



Electoral Commission of Namibia

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MEDIA RELEASE

(for immediate release)

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ECN STATE OF PREPAREDNESS FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTRATION OF VOTERS FROM 07th – 15th SEPTEMBER 2020

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) is pleased to inform electoral stakeholders, the electorate and the Namibian nation at large that it has finalized its preparations for the forthcoming Supplementary Registration of Voters (SRV) and is ready to commence with the conduct of the SRV process on Monday, 07th September 2020.

As per the Electoral Act, Act 5 of 2014, a Supplementary Registration of Voters (SRV) is to be conducted before any election in accordance with Section 38(1) read together with Section 25 (2) of the Act. The purpose of supplementary registration of voters before holding of an election is to include in the voter's register persons who have since turned 18 years of age after the last voter's registration exercise; persons who have moved from one constituency to another; or persons whose voter registration cards are reported lost or damaged; and any other applicant who qualifies for registration in terms of section 22(1) of the Electoral Act.

The total number of voters on the current National Voters register **1 348 532** registered voters of which **370 826** are registered for the Local Authority elections. These numbers are expected to increase during the Supplementary Registration of Voters as the last SRV process for the Local Authority elections was conducted back in 2015.

Applicants that applied to be registered for the Local Authority elections during the 2019 SRV process could not be registered at the time because the Electoral Act, Act 5 of 2014 only provides for a supplementary registration of voters for a specific election which at the time was the

Presidential and National Assembly elections. This year however, eligible voters who comply with the requirements for the Local Authority elections can register and voter's registers for the respective local authorities will be compiled accordingly.

The ECN voter and civic education campaign for the SRV is thus geared towards encouraging all eligible voters who are residents in Local Authority areas and whose cards are written "LA not applicable," the youth and individuals who have never registered to go and register to vote for the Local Authority elections. Furthermore, the ECN is also encouraging eligible voters that have either lost or damaged their voter cards, moved to a new constituency or whose details have changed i.e. surname or who have turned 18 years in the intervening period to register to vote for the 2020 Regional Council and Local Authority Elections.

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF REGISTRATION OFFICIALS

The ECN wish to confirm that it has successfully recruited a total number of **3324** registration officials. In terms of section 65 (2((a), the Electoral Act provides for the training of election officials, a recognition of the fact that a free, fair and credible elections are a direct result of well-trained registration and election officials. The training was conducted for the registration officials as follows:

- 14 Regional Coordinators and 28 Assistant Coordinators were successfully trained from **5th – 6th August 2020** and have already assumed duties in their respective regions.
- 121 Supervisors of Registration were trained from **7th – 9th August 2020**
- 14 Regional IT Technicians were trained from **10th – 13th August 2020** and have been deployed to their respective regions.
- 554 team leaders were trained from **19th – 24th August 2020**
- The training of 4078 Registration officers was finalized on **4th September 2020**. The training commenced on 27th August 2020 at designated clusters in all 14 regions. They will be deployed on **5th and 6th September 2020** at their various points.

LOGISTICAL PREPARATIONS

The sensitive registration materials for the **121** Constituencies and **57** Local authority areas have been dispatched on 22nd August 2020 and are currently safely placed for safekeeping at the police stations in the various Constituencies.

In terms of transport, the ECN required a total of **1219** vehicles for the SRV process. A total of **77** vehicles were secured from government which left a shortfall of **1142**. In alleviating vehicle shortages, the ECN has contracted private citizens with suitable vehicles to assist in the transportation of personnel and registration material during the registration process.

REGISTRATION POINTS

A total number of **4078** registration points have been identified and secured across the country for the SRV, spread over 14 regions, 121 constituencies and 57 local authority areas. There is a total of **554** teams, off this number, **116** are semi fixed and **438** are mobile teams.

VOTER AND CIVIC 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 importance of the forthcoming SRV process. Specific targeted programs have been devised to ensure inclusiveness through special education campaigns, particularly the young population.


The ECN has recruited a total number of **98** youth ambassadors whose main objective is to reach out to the youth in order to educate them on the importance of registering as voters and to encourage them to participate in electoral activities. Customized media messaging that includes radio, TV, social media messages targeted at young voters and all eligible voters has also been used to ensure maximum reach of the voter and civic education messages. The ECN has been on the ground intensifying voter education efforts in the in the 121 constituencies to ensure that all eligible voters understand the registration process.

ECN COVID-19 PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

The ECN is cognizant of the fact it will be conducting the forthcoming electoral processes against the backdrop of a major public health crisis. As we prepared for the SRV, our foremost pre-occupation was not only relating to the logistical and operational preparations - but on how we can conduct this process while ensuring the safety of all stakeholders against the invisible threat – that is the COVID-19 pandemic. The ECN would thus like to inform the Namibian Nation that the health and safety of all participants at all the different phases of the electoral process is priority and that the ECN has put in place the necessary measures to safeguard its employees and all electoral stakeholders. The ECN has ensured that all its processes are conducted in a manner compliant with the health guidelines and has put in place precautionary measures at all its registration venues.

In addition, registration officials at all the registration points across the country will adhere to strict preventative measures in order to curb the possible spread of the coronavirus. The ECN thus calls on all eligible voters to adhere to the measures provided by adapting our attitudes and behaviors to our new reality to ensure the safety of all citizens during the registration process from 7th – 15th September 2020.

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Issued by

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