



Electoral Commission of Namibia

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRPERSON

MEDIA STATEMENT

(for immediate release)

10th November 2020

COMPLIANCE WITH GUIDELINES FOR THE CONDUCT OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN RESPECT OF THE 2020 REGIONAL COUNCIL AND LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTIONS

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) has noted with concern a video clip circulated on various media platforms where one of the leaders of the SWAPO party, RT Lieutenant General Martin Shalli can be heard using language that incites violence at a recent political campaign event in Okahandja, which was clearly in contravention with the Code of Conduct for Political Parties.

1. The Commission hereby wishes to remind all the competing political entities participating in the 2020 Regional Council and Local Authority elections of the importance of adherence to the Code of Conduct for Political Parties.
2. Furthermore, the Commission would like to refer all Political Parties to point number 5 (five) of the Code of Conduct gazetted on 17th October 1992 under General Notice No 143 which states that "Speakers at political rallies may not use language which incites violence

in any form against any other person or group of persons. Parties will not issue pamphlets, newsletters or posters which contain materials which incite people to violence.

3. On 04th November 2020, the Commission convened a meeting with Political Parties, Associations and Independent Candidates that will be contesting in the forthcoming elections to urge all political contestants to pledge their commitment to comply with the provisions of the Code of Conduct throughout the campaign season and beyond. Against this background, we urge all political entities to desist from engaging in any conduct or behavior that would incite violence or violate any of the 16 (sixteen) point guidelines of the Political Party Code of Conduct for political activities.
4. Furthermore, the Commission once again calls upon all Political Parties, Associations and Independent candidates contesting in the forthcoming elections to issue advices to party officials, candidates, members and supporters to familiarize themselves with the Code, observe the Code and take all the other necessary steps to ensure compliance.
5. Lastly, the Commission takes note of the fact, that RT Lieutenant General Martin Shalli has publicly apologized for his remarks.

Issued by:



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