyone safe journeys back to their respective countries.

Mr. Matt Gokhool thanked the Chairperson of the ECN and her team and the staff of the ECN for the role they played in organising the symposium. He hailed the symposium as having been a success. He measured this from the manner participants were able to discuss serious issues in a spirit of camaraderie, and succeeded to build informal mutually beneficial relationships in a relaxed atmosphere.

He then thanked all those involved in the symposium i.e. the ECN, the invited dignitaries, all delegates, SMARTMATIC and other solution providers who attended the symposium.

In conclusion, he expressed the hope to see some of the delegates again at the award ceremony scheduled for the end of the year. He stressed that the said ceremony will certainly be held on the African continent in a country still to be determined.

APPENDIX I – AGENDA

12ᵗʰ International Electoral Affairs Symposium, 13th – 14th June 2016 – Namibia

Sunday, 12th June 2016

Arrivals throughout the day

20:00   Welcome Reception

Monday, 13ᵗʰ June 2016

09:00 – 10:00 Registration and Networking Reception

10:00 – 10:15 **Chairman's Welcome and Opening Address**

10:15 – 10:45 Opening Keynote Address - Hon. Theo-Ben Gurirab, Former Speaker – National Assembly.

Welcoming: Adv. Notemba Tjipueja, Chairperson – Electoral Commission of Namibia

10:45 – 11:00 Presentation by Ms Hilda Modisane, Program Manager, Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC countries (ECF-SADC)

11:00 – 11:45 Presentation by Smartmatic

11:45 – 12:00 Coffee and Networking Break

12:00 – 12:30 **Improving accessibility for voters**

- **Mrs Patience Fule-Buang Elango**, Press and Information Secretary, Elections Cameroon

- **Ms Betty Sungura**, Deputy Chief Elections Officer, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, Kenya

- **Ms. Hilde Nakakuwa,** Former Deputy Director, Democracy Building, Electoral Commission of Namibia

12:30 – 13:00 **Effectively regulating political party financing**

- **Mrs Llefterije Lleshi**, Chairwoman, Central Electoral Commission, Albania

- **Dr Yusuf Nzibo**, Commissioner, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, Kenya

- **Mr Irakli Khorbaladze**, Commission Member, Central Electoral Commission, Georgia

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 Technology Workshops

15:00 – 15:30 **Social media and leveraging technology for efficient and credible elections**

- **Mr Allan Best,** Managing Director, Delian Project, Canada

- **Mr James Muhati Buyekane,** ICT Director, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, Kenya

- **Mr Marian Muhuleţ**, Vice President, Permanent Electoral Authority, Romania

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee and Networking Break

15:45 – 16:15 **The impact of Training in the Electoral Process**

- **Ms Natia Zaalishvili**, Director, Center for Electoral Systems Development, Reforms and Trainings, Georgia

- **Mr Fesilberto Naife**, Director General of the Technical Secretariat for Electoral Administration, National Electoral Commission, Mozambique

16:15 – 16:45 **Modernising the electoral processes with minimal disruption**

- **Dr Yusuf Nzibo**, Commissioner, Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, Kenya

- **Mr Vijoy Kumar Singh,** Chief Electoral Officer (Punjab), Electoral Commission, India

- **Mrs Ana Maria Patru**, President, Permanent Electoral Authority, Romania

16:45 – 17:00 Chairmen's closing remarks

19:00 - Onwards   Evening programme and dinner

Tuesday, 14th June 2016

09:30 – 09:40 Chairman's recap of Day

09:40 – 10:10 **Ensuring EMBs are independent and free from interference**

- **Mrs Valdete Daka**, President, Central Election Commission, Kosovo

- **Mahapela Lehohla**, Chairman, Independent Electoral Commission, Lesotho

- **Hon. Justice Abdenego Tafa**, Chairperson, Independent Electoral Commission, Botswana

- **Mr Joram Rakumbe,** Chief Technical Advisor & Project Leader, Namibia

10:10 – 10:45 **Smartmatic Presentation**

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee and Networking Break

11:00 – 11:30 Skills Workshop: Effective negotiation

11:30 – 12:15 Technology Workshops

12:15 – 13:15 Lunch

13:15 – 14:15 Commissioners Round Table

14:15 – 14:30 Chairmen's closing remarks

14:30 – 14:45 Coffee, Networking Break and close of Symposium

17:00 - Onwards   Free time

Wednesday, 15th June 2016

10:00 – 14:00 Excursion

Departures throughout the day

APENDIX II – LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Country	Organization	Job Title	Title	First Name	Last Name
Albania	Central Electoral Commission	Chairwoman	Mrs	Lefterije	Lleshi (LUZI)
Australia	Jazzmatrix / SCI Tanzania	Senior Electronics Technician	Mr	Rogerio	Moiane
Australia	Jazzmatrix / SCI Tanzania	Managing Director	Mr	Michael	Morrell
Botswana	Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)	Chief Elections Officer	Mr	Osupile	Maroba
Botswana	ECF-SADC	ECF-SADC Coordinator	Ms	Hilda	Modisane
Botswana	Independent Electoral Commission (IEC)	Chairperson	Hon. Justice	Abednego	Tafa
Brazil	Superior Electoral Court	International Advisory and Minister	Hon. Justice	João Pedro	Ferreira Carneiro
Cameroon	Elections Cameroon	Head or Public Relations Office	Mrs	Patience	Fule-Buang Elango
Canada	Delian Project	Managing Director	Mr	Allan	Best
Canada	Electoral Services International (ESI)	Vice President - Administration	Mr	Ryan	Casson

Canada	Electoral Services International (ESI)		Mr	Alex	Gysel
Canada	Lithotech	Business Development Manager (Exports)	Mr	Shaun	Prinsloo
Canada	Electoral Services International (ESI)	Vice President - Marketing and Business Development	Mr	Gordon	Sinclair
China	Emperor Tech	Sales Director	Mr	Tiger	He
China	Emperor Tech		Mr	Yilong	Huang
China	Laxton Group (Lithotech)	Head of Sales (Group)	Mr	Arnd	Langguth
Ethiopia	National Electoral Board	Chairman	Prof	Merga	Bekana
France	Prooftag	CEO	Mr	Clément	Kaiser
Gambia	Independent Electoral Commission	Chairman	Mr	Alieu	Momarr Njai
Gambia	Independent Electoral Commission	CEO	Mr	Samboujang	Njie
Georgia	Central Electoral Commission	Commission Member	Mr	Irakli	Khorbaladze
Georgia	Center for Electoral Systems Develoment, Reforms and	Director	Ms	Natia	Zaalishvili

	Trainings				
Germany	Dermalog	Sales Manager	Mr	Amin	Adina
Greece	SingularLogic SA	Director - International Business Development	Mr	Mike	Konstantinidis
India	Bharat Electronics Limited		Mr	Pramith	Chellyadka Halli
India	A Daga Group	Chairman	Mr	Rajendra	Daga
India	A Daga Group	Public Relations	Mr	Nitesh	Kumar
India	Electoral Commission	Chief Electoral Officer, Punjab	Mr	Vijoy	Kumar Singh
India	Bharat Electronics Limited	Sr. Deputy General Manager	Mr	Ashok	Naik
India	Rayudu Laboratories Limited	Technical Director	Mr	Nageswara Rao	Rayudu
India	Rayudu Laboratories Limited	Director	Mr	Mahesh	Rayudu
India	Electoral Commission	Secretary	Mr	Dilip K.	Varma
Kenya	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC),	ICT Director	Mr	James	Muhati Buyekane

	Kenya				
Kenya	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Kenya	Commissioner	Dr	Yusuf	Nzibo
Kenya	IFES	Program Manager	Ms	Katie	Simba
Kenya	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC), Kenya	Deputy CEO	Ms	Betty	Sungura
Kosovo	Central Election Commission	President	Mrs	Valdete	Daka
Kosovo	Central Election Commission	Commission Member	Mr	Florian	Dushi
Lesotho	Independent Electoral Commission	Senior Accountant	Mrs	M.	Lebakeng
Lesotho	Independent Electoral Commission	Chairman	Hon. Justice	Mahapela	Lehohla
Lesotho	Independent Electoral Commission	Deputy Director	Mr	Makhethisa	Mokhochane
Mozambique	National Electoral Commission	Director General of STAE (Techinal Secretariat for Electoral Administration)	Mr	Felsiberto Henrique	Naife
Namibia	Turkish Embassy	Deputy Head of Mission	Mr	Tolga	Arslan

Namibia	Electoral Commission	Commissioner	Mr	Ulrich	Freyer
Namibia	Electoral Commission	Chief Electoral and Referenda Officer	Prof	Paul J.	Isaak
Namibia	Electoral Commission	Legal Advisor	Ms	Heidi	Jacobs
Namibia	Electoral Commission	Deputy Director: Finance and Administration	Mrs	Kachana	Kamwi-Homba
Namibia	Electoral Commission	Commissioner	Mr	Barney	Karuuombe
Namibia	Electoral Commission	Acting Deputy Director – Division Democracy Building	Ms	Marilyn	Katjitundu
Namibia	Electoral Commission	Office of the Chairperson	Ms	Zenia	Klazen
Namibia	Electoral Commission	Director: Operations	Mr	Theo	Mujoro
Namibia	Electoral Commission	Commissioner	Mrs	Albertina	Nangolo
Namibia	UNDP	Chief Technical Advisor and Project Leader	Mr	Joram	Rakumbe
Namibia	Electoral Commission	Commissioner	Mr	Nespect	Salom
Namibia	Electoral Commission	Deputy Director of Registration and Planning	Mr	P.	Shaama

Namibia	Electoral Commission	Chairperson	Mrs	Notemba	Tjipueja
Romania	Permanent Electoral Authority	Advisor to the Vice President	Mr	Andrei	Dimitriu
Romania	Permanent Electoral Authority	Vice President	Mr	Marian	Muhuleţ
Romania	Permanent Electoral Authority	President	Mrs	Ana Maria	Patru
Romania		Mrs Patru's son	Mr	Stefan	Patru
Sierra Leone	National Electoral Commission	Executive Secretary		William Addo	Davies
Sierra Leone	National Electoral Commission	Chief Electoral Commissioner and Chairperson	Mr	Mohamed	N'Fah-Alie Conteh
South Africa	Ideco	CEO	Mr	Marius	Coetzee
South Africa	Computer Foundation - Face Technologies	Solutions Manager	Mr	Fred	de Lange
South Africa	Novus Holdings	Group Executive: Business Development	Mr	Mike	Ehret
South Africa	Novus Holdings		Mr	Mandla	Mchunu
South Africa	Ideco	Non Executive Director	Mr	Richard	Molewa

South Africa	Novus Holdings	Business Development Manager	Mr	Ben	Sachs
South Africa	Computer Foundation - Face Technologies	Managing Director	Mr	Johan	Van Heerden
Spain	Scytl Secure Electronic Voting S.A	Sales Director Africa	Mr	Thomas	Dognon
Spain	Scytl Secure Electronic Voting S.A	General Manager Asia Pacific	Mr	Eric	Elbhar
Spain	Scytl Secure Electronic Voting S.A	Business Operations Manager	Mr	Antoine	Faye
The Netherlands	Genkey Solutions B.V	Director of Sales	Mr	Martin	Beyerlein
The Netherlands	Genkey Solutions B.V	Director of Sales	Mr	Michel	Massain
Turkey	Supreme Electoral Council of Turkey	Commission Member	Mr	Ahmet	Tuncay
United Arab Emirates	Al Ghurair Printing & Publishing LLC	General Manager	Mr	Ganapathay	Lakshmanan
United Arab Emirates	Al Ghurair Printing & Publishing LLC	Commercial Manager	Mr	Rajeev Kumar	Tyagi
United Arab Emirates	Al Ghurair Printing & Publishing LLC	Sales Manager	Mr	Pramodh	
United Kingdom	ICPS	International Events Manager	Ms	Rebecca Chloe	Brown

United Kingdom	ICPS	Sales Director	Mr	Naveed	Chaudhury
United Kingdom	ICPS	CEO	Mr	Matt	Gokhool
United Kingdom	Entrust Data Card	Director of Government Business – Africa & M.E	Mr	Charles	van Asma
United Kingdom	ICPS	Director	Mr	Arvind	Venkataramana
Zimbabwe	The Election Resource Centre	Executive Director	Mr	Tawanda	Chimhini
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC)	Deputy Chief Elections Officer	Mr	Stephen	Goneso
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC)	Provincial Elections Officer	Ms	Fiona	Kurima
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC)	Director	Ms	Pamela	Mapondera
	Smartmatic	Sales Vice-president for Africa	Dr	Khodr	Akil
	Smartmatic	Product Support Manager	Mr	Juan	Campodonico
	Smartmatic	EMEA Project Manager	Mr	Gerrit	Hubers

About ICPS

The International Centre for Parliamentary Studies exists to promote effective policy making and good governance through better interaction between Parliaments, Governments and other stakeholders in society.

The Centre's primary focus is the empowerment of Human Capital through Capacity Building. To this effect, the Centre organises a range of Training Programmes, Conferences and Policy Discussions to address current public policy issues on the International Stage, in the European Union and the UK. These provide a forum for policy discussion, debate, networking and sharing of best practices.

The International Centre for Parliamentary Studies is a research institution of the United Nations Public Administration Network (UNPAN), and also works in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Association of European Election Officials (ACEEEO).

ICPS publishes The Government Gazette, a quarterly magazine that brings a unique and rounded perspective to the major issues of the day affecting good governance.

We also offer international consultancy services across a range of areas, including electoral affairs, regulation, governance, public sector reform, health & security.

The Centre operates from its head office in the UK and has regional offices in Mauritius and Brussels. It has a large team of public policy researchers, training experts and internationally renowned experts and speakers

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared by John B. Nakuta who was contracted as rapporteur for the symposium by the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN). It reflects the presentations and discussions from the 12th International Electoral Affairs Symposium of the ISPC held over the period 13th – 15th June 2016 in Swakopmund, Namibia. The organisers wish to thank the symposium participants for the tremendous expertise and collective experience shared during the symposium.