



Electoral Commission of Namibia

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Date: 20th October 2019

SUBJECT: MISSING ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVM's)

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) hereby wishes to respond to an article that appeared on Friday, 18th October 2019, in *The Namibian* newspaper titled "Voting machines go missing."

The ECN has a long standing practice of loaning electoral material and equipment including Electronic Voting Machines (EVM's) to its stakeholders amongst others; political parties, churches, trade unions, tertiary institutions, local authorities, schools for purposes of conducting their internal election processes.

The objective behind this practice is to enable as many stakeholders as possible to use the EVM's in their own voting processes with a view to increase confidence in the use of this voting technology and remove any remaining misgivings or doubts in the robustness, reliability and trustworthiness of the machines.

In this particular case, following a request dated 18th May 2017, from the SWAPO Party Elders Council Elections Committee, the ECN loaned EVMs to the Swapo Party Elders Council for conducting an internal election.

The ECN is fully aware of the units not returned as they were reported lost or missing and is in possession of the serial numbers of the missing four (4) control units and two ballot units. One of the control units reported to have been missing was found and is in the custody of the Namibian Police at Otjiwarongo as part of the ongoing investigation process.

To this end, there has been ongoing investigations being conducted by the Namibian police and for this reason, the ECN could not publicly divulge information to the Namibian public due to concerns around compromising the investigation process.

Lastly, the matter is still under police investigation and the Commission would not make any further pronouncements on this matter until the investigations are finalized.
