



## Electoral Commission of Namibia

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### MEDIA RELEASE

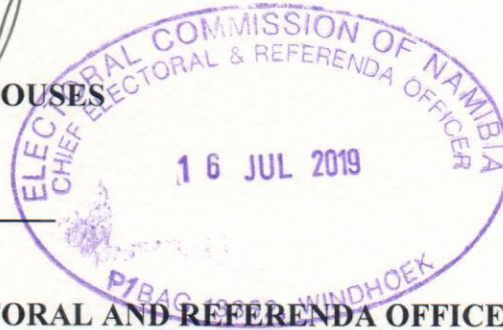
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**TO: ALL MEDIA HOUSES**

**FROM:**

  
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Theo Mujoro

**CHIEF ELECTORAL AND REFERENDA OFFICER**



**DATE: 16 JULY 2019**

**SUBJECT: POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINE (EVM)  
HACKING CHALLENGE**

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) would like to inform the media and the general public that the EVM hacking challenge, initially scheduled to take place on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at the ECN Headquarters in Windhoek has been postponed. This event is called off following a communication from a majority of the members of the Political Parties Liaison Committee (PLC) who requested the ECN to postpone the EVM hacking challenge date to allow political parties sufficient time to prepare for the session.

Political parties have raised a number of concerns with regard to the credibility and integrity of the EVMs both to the Commission and various communication platforms such as newspapers and social media. These concerns included:

1. "Parties allege that the EVMs can be hacked to store results other than the choice of the voter," and;
2. "Parties allege that the EVMs used can be tampered with to favour a particular candidate/political party by altering the results stored in the EVMs after the polls."

The ECN took cognizant of these concerns and as part of the ongoing consultations between the Commission and political parties to ensure credibility within all aspects of the electoral process, the Commission invited nominees of registered political parties to take part in an EVM hacking challenge.

The EVM hacking challenge is a platform made available to the nominees of political parties to examine randomly selected EVMs. The hacking challenge provides the political parties an opportunity to demonstrate claims by political parties that the EVMs could be tampered with within the existing administrative and security protocols put in place by the Commission.

The ECN is committed to ensuring the credibility and integrity of the electoral process and will continue to engage political parties to ensure that new arrangements are made in this regard.

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**End**