MEDIA RELEASE
(for immediate release)

5th March 2020

ECN PREPARDNESS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL BY ELECTIONS FOR THE OTJIWARONGO AND OPUWO RURAL CONSTITUENCIES

The preparations for the conduct of the Regional Council by elections for the Otjiwarongo and Opuwo Rural constituencies scheduled to take place on 9th March are well on course. A vacancy occurred on 10th December 2019 in the Otjiwarongo constituency as a result of the death of the then sitting councilor, the late Hon. Julius. Similarly, a vacancy also occurred in the Opuwo Rural constituency councilor on 12th December 2019 after the resignation of Hon. Kazeongere Tjeund from his position.

Supplementary Registration of Voters

To this end, a Supplementary Registration of Voters was conducted from 23rd - 24th December 2019 for the Otjiwarongo and Opuwo Rural constituencies. The Provisional Voters Registers for public scrutiny and objections against the names included therein was conducted on 30th December 2019 and no objections were received by the Commission during this period. The final voters register for the two constituencies was published on 14th February 2020 in the Government Gazette.
Registered Voters and Polling stations
The total number of registered voters for the Otjiwarongo and Opuwo Rural constituencies as at 14\textsuperscript{th} February 2020 is 21 786 and 7391 respectively. The ECN has recruited 132 polling officials and established 35 polling stations for Otjiwarongo and 150 polling officials and 79 polling stations for the Opuwo rural constituency.

Nomination Period
The period of submission of nominations for the two constituencies commenced on 14\textsuperscript{th} January 2020 and was concluded on 29\textsuperscript{th} January 2020.

Training of polling officials and Party Agents
The training of polling officials for the by elections commenced on 28\textsuperscript{th} February 2020 and will be concluded on 7\textsuperscript{th} March 2020. The deployment of teams to duty stations in the constituencies is on 8\textsuperscript{th} March 2020. The training of political party agents was conducted on 27\textsuperscript{th} February 2020 in the two constituencies.

Distribution of Election materials
The ballot papers for the two constituencies where printed on 21\textsuperscript{st} February 2020 after the approval and signing off of the sample paper ballot by authorized representatives from contesting political parties and Independent candidate on 20\textsuperscript{th} February 2020.

The dispatching of election materials to the two constituencies is between the period 4\textsuperscript{th} and 5\textsuperscript{th} March 2020. All sensitive election materials will be kept at the police station in the respective constituencies for safe keeping until deployment of teams commences.

Casting of votes by Paper Ballot
Following the Supreme Court Judgment on the 2019 Presidential and National Assembly elections, the ECN had convened a meeting with the Political Party Liaison Committee (PLC) authorized representatives on 14\textsuperscript{th} February 2020 to discuss the method of vote casting during the Otjiwarongo and Opuwo Rural constituencies by elections. The thirteen political party representatives present on the day unanimously agreed to the usage of manual ballot papers for the elections of the two
constituencies on 9th March 2020. This placed the preparation of the elections onto a different trajectory in terms of preparation of electoral activities including voter education and a number of logistics that would have to be accomplished in time for the by elections.

**Voter Education**

The ECN developed an extensive voter education strategy in an effort to increase efficiency and deliver effective electoral messaging to inform the public about the use of the paper ballots, promote understanding of electoral process and increase voter turnout in the upcoming by-elections in the Otjiwarongo and Opuwo Rural constituencies. Materials have also been developed explaining the voting process, how to vote using ballot papers and the correct marking of ballot papers.

Finally, the ECN would like to assure the electorate of the Commissions unwavering commitment to the delivery of free, fair, transparent and credible elections in the forthcoming by elections and herewith implore all registered voters in the Otjiwarongo and Opuwo Rural constituencies to take this opportunity to cast their votes at their nearest designated polling stations.

---

//END

**Issued by:**

Theo Mujoro
Chief Electoral Officer
The Office of the Chief Electoral Officer
Tel: +264 61 376 224/Fax: +264 61 237 618
Email: info@ecn.na/ Web: www.ecn.na