



## Electoral Commission of Namibia

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### MEDIA STATEMENT

(for immediate release)

15<sup>th</sup> November 2021

#### OVERSIGHT OF THE POLITICAL PARTY FINANCING REGULATIONS BY THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA (ECN)

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) would like to register its displeasure regarding a misleading report in *the Namibian* Newspaper dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021, titled “*Honeymoon over for political funding secrecy*” in which it has linked remarks made by the Chairperson of the Commission Mrs. Elsie Nghikembua at a recent media briefing to the ongoing Fishrot case.

The ECN hereby wishes to clarify and state the following:

The Chairperson of the ECN, Mrs. Elsie Nghikembua held a media briefing on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 to update the media and the Nation at large on the new Commissions’ strategic intent over the next five years. One of the areas that the Commission indicated would take priority would be to enhance the oversight measures in terms of political party financing regulations as provided for in the Act. Prior to this media engagement, the Commission held a meeting with a majority of all registered political parties and organisations through the Political Party Liaison Committee (PLC) platform where numerous issues were discussed.

At no point was there any reference made to the Fishrot case or the SWAPO party as insinuated in said article. The statement delivered by the ECN Chairperson during the media briefing is publicly available and there is no reference to any political party or the Fishrot court case. The ECN’s intention is to give all registered political parties and organisations a chance to submit their records as per the provisions of the Act.

All official correspondence must be addressed to the Chief Electoral and Referenda Officer  
Members of the Electoral Commission: Mrs. Elsie Nghikembua (Chairperson)  
Mr. Gerson Tjihenuna, Mr. Evaristus Evaristus and Dr. Emmerentia Leonard

Linking the Chairpersons' statement to the Fishrot case is not only irresponsible but aimed at creating sensationalism. The Commission thus rejects this type of reporting with the contempt it deserves. The ECN is not sure of the intention of the reporter in terms the communication attributed to the ECN as it is misleading.

The ECNs obligation to request for accountability of political party funding is a legal obligation and has nothing to do with the Fishrot case. Furthermore, the Commission will not be used by some individuals to pursue their own agendas.

Finally, the statement was meant to address a general problem of non-compliance affecting most registered political parties and organisations.

The Commission thus demands that the newspaper corrects article as it is deceptive.

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**Issued by:**

  
Mr. Theo Mujoro

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