



## **Electoral Commission of Namibia**

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### **OFFICE OF THE CEO**

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2017**

**SUBJECT: YEAR END MESSAGE**

As the year 2017 comes to a gradual end our message is captured in a few words: Let the spirit of hope, optimism and courage prevail. As the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) we announce with joy and gratitude to the Offices/Ministries/Agencies of the Government of the Republic of Namibia, to Political Parties, to Civic Organizations, to both the print and electronic media, to religious and traditional institutions, and especially to our staff and colleagues and the Namibian Nation our vote of thanks for the exceptional cooperation, faithful, and committed relationships.

Without any doubt as the ECN we have worked hard in collaboration with you to carry out our central mandate in terms of the Electoral Act No. 5 of 2014 to organise and plan elections and referenda, to conduct civic and voter education, supervise registration of voters and control and conduct of elections and referenda in a free, fair, independent, credible, transparent and impartial manner as well as to strengthen constitutional democracy.

During the outgoing year, the ECN was able to reach out to the Namibian electorate through various network and activities; with our resources, publications, our library, conferences, meetings and seminars as well as actively participating and contributing towards the process of producing the next generation of responsible leaders in the political, social, economic, digital, technological and cultural-religious spheres.

Such participation cannot happen in a vacuum but it can only happen when the positive and rational potentials of humankind are galvanized through an all-round Civic and Voter Education that

promotes values, virtues and ethics for the creation of a more democratic, ethical, and humane (Ubuntu) society.

At the same time we are aware of the challenges facing our global village today: People want education, freedom, human rights, basic food and shelter, clean water and the progress of people through integral development. They do not want gender based-violence, rape, terror attacks even in worship places, violent religious extremism, unjustified show of military might, unashamed abuse of political power, and systemic injustices and economic systems propelled by greed and corruption. In short, such evil activities shames humanity.

Instead, in the face of such a world one ought to promote the spirit of hope, optimism and courage. Such a spirit has to be based on the message of renewed belief in humankind and our ability to do well and radically transform the landscape.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday season. The New Year will bring its own mix of successes and challenges, but our direction is clear and we know what we must do. Our job is on the democratisation of Namibia in line with Article 1 (1) of the Namibian Constitution. So, let us Harambee together.

In summary: We look forward to serving you better in the New Year. We shall continue to challenge the doubts and apathy by many and insist that only such trees that grow and yield the desired rich harvests and fruits, the seeds of which are sown and nurtured on good ground, watered with nutrients and protected from devastating worms. This is our mandate and we plant the seeds with you!

In the spirit of hope, optimism and courage to be....

  


Prof Paul John Isaak  
**CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER**