

# the vote

**Newsletter**

FEBRUARY  
2020



ELECTORAL  
COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA



**MANDATE**

An exclusive body that is mandated to direct, supervise, manage and control the conduct of elections and referenda.

**VISION STATEMENT**

To be a centre of excellence in electoral management by 2022.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To conduct and manage electoral and referenda processes for Namibian citizens with a view to consolidate electoral democracy.

**CORE VALUES**

In execution of the constitutional and legal mandate, ECN is guided by the following core values:

**Secrecy of the vote:**

Adhere to the secrecy of the vote, thereby instilling confidence in the process and outcome of elections and referenda processes;

**Accountability:** Account to the electorate, Parliament and Namibian nation;

**Non-Partisanship:** To maintain political neutrality and refrain from deliberately advancing or prejudicing the interest of a given political party and/or other stakeholders;

**Professionalism:** Demonstrate the highest level of competence, skills and acumen in the delivery of its mandate;

**Integrity:** Uphold honesty and transparency in the electoral process;

**Inclusiveness:** Involve stakeholder in the delivery of service;

**Innovation:** Adopt new and progressive ways of conducting electoral processes and,

**Respect for the rule of law:** Adhere to the Constitution and the enabling legislation.



## Editors Note

Lina Ndengu  
**Communications & Marketing  
Manager**

Welcome to my first issue of The Vote newsletter! This newsletter will inform and inspire you on a monthly basis on matters about elections in Namibia and we hope you will find this information useful. 2020 is upon us and with it comes the promise of great growth and change for the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN). We hope that you will find great value in its content and that it will aid your understanding of the mandate of ECN.

This issue begins with a note from our Chairperson Advocate Notemba Tjipueja as well as an introduction of the ECN Commissioners. We will recount the various projects and activities that ECN were actively involved in for the year 2019/2020. We will have a review of the results of the Regional Council By-elections that took place in January 2020 for Gobabis, Keetmanshoop Urban, Khomasdal and Walvis Bay Urban Constituencies.

We will also have a chance to read an article on voting for people living with disability from the Namibian Federation of the Visually impaired (NFVI). We share an article on the importance of Civic Education in Namibia by the Namibia Institute of Democracy (NID).

We want this newsletter to be valuable for you so please, please share your feedback and suggestions to help us improve. A huge thank you to all the persons who contributed writing the wonderful and inspiring articles, without which there wouldn't have been this newsletter issue.

Last but not least, I would like to thank my team for their everlasting support throughout the creation of this edition.

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# note



from the Chairperson

Adv. Notemba Tjipueja **ECN Chairperson**

The year 2020 ushers in a New Year and a New Decade filled with fresh hope and aspirations, for our beloved Nation Namibia “The Land of the Brave”. It gives us new courage and belief for a very new start. It gives us an opportunity to interrogate and reflect on the past. As an institution we have fulfilled our mandate in the successful conduct of the sixth National Elections, despite some minor challenges, common to elections in most democracies. We continue to strive for the best in order to live up to our vision of being “an excellent and independent election institution committed to credible elections” and our mission to “promote and deliver free, fair and credible elections, managed in a transparent, innovative and participatory manner to the Namibian electorate”.

On behalf of the Commission I wish to extend our gratitude and appreciation to each and every employee for their hard work, dedication and efficiency portrayed during 2019 and in particular during the just concluded Presidential and National Assembly Elections and By-elections.

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) is well aware of the expectations of our stakeholders, in particular all registered political parties, the electorate, the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary when it comes to the service delivery expected

from the ECN, expectations of transparency and integrity throughout our electoral processes. We shall endeavor to meet these expectations within the context of our Constitution, Electoral Act, Strategic Plan, Policies and other relevant instruments. In preparation for the conduct of the upcoming National Regional and Local Authority Council elections, we strive to continuously guard the democratic foundation upon which this nation is built. We commit to ensure that we make every effort to improve upon and excel in all our electoral processes, with the assistance of all stakeholders to the benefit of our beloved nation.

As the new replaces the old, distant successes and failures make way for a year of new significant accomplishments, on behalf of the Commission I wish all our stakeholders, staff members and the electorate a blessed, prosperous and productive 2020.

In conclusion “...*whatsoever ye do, do all things to the glory of God.*” 1 Cor 10:31b.

**Adv. Notemba Tjipueja**  
**ECN Chairperson**

# meet our Commissioners



## Chairperson Adv. Notemba Tjipueja

Adv. Notemba Tjipueja, has been the Chairperson of the ECN since August 2011, on a part-time basis. As of 1 October 2015, she has been appointed in a fulltime capacity in terms of the new Electoral Act of 2014. Adv. Tjipueja has also served as a Commissioner of the ECN from 2000-2005, 2007-2011. Extensive electoral experience has been gained over the years through exercising the ECN mandate and attendance of various international, regional forums and various international and regional observer missions. She is currently also serving as Chairperson for the SADC Electoral Commissions Forum (ECF), which is a regional body for Electoral Commissions within the SADC region. Being a lawyer by profession with two LLB qualifications in British Common law and Roman Dutch law from the University of Papua New Guinea (Papua New Guinea) and the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa) respectively, she is an admitted Attorney of the High Court of Namibia as of June 1994 and thereafter practiced as a State Advocate in the High Court and Supreme Court of Namibia for several years. Tjipueja has extensive legal experience ranging from company law, civil law to international law. Aspects of international law experience was gained during her tenure as the Director of the SADC Legal Sector responsible for legal advice to the international, Regional Body known as the Southern African Development Community (SADC). During this time, she was instrumental in the establishment of the SADC Tribunal in Namibia, an international court established by SADC to serve the SADC region. Tjipueja has served on numerous Boards and Professional Bodies in Namibia.



## Commissioner: Mr. Evaristus Evaristus

Evaristus Evaristus is a seasoned Administrator with vast experience on strategic leadership and management at executive level. Currently, he is employed as an Executive Assistant to the Vice Chancellor of the University of Namibia, where he deals with the stakeholder management function and providing administrative support and advice as a Director in the office. Moreover, he possesses sound experience in networking and relationship building, fundraising and the ability to successfully lead change management initiatives. At the University of Namibia, Mr. Evaristus also served as a Deputy Director at the UNAM Foundation as well as Acting Director of the University Central Consultancy Bureau. As a Football Administrator, he served as a Member representative of the Namibian Premier League Board of Governors of the University of Namibia Football Club. As part of his pro bono services in academia and in light of his knowledge on political and public administration, he assists with part-time lectures (Politics and Administration) at the University of Namibia. On his education qualification, he holds a Masters Degree in Public Administration, Bachelor of Arts Degree in Politics and Sociology from the University of Namibia, as well as a Change Management Certificate from the University of Cape Town. He is currently serving his first term as an Electoral Commissioner following his appointment in April 2019, for a period of five years.

## meet our **Commissioners**

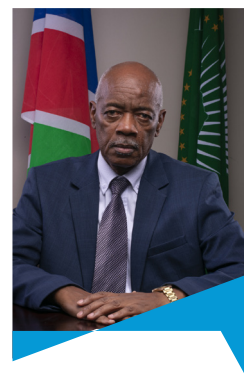


**Commissioner: Elsie T. Nghikembua**

Elsie Tuleingepo Nghikembua is a Namibian citizen who has a sound and solid academic background relating to issues of public administration and management. She also had the opportunity to serve as an academic at the University of Namibia and practitioner within the Namibian Public Service and Public Sector. Amongst her Executive experience is having served as the Director of Specialised Services at Parliament where her duties mainly included providing procedural advice and administrative support to the Members of Parliament in the Chamber and Standing Committees. Her Executive experience was further cemented when she was the Deputy Executive Director of the Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management (NIPAM) and a Member of the NIPAM Governing Council; and Training and Development Board. From a Corporate Governance perspective, she served as Board Member of the Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA) and the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE). Educationally, she holds postgraduate qualifications in Public Administration and Management and a Senior Executive Fellows Programme Certificate from the Harvard Kennedy School. On a personal note, she is a wife and a mother. Mrs. Nghikembua was appointed in September 2016 to date as a Commissioner and is currently serving her first term.

**Commissioner: Mr. Gerson Tjihenuna**

Gerson Uaripi Tjihenuna has been serving as the Director in the Office of the Speaker of Parliament since August 2015. He is also a member of the oversight team of Emmanuel Church in Windhoek. Before that he served in various capacities both in Government and in academia. He has close to thirty (30) years of public service experience and he, inter alia, served as an Under Secretary in Cabinet Office and as a Director in the Office of the Rector of the then Polytechnic of Namibia. He served for three years as the Board Chairperson of Air Namibia (2016 – 2018). He taught at Namibia's three main universities in the areas of Labour Studies and African Politics and Governance. He is a published author and poet and holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy and Administration as well as a BA Degree in Political Science. He has submitted a research proposal to UNAM for a PhD Programme. During his stint as a free-lance consultant (2007 – 2009) he did consultancy work for the International Labour Organisation (ILO), NANGOF and Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). He also served as a member of the Editorial Board of the Namibian Journal of Managerial Sciences (an IUM quarterly peer-reviewed academic publication).



**Commissioner: Ulrich Freyer**

Mr. Ulrich Freyer holds a Master's degree in Administration from the University of Western Cape and B-Tech in Public Management from the Technicon South Africa. He was appointed as a Lecturer/Senior Lecturer between 2004 – 2016 and prior thereof served several years as a Public Servant. Mr. Freyer has extensive electoral experience and has been appointed as a Commissioner in August 2011 until August 2016. He is currently serving his second term following his appointment in September 2016 to date. Mr. Freyer have represented the ECN on several regional and international observer missions, participated in several electoral platforms and reforms, conflict resolution, integration and governance issues.

# voting experiences.

## word on the streets



### 1. **Kaujazemua Mbambi**

My voting experience was good. I voted at Eros Nampost and the polling officials were very helpful and assisted me well with instructions and the Electronic voting machine.



### 2. **Simson Markia**

I voted at Havanna Primary School and it was not fair. I stood for very long in the queues. ECN should make special queues for the elders, expecting women and women with small babies because it is not fair to us who woke up very early in order to finish our voting fast just to have people coming in at their own time and cutting queues. The polling station had no power and we got moved to another one. The process was uncomfortable.



### 3. **Abigail Afrikaner**

I had no problems while voting. There were long queues however I expected that. Voting was easy for me as I had worked as a polling official in the past and knew the process.



### 4. **Alala Vries**

The elections were free and fair however the queues were very slow and there were no chairs or facilities for sitting. Other than that, everything else was fine.



### 5. **Emilia Kamati**

My experience was nice. I got to communicate with new people while in the queues. We were making jokes and had fun. We noticed that there were some people who came with fake pregnancies in order to have priority access. I have a nail business and got to promote my business to new clients.



## **my vote** is my choice and my choice is my **pride**

Namibia is a democratic country with one of the best constitutions in Africa. Namibia is also one of the few countries which have disabilities issues being taken care of and most importantly it has other good domestic laws which aims to promote rights of persons with disabilities.

The Namibian Federation of the Visually Impaired (NFVI) is a welfare organisation of person with visual impairments. Since its inception in 1986 the NFVI has been advocating for the rights of the visually impaired in all sectors of life. Aimed at promoting social integration in all fields of life, influencing public policies and practises governing the education, health, welfare, social security, rehabilitation, employment, sports and recreation it has accomplished many remarkable achievements which have improved the lives of the Namibian people with visual impairments.

The assumption is that everyone votes but that is not the reality. It is not a secret that a huge number of the visually impaired still do not vote regardless of the fact that they make up a thousand or more of the population and this should be a concern. At the end of the day the government is of, for and by the people. From 1990 to 2013 challenges encountered centred on the use of the ballot paper. The use of the ballot paper led to the vote of those who

are visually impaired not being a secret and them not feeling secure with the helper who was casting their vote for them at polling stations.

The NFVI greatly appreciates the role played by the Electoral Commission of Namibia from 2014 and 2019 elections on the introduction of the Electronic Voting Machines (EVMS) which have user friendly features.

They have not only brought about relief to the visually impaired but they have helped to put them at ease. Even though the current years have brought about some relief with the introduction of the EVMs there is still need for continuous training for those with disabilities (visual impairments and hearing impaired) on how to use the EVMs and to make sure that all have understood the basic concepts in preparation for the next upcoming elections.

Training manuals need to be in braille print in order to accommodate officials who are visually impaired. Let us promote the democratic rights of persons with disability, let's promote inclusivity, liberty and freedom of expression.

**Article contribute by:**

**Mr Moses Nghipandulwa the Director of the Namibian Federation of the Visually Impaired (NFVI)**



## Regional Council by-elections **Results**

The Regional Council to by-elections for Gobabis, Keetmanshoop Urban, Khomasdal and Walvis Bay Urban constituencies were held on 15th January 2020.

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) successfully concluded the Regional Council by-elections for the Gobabis, Keetmanshoop Urban, Khomasdal and Walvis Bay Urban constituencies that were held on 15th January 2020 simultaneously.

The by-elections for the four (4) constituencies where necessitated by the resignation of the sitting councilors on 18th October 2019 in the respective constituencies, in compliance with section 77 (4) of the Electoral Act, no. 5 of 2014 and article 46 and 47 of the Namibian constitution in order to qualify to be nominated as a candidate on a list of candidates for the members of the National Assembly.

The ECN as at 20 December 2019, had a total of 13 457 registered voters for Gobabis constituency, 11 534 for Keetmanshoop Urban constituency, 25 550 Khomasdal constituency, and 23 169 voters for Walvis Bay Urban constituency.

### 1. **Gobabis Constituency**

**Total Votes counted: 2339**

Name of Candidate	Political party/Independent	Total Votes Recorded
Binga Sylvester Daniel	Landless People's Movement (LPM)	571
Kauesa luonga Elvis	Independent Candidate	82
Modise Ellenterius Braynie	Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)	277
<b>Tebele Augustinus</b>	<b>SWAPO Party of Namibia (SWAPO)</b>	<b>1409</b>

**2. Keetmanshoop Urban Constituency****Total Votes counted: 3556**

Name of Candidate	Political party/Independent	Total Votes Recorded
Goagoseb Abraham	Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)	292
<b>Minnaar Maxie Meliza</b>	<b>Landless People's Movement (LPM)</b>	<b>1958</b>
Shilimela Festus	SWAPO Party of Namibia (SWAPO)	1306

**3. Khomasdal Constituency****Total Votes counted: 2104**

Name of Candidate	Political party/Independent	Total Votes Recorded
<b>Angolo Samuel</b>	<b>SWAPO Party of Namibia (SWAPO)</b>	<b>1227</b>
Baumgartner Mara Bonita Tjiunomuinjo	Landless People's Movement (LPM)	349
Diergaardt Raymond Reginald	Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)	326
Kuahuma Bartholomeus	SWANU of Namibia (SWANU)	202

**4. Walvis Bay Urban Constituency****Total Votes counted: 3593**

Name of Candidate	Political party/Independent	Total Votes Recorded
Hoaeb Richard	Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)	208
Jason Kenneth Iilonga	Independent Candidate	436
<b>Knowledge Ndunge Ipinge</b>	<b>Independent Candidate</b>	<b>1636</b>
Sirie Topulathana	SWAPO Party of Namibia (SWAPO)	1313

**The voter turnout for each of the four constituencies was as follows:**Gobabis – **17.3%**, Keetmanshoop Urban – **30.8 %**, Khomasdal – **8.2 %** and Walvis Bay Urban – **15.5 %**.



# Civic Education

Article contributed by the Namibia Institute of  
Democracy (NID)



**Pandu Nghipandulwa**

As part of our work at the Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID), we have been conducting a Civic Education Programme since 2012.

This workshop based programme, which is targeted at primary and secondary school learners, aims to educate the participants about Namibia's governance process and structures.

By doing that we intend to help those learners in their personal development and hope to guide them towards becoming well-informed citizens who actively participate in the Namibian Democracy.

We firmly believe that civic education is vital for the strengthening the Namibian democracy and it should therefore become an integral part of the National School Curriculum. So, what exactly are we talking about when we refer to "civic education"? Civic Education can broadly be defined as the provision of information and learning experiences to equip and empower citizens to participate in democratic processes. It teaches citizens to take responsibility and actively participate in their own governance.

By definition the term democracy, derived from the Greek word "dēmokratía", means 'rule by the people'.

Therefore, the ideals of democracy are most completely realized when every citizen is actively involved in the governance process.

Ghana, as one of the oldest democracies in Africa with a historically strong educational system, is an interesting example of an African country that has implemented civic education on a large scale. Ghana went as far as establishing a government agency, the National Commission for Civic Education, solely tasked with educating the learners about their role within the political system.

Their goal was to sensitize students on the duties of citizens to promote peaceful co-existence and national cohesion for the development of the country.

The government of Ghana has seen two peaceful transfers of power between political parties and is recognized as one of the most stable democratic nations in Africa.

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Research conducted on Ghana indicates that civic education has a direct impact on civic awareness and engagement.

There is a significant difference in the general awareness of civic issues between people with citizenship education and those without citizenship education. In addition, people with citizenship education are more willing to take part in community service and development projects.

The main conclusions drawn from these studies is that the difference in the level of civic awareness is due to citizenship education and that civic awareness increases the likelihood of a person engaging in civic activities.

Civic education is the cornerstone to all well-functioning democracies. Hopefully Namibia can learn from countries like Ghana and create more spaces where the youth can learn about democracy and active citizenship.

As Alexis de Toqueville, a well-known French diplomat, political scientist and historian who lived during the 19th century, once pointed out: "Each new generation is a new people that must acquire the knowledge, learn the skills, and develop the dispositions or traits of private and public character that undergird a constitutional democracy".

We believe it would be beneficial to teach civic education from as early as primary school to ensure every Namibian citizen understands their role, rights and responsibilities within this democracy. The ways that young people understand and enact citizenship will shape the direction of their nations and the continent at large.

**Nine fun facts about voting globally**

1. In Australia, voting is compulsory.
2. In Canada, there is no deadline to register to vote.
3. In Gambia, people vote using marbles. Each voter receives a marble and places it in a tube on top of a sealed drum that corresponds to that voter's favored candidate.
4. In France, citizens are automatically registered to vote when they turn 18 years old.
5. In Sweden, eligible voters are automatically registered when they turn in their tax registration rolls.
6. In 16 U.S. states, it is illegal to take a photo with your ballot. Doing so can result in a fine or even jail time.
7. Some countries, such as India, Greece, Ukraine, and Colombia, have a "None of the Above" option on their election ballots. In the United States, only Nevada offers a "None of These Candidates" option.
8. In Saudi Arabia, women finally won the right to vote in 2015. In 1893, New Zealand became the first country to allow women to vote.
9. Vietnam has the highest voter turnout at 99.3%

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**our**  
engagements

**1. On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2019**, the ECN Chairperson announced the official final results of the 2019 Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

**2. The ECN held a Press Conference on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019**, to update the Namibian Nation on the ECNs final preparations and state of readiness in relation to the 2019 Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

**3. On 20<sup>th</sup> November 2019**, the ECN hosted a briefing for Local, Regional and International Election Observers to update them on the Commissions state of preparedness for the 2019 Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

**4. On 18<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> November 2019**, Representatives from the ECN issued duplicate voter cards from 18th – 26th November 2019 to voters that have lost or damaged their voters' cards to ensure that they could exercise their right to vote during the 2019 National elections.

**5. On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019**, The 2019 Presidential and National Assembly Elections for the Seagoing Personnel, members of the Police force, Defence Force, Correctional Services and for Namibian Citizens abroad was conducted on 13th November 2019.

**6. On the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2019**, ECN held a Technical Session with Reporters and Journalists in Windhoek on Namibia's Electoral Process which aimed to share technical information and enhance reporters understanding of the technical aspects of the electoral processes, particularly for those that were to cover the 2019 Presidential and National Assembly Elections.

**7. On 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019**, The ECN held a Civil Society Engagement workshop on 24th October 2019. One of the main objectives of the engagement was to update the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on the ECNs preparedness to conduct the 2019 Presidential and National Assembly elections.

**8. On 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2019**, the Chairperson of the ECN Adv. Notemba Tjipueja hosted a public sitting for the submission of nominated candidates for the Presidential Election and submission of party lists of nominated candidates for the National Assembly election by registered political parties.

## ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA



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