

Introduction

This information brochure has been specifically produced to inform the public on the Namibian electoral processes and to provide general information with regard to elections related issues. It is by no means exhaustive but is meant to share information in simple and concise language with the public.

Mandate of ECN

The Electoral Act (act 24 of 1992) as amended mandates the Electoral Commission of Namibia to direct, supervise and control in a fair and impartial manner, any elections under the Act.

Mission & Vision of ECN

The mission of the Electoral Commission of Namibia is to deliver free, fair and credible elections, managed in a transparent, innovative and participatory manner to strengthen democracy in Namibia.

The vision of the Electoral Commission of Namibia is to be the leading autonomous and most credible elections management institution in Africa.

What is an election?

An election is a process that allows eligible members of a community to choose representatives of their choice who will hold positions of authority. The chance to decide who will govern at the different levels of governance serves as an opportunity for the public to make choices about the policies, programs and future

directions of Government action. Elections also promote accountability from the elected leaders. Holding of regular, credible, free and fair elections promotes the principles of democracy.

Current types of elections in Namibia

- Presidential election
- National Assembly election
- Regional Council election
- Local Authority election

Regional councils and Local authorities elections

Regional Councils consist of 1 member elected from each constituency within a region by secret ballot. Every duly registered political party has the right to nominate a candidate to contest in order to be elected as a councilor for the constituency in which he/she resides. Individuals have also the right to contest as independent candidates and to be elected as a councilor for their constituency. The majoritarian or first-past-the-post electoral system is used during the regional councils election. This means that the candidate with the most votes wins the seat.

Members to the local authority council are elected by direct and secret ballot from the party list prepared by the contesting political parties, associations and organizations. The proportional representative system is used to tabulate and allocate seats to the contesting parties. In this system every political party intending to contest provides a list of its nominated candidates.

Voting during Regional councils and Local authorities elections

When you vote in the Regional council election, the ballot paper will list all the partaking candidates standing to be a councilor in your constituency and the parties they represent.

When you vote in a Local authority election, the ballot paper will list all the parties/associations partaking in the election.

For the Regional Councils and Local Authorities' elections, you must be in your constituency or local authority area where you were registered as a voter and where you reside in order to vote. You need to be registered and be in possession of a voters' card in order to vote in the Local authority and Regional council elections.

Registration of voters

Voter registration is the process whereby any Namibian citizen who qualifies to vote is registered to have his/her name included in the voters' register and issued with a voters card. Registration of voters in Namibia is a voluntary exercise and is a process by which Namibian citizens of voting age register during the determined period of registration in order to participate in elections.

Requirements to register as a voter

Any person who wishes to register as a voter must meet

and provide proof of the following requirements:

- he/she must be able to identify him/herself
- he/she must be 18 years and older
- he/she must be a Namibian citizen
- NB: he/she must be a resident in a local authority area for 12 consecutive months and longer (applicable to Local authority elections only)

The voters' register

A voters' register is a document consisting of names of every registered voter in any constituency or local authority area in the country.

Purpose of the voters' register

- It helps the election officials to verify that the voters turning up to vote are indeed registered and that their names are included in the voters' register.
- For individual members of the community to ascertain that their names are included in the voters' register.
- To give the electorate a chance to study the register and to raise valid objections if needed.

Inspection of the voters' register

After the registration of voters, the voters' register is normally displayed for public inspection at the offices of the Electoral Commission or any other places such as Magistrate offices after being advertised in the Government Gazette. Any person desiring to inspect the voters' register shall be entitled to do so during normal office hours.

Political parties' registration

For any political party to participate in an election, it must be registered with the Electoral Commission of Namibia and complies with all the mandatory requirements. This stipulation applies equally to civic associations/organizations and independent candidates.

Code of conduct for political parties

An essential part of free and fair elections is the freedom of political campaigning. Everyone has the right to express his/her political convictions and ideas, without threat or fear of intimidation. Freedom of political campaigning, however, also carries responsibilities which include respecting the freedom of others to express their own and independent opinion. The code of conduct guides and directs the conduct to be observed by all stakeholders during the electoral processes.

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INFORMATION BROCHURE



English

**REGIONAL COUNCILS & LOCAL AUTHORITIES
ELECTIONS 2010!!
GO REGISTER!! GO VOTE!!
YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!**