



## Electoral Commission of Namibia

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### MEDIA RELEASE

*(for immediate release)*

**30<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

#### **CONDUCT OF THE OPUWO RURAL CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION IN THE KUNENE REGION**

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) hereby informs the affected electorate and the Namibian public at large that preparations for the Opuwo Rural Constituency by-election are progressing well and on course.

The ECN successfully conducted the Supplementary Registration of Voters (SRV) in the constituency from **26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021**. The SRV was aimed at registering persons who qualified to be registered as voters and could not so have registered during the last registration of voters in respect of which that voters register was prepared. Furthermore, the Provisional Voters Register (PVR) was displayed for public scrutiny and objections on **3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021** and no objections were recorded. The final voters register will be available by **7<sup>th</sup> June 2021**.

#### **Nomination Period**

The period of Submission of Nominations of candidates for the Opuwo Rural Constituency commenced on **6<sup>th</sup> May 2021** and was completed on **21<sup>st</sup> May 2021**. The last day of submission of nominations in the case of Independent candidates was **19<sup>th</sup> May 2021**, while the last day of submission of nominations of candidates in the case of political parties was **21<sup>st</sup> May 2021**.

Below are the candidates that have been duly nominated and the political parties they represent:

**1. Opuwo Rural Constituency By-election**

<b>Duly Nominated Candidate</b>	<b>Political Party</b>
Heinz Hariki Maundu	National Unity Democratic Organisation (NUDO)
Western Uakaisiua Melchizedek Muharukua	Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)
Kaiho Rikambura	Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)
Kazepanda Tjambiru	SWAPO Party of Namibia (SWAPO)
Howards Kaihepere Tjituri	Independent Patriots for Change (IPC)

**Printing of Ballot papers**

The ECN has invited companies to submit bids for the printing of ballot papers as per the guidelines of the Public Procurement Act. The awarding of the bid will take place on **07<sup>th</sup> June 2021**. Political parties are expected to verify the final ballot paper on **11<sup>th</sup> June 2021**.

**Dispatch of sensitive election materials**

All the sensitive materials for the by-election will be dispatched between **21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021** under strict security and escort of the Namibian police. The materials will be placed for safekeeping at the police station within the constituency.

**Training of Polling officers, Political Party agents and Police Officers**

A total number of 156 polling officials will be recruited to make up 26 teams, 8 fixed and 18 mobile teams for the conduct of the by election. The training of polling officials for the by-election is scheduled for **25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021**. The training for political party agents and police officers will take place from **22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021**. The by-election will take place on **02<sup>nd</sup> July 2021**.

## Deployment of Teams

The 26 teams will be deployed on **30<sup>th</sup> June and 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021** to their respective polling venues and a total number of 52 vehicles will be used during this process.

## Voter and Civic Education

The ECN is currently busy with voter and civic education activities in the Opuwo Rural constituency to educate the residents on the importance of casting their vote. Voter education is primarily being conducted through the face to face method as well as radio stations such as the NBC and the Kunene Community Radio. Posters and flyers have also been printed and distributed. The polling timetable will be shared on specific radio stations on different days in the build up to the date of the by-election.

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