



## Electoral Commission of Namibia

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### OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON

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#### MEDIA RELEASE

(for immediate release)

19<sup>th</sup> December 2019

#### **PUBLIC STATEMENT ON MEDIA REPORTS SURROUNDING THE ECN AND THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 2019 PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) hereby wishes to respond to a number of issues currently trending in the media relating to *the recovered EVM Units*, the *theft of ECN laptops by a staff member* and the *impending Supreme Court case*.

#### **RECOVERED EVM UNITS**

The ECN was notified by the Namibian Police on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019, about the discovery of two (2) Control units and was able to positively identify the items.

The ECN can publicly confirm that the serial numbers of the two (2) control units recently discovered by the Namibian Police correspond positively with the serial numbers that were shared in a *Public Information Notice On Missing EVMs* dated 30<sup>th</sup> October 2019 in the local media. The ECN would like to clarify that only two (2) control units found and are still in the custody of the police.

As the investigations into the rest of the missing EVMs continue, the Commission anticipates that the Namibian Police will make a breakthrough regarding the remaining units. Accordingly, the Commission would like to take this opportunity to once again appeal to any member of the public

who is in possession of these EVM units to return them to the nearest police station as they remain State property.

### **THEFT OF ECN LAPTOP COMPUTERS**

A case of theft of five (5) laptop computers has been opened against the Technical Advisor to the CEO, Mr. Milton Louw with the Namibian police. In this connection, the Commission would like to inform the public that 5 new unused laptops were removed from the ECN premises without authorization.

### **IMPENDING COURT CASE**

On Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2019 the ECN received a notice of motion filed with the Supreme Court of Namibia by Dr. Panduleni Itula and Others related to the just concluded national elections. It is within the purview of the Courts to ventilate all allegations surrounding electoral process. The ECN is therefore not in a position to comment on any allegations or statements by Mr. Milton Louw or any other person on matters related to this case as it is sub judice.

### **PERSONAL ATTACKS AND THREATS**

The ECN has noted with concern the personal attacks, insults, hate speech and death threats directed towards its Chief Electoral and Referenda Officer, Mr. Theo Mujoro on social media platforms and also sent to him personally.

The Commission reiterates that decisions are collective and members of the public should desist from personal attacks and singling out the CEO.

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**Issued by:**



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