



**Electoral Commission
of Namibia**

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AND POST-ELECTION REPORT

**OPUWO RURAL CONSTITUENCY
BY-ELECTION
02 JULY 2021**

**KATIMA MULILO URBAN CONSTITUENCY
BY-ELECTION
25 AUGUST 2021**



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease 2019
ECN	Electoral Commission of Namibia
PVR	Provisional Voters' Register
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SRV	Supplementary Registration of Voters
VRKs	Voter Registration Kits
VVDs	Voter Verification Devices

PREFACE



Adv. Notemba Tjipueja
Chairperson

On behalf of the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN), it is my distinct honour to present you with the Performance Assessment and Post-Election Report for the Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies' by-elections, which were conducted on 2 July 2021 and 25 August 2021, respectively, as prescribed in Section 116 of the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014).

In terms of Section 10(2) of the Regional Councils Act (Act No. 22 of 1992), when a member of a Regional Council has vacated his or her office as such a member in terms of this section or has died, the Chief Regional Officer shall forthwith by notice in the Gazette give notice that a vacancy in the membership of the Regional Council has occurred, the date on which it occurred, the cause thereof and the constituency in respect of which it has occurred.

As per the provisions of Section 10(2) of the Regional Councils Act (Act No. 22 of 1992), the Chief Regional Officers for the Kunene and Zambezi Regional Councils gave notice in the *Government Gazette* of vacancies within their respective Regional Councils.

Subsequently, the ECN commenced with the preparations for the Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies by-elections, in line with its mandate to supervise, manage and control in a fair and impartial manner and without fear, favour or prejudice any elections and referenda under the Electoral Act.

The preparations for the Opuwo Rural Constituency by-elections coincided with an alarming upsurge of new COVID-19 infections as well as an increased fatality rate due to widespread community transmissions. This necessitated an adjustment to the public health regulations that were in place at the time by His Excellency the President, Dr Hage Geingob, on 15th June 2021, which included entry restrictions into the Windhoek-Okahandja-Rehoboth Local Authority areas and the limitation of public gatherings to 10 persons per event.

In terms of our voter and civic education campaign, this meant that we had to increase the number of sessions in a day to accommodate the face to face education sessions in order to ensure that all eligible voters were reached and informed about the by-election before election day, and the number of voter education teams had to be increased from four to eight. Furthermore, the institution made extensive use of the community radio in the region as well as the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation radio service to educate voters on the by-election and to create awareness regarding the applied preventative measures to ensure the health and safety of the election officials and voters on election day. Posters, flyers and various forms were used to distribute

electoral information during the voter education campaign in the Opuwo Rural Constituency.

The ECN COVID-19 Mitigation Strategy clear guidelines enabled the teams to conduct voter and civic education amidst the pandemic. As the Opuwo Rural Constituency is vast and mountainous, additional teams were necessary for the successful conduct of this session.

Despite the challenges that were encountered, the Commission is delighted to announce that the Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies by-elections were a resounding success.

The Commission extends its gratitude to the Management of the ECN, the election officials, the party agents, and the Namibian Police for overseeing the conduct of a credible electoral process and the maintenance of law and order; and to the media for ensuring that the populace was informed during the various stages of the electoral process, which resulted in well-informed citizens who were ready to cast their votes with confidence.

Adv. Notemba Tjipueja
Chairperson
September 2021

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Mr. Theo Mujoro
Chief Electoral and
Referenda Officer

The Electoral Act, read together with the Regional Councils Act, directs the ECN to conduct a by-election in all instances where a vacancy occurs in the said constituency. The legislative framework lays down strict guidelines within which such a by-election must be held.

Section 10(3) of the Regional Councils Act (Act No. 22 of 1992), read together with Section 63(3)(2)(b) of the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014), notes that “a casual vacancy in a Regional Council shall be filled within three months after it has occurred by the election, on a date to be determined by the President by proclamation in the Gazette, of a member as contemplated in section 7(2) for the unexpired portion of the period of office of the member who has

vacated his or her office, unless the period of office of the member who has so vacated his or her office expires during the said period of three months.”

Furthermore, in accordance with the stipulations contained in Section 64(1) of the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014), the President, upon recommendation by the Commission, determined the 2nd July 2021 and 25th August 2021 as the dates for when the by-elections for the Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies were to be conducted. The Commission notes with great satisfaction that it duly complied with its obligations, as outlined in the Constitution and other relevant legislation in this regard.

One of the challenges experienced during the Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies’ by-elections process concerned the Voter Registration Kits (VRKs). At times, some of the VRKs were slow to capture information and others needed to be restarted from time to time, which could be attributed to the hot weather conditions. In this regard, it is important to note that as most of the VRKs have been in use since 2014, they may have reached their product lifespan and therefore need to be replaced. The Commission is committed to improving its electoral operations in order to provide only the best experience for voters and, as such, will continue to improve and innovate its processes and tools to enhance the electoral process.

We are indeed proud of our contribution towards the continued strengthening of constitutional democracy and democratic electoral processes in Namibia. This Performance Assessment and Post-Election Report consists of three chapters. Chapter one reports on the pre-election phase, and it presents a brief synopsis of the place and scope of the Regional Council elections within the Namibian electoral system; Chapter two focuses on the polling day

events; and Chapter three summarises the election challenges, it presents recommendations to redress the identified issues, and draws a conclusion.

Finally, the ECN has once again demonstrated its capability to conduct and execute its mandate by ensuring free, fair, credible, transparent and impartial elections. In this regard, ECN is, once again, pleased to announce another delivery of a near-flawless and credible election to the nation.

Mr Theo Mujoro
Chief Electoral and Referenda Officer
September 2021

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT AND POST-ELECTION REPORT

The Performance Assessment and Post-Election Report for the Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies by-elections is a statutory requirement in terms of Section 116 of the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014). This section obliges the ECN to conduct a performance assessment in respect of any electoral process and to publish a post-election report in respect of the election concerned.

The Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014) is prescriptive of the content of the Performance Assessment and Post-Election Report. The following issues must be covered in the report:

- provisions relating to constitutional and electoral issues;
- systems and logistics, including infrastructure;
- training of staff members or temporary staff members (electoral officials) and their performance;
- voter and civic education;
- voting processes and the analysis of results;
- possible recommendations of amendments to any electoral legislation; and
- any other matter which the Commission may deem necessary.

The Post-Election Performance Assessment Report must be submitted to the National Assembly, which must be carried out by the Chairperson of the Commission within six months after an election.

The Act is explicit with regard to how the Speaker of the National Assembly should deal with the report. It requires that the Speaker causes the National Assembly to discuss and consider the report. The Speaker is further required to refer and distribute the report to the President, the Chief Justice, the Chairperson of the Electoral Court, the Chairperson of the Magistrates Commission, and the Chairperson of the Law Reform and Development Commission. Similarly, the Speaker is required to make the report available for public inspection.

Section 116 of the Act intends to solidify accountability, to build confidence in the electoral process, and to deepen democracy. This document constitutes the performance assessment report for the Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies' by-elections, which were held on the 2nd July 2021 and 25th August 2021, respectively.

CHAPTER ONE: PRE-ELECTION PHASE

This chapter reports on the pre-election phase. It provides a brief synopsis of the place and scope of the Regional Council elections within the Namibian electoral system. It also presents the ECN's state of preparedness for the conduct of these particular by-elections with regard to budgeting, procurement, recruitment and training of electoral officials, civic and voter education, voter registration, the publication of the Provisional Voters' Register, the various stakeholder engagements, and the printing of the ballot papers.

1.1 Legislative Framework

1.1.1 Constitutional Provisions

Regional Council elections are conducted according to the majoritarian (or first-past-the-post) electoral system. According to this system, the candidate with the most votes is declared the winner. In practical terms, this means that the candidate who receives the most votes per constituency will be elected as a member of the Regional Council.

In terms of Article 106(2) of the Namibian Constitution, each constituency shall elect one (1) member to the Regional Council for the region in which it is situated. Article 106(3) provides that elections shall be conducted by secret ballot in accordance of the provisions of an Act of Parliament, and the candidate receiving the most votes in any constituency shall be elected as a member of the Regional Council in that constituency.

1.1.2. Regional Councils Act

The Regional Councils Act (Act No. 22 of 1992) governs the regional government in Namibia. The Act provides for, amongst others, the establishment and constitution of Regional Councils, qualifications of and dates for elections for members of Regional Councils, and meetings of Regional Councils.

In terms of Section 10(3) of the Regional Councils Act, a casual vacancy in a Regional Council shall be filled within three months after it has occurred by holding an election, on a date to be determined by the President by proclamation in the *Gazette*, of a member as contemplated in section 7(2) for the unexpired portion of the period office of the member who has vacated his or her office, unless the period of office of the member who has so vacated his or her office expires during the said period of three months.

A vacancy occurred in the Opuwo Rural Constituency on 4th April 2021 after the death of the sitting Councillor, the late Hon. Uauriua Kakuva. Additionally, a vacancy occurred in the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency on 26th May 2021 after the death of the sitting Councillor, the late Hon. John Muchila Mukaya. According to the Regional Councils Act, if a vacancy occurs in a particular constituency office, the ECN is obligated in terms of the law to conduct a by-election in that particular constituency within 3 months from the date the vacancy occurred.

1.1.3. Electoral Act

In terms of Section 63(2)(b) of the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014), if a casual vacancy occurs in any Regional Council and any vacancy which so occurred is, by virtue of Section 10(3) of the Regional Councils Act, required to be filled by election, a by-election must take place in the constituency in respect of which the vacancy in that council occurred, on a date determined in accordance with that section within the period referred to in that section.

The President, in terms of Section 64(1) of the Electoral Act, upon the recommendation of the Commission, determined the 2nd July and 25th August 2021 as the dates for which a poll for the Opuwo Rural Constituency and the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency by-elections were to be conducted, respectively.

1.2 Budgeting

The preparation for the conduct of the Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies' by-elections required the recruitment, training and deployment of election officials to ensure the successful conduct of the registration and polling processes. The conduct of elections in Namibia is solely supported by funds appropriated through the State Finance Appropriation Act.

The following is a breakdown of the financial expenditure incurred by the Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies' by-elections:

Table 1: Supplementary Registration of Voters and Polling Process expenditure: Opuwo Rural Constituency

Item No.	Description	Type (section coded)	Unit	Total amount
01	Travelling allowance for staff members	Finance	Registration Polling	N\$ 189, 974.00 N\$ 172, 420.00
02	Payment of registration and polling officials (including the Supervisor of Registration and the Returning Officer)	Human Resources	111 Registration Officials 157 Polling Officials	N\$ 367, 127.00 N\$ 402, 056.00
03	Overtime expenses	Finance	Registration Polling	N\$ 98, 375.38 N\$ 124, 177.38

The grand total for the Supplementary Registration of Voters and Polling Process expenditure for the Opuwo Rural Constituency by-election amounts to N\$1 354 129.76.

Table 2: Supplementary Registration of Voters and Polling Process expenditure: Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency

Item No.	Description	Type (section coded)	Unit	Total amount
01	Fuel for vehicles before, during and after the registration process	Transport	14 vehicles (including 1 truck)	N\$ 32,626.00
02	Fuel for the generators	Planning		N\$ 11,564.00
03	Subsistence and travelling allowance	Finance		N\$ 28,482.00
04	Payment of registration officials (including the Supervisor of Registration)	Human Resources	31 people	N\$116,150.00
05	Venue	Planning	1	N\$ 8625.00
06	Overtime expenses	Finance		N\$ 25,602.00
07	Fuel used for vehicles before, during and after the election process	Transport	31 vehicles (including 1 truck and 3 buses)	N\$ 109,195.00
08	Travelling allowance for staff members	Finance	1	N\$ 301,909.00
09	Hiring of Iveco buses and truck	Transport	4 vehicles	N\$ 14,530.00
10	Payment of election officials (including the Returning Officer)	Human Resources	121 people	N\$ 295,985.00
11	Overtime expenses for the registration and the election	Finance		N\$ 183,604.00
12	Venue	Planning	1	N\$ 17,250.00

The grand total for the Supplementary Registration of Voters and Polling Process expenditure for the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency by-election amounts to N\$1,145,522.00.

1.3 Procurement

The Procurement of various items for the by-elections were undertaken in terms of the Public Procurement Act, Act 15 of 2015 and Regulations.

1.4 Recruitment and Training

The ECN successfully recruited a total number of 111 registration officials for the Opuwo Rural Constituency and 31 for the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency. In addition, a total number of 157 and 121 polling officials were recruited for the Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies, respectively.

Section 65(2)(a) of the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014) requires that the Commission ensures that election officials are well trained. In this regard, well-trained registration and election officials result in free, fair and credible elections. Following the conduct of the mandatory legal provisions in ensuring that all election officials are thoroughly trained and tested. The average test score for Katima Mulilo was 83% while Opuwo Rural was 60.48% during after the tests.

In an effort to uphold implemented cost-cutting measures, which includes limiting accommodation expenses, the officials selected to facilitate the by-election processes are typically those who reside in the given constituency. These selected officials are given preference when a temporary vacancy needs to be filled. As such, preference was given to the residents of the Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies.



1.5 Voter and Civic Education

Section 49 of the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014) requires the Commission to conduct voter and civic education for the Namibian citizenry. The Act requires that the Commission must, among others, when supervising, directing, controlling and promoting voter and civic education:

- pursue the objective to make the meaning and purpose of elections well understood by the electorate;
- create public awareness on elections, democracy building and political tolerance;
- develop, revise and update voter and civic education materials on a continuous basis;
- establish regional advisory committees and voter and civic education offices to decentralise the distribution of voter and civic education materials and to increase local participation;
- design a multi-media campaign strategy that identifies information channels;
- encourage civic organisations, the media and political parties to support the voter and civic education program of the Commission, and
- monitor and conduct formative evaluation research to determine the impact of the voter and civic education.

Furthermore, in terms of Section 4(2)(g) of the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014), the ECN is required to establish and maintain liaison and cooperation with political parties, the media and the public. The Act also requires the Commission to promote knowledge of sound democratic electoral processes, and to supervise and control the disclosure and dissemination of information regarding electoral matters and establish and maintain the necessary facilities for collecting and disseminating this information.

To encourage the electorates' engagement with and participation in the electoral processes in order to facilitate the right to vote, as enshrined in the Constitution, the ECN commenced with its Voter and Civic Education campaign for the Opuwo Rural Constituency on 19th April 2021 and for the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency on 29th June 2021.

Specific targeted programmes with customised messaging for different population groups were developed and shared through different platforms such as television, radio, social media, posters, flyers and face to face meetings. Due to the vastness of the Opuwo Rural Constituency, the voter education teams, which normally constitute four teams, were increased to eight teams. In the lead up to the by-elections, the polling timetable was shared on specific radio stations, on different days and at different times in both constituencies.

1.6 Supplementary Registration of Voters

The ECN conducted a Supplementary Registration of Voters (SRV) from 26th-28 April 2021 in the Opuwo Rural Constituency and from 21st-23rd June 2021 in the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency. The SRV aims to register persons who qualify to be registered as voters and could not so have registered during the last Registration of Voters in respect of which that voters' register was prepared.

1.6.1 Provisional Voters Register

The Provisional Voters' Register (PVR) was displayed on 3rd May 2021 for the Opuwo Rural Constituency and on 29 June 2021 for the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency for public scrutiny and objections.

In terms of Section 31 of the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014), the PVR has to be prepared and published in the *Government Gazette* for display to the public to allow for possible objections against the names of persons included on the PVR. There were no objections recorded against the persons listed on the register for any of the by-elections.

1.6.2 Election Materials and Distribution

(i) Supplementary Registration of Voters

The sensitive registration material for the SRV process was dispatched on 19th April 2021 for the Opuwo Rural Constituency and between 16th-18th June 2021 for the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency. The dispatches were carried out under strict security escort by the Namibian Police and placed at the police station within each constituency for safekeeping as per the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) of the ECN.

(ii) Polling process

The sensitive by-election material was dispatched between 19th-20th June 2021 for the Opuwo Rural Constituency and on 19 August 2021 for the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency. Both dispatches were carried out under police escort, as per the institution's Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Until the polling teams were dispatched to their respective venues, the material was placed at the police station within each constituency for safekeeping.

1.6.3 Transport

Sufficient transport for the SRV and the polling process was sourced from the ECN fleet and from government garages. No vehicle shortages were reported. Two vehicles were involved in an accident on 24th April 2021 during the SRV in the Opuwo Rural Constituency. During the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency by-election, an incident where one of the vehicle's tyre had a blow out was reported.

1.6.4 Deployment of Teams

The Opuwo Rural Constituency is a sparsely populated, vast and mountainous area. For this reason, a total of 22 registration teams were established in order to manage 103 mobile stations. Of the 22 registration teams, five were deployed on 24th April 2021 and the remainder were deployed on 25th April 2021. In addition, a total number of 26 polling teams were deployed on 30th June 2021 and 1st July 2021 to their respective polling venues for the elections. This provided the furthest operating teams the opportunity to reach their destinations with sufficient time to prepare their material and equipment for the elections.



As the teams were not required to travel long distances in the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency, the registration teams were deployed on the day of registration, 21st June 2021. For the polling process, a total number of 26 teams were deployed to their respective polling venues on 24th August 2021.

1.6.5 Stakeholder Engagement

During a by-election, one of the Returning Officers' responsibilities is to ensure that all local stakeholders have been consulted and updated to guarantee the transparency, accountability and credibility of the electoral process. This engagement is also important as it garners valuable input from local stakeholders regarding the registration points and polling stations.

Accordingly, the Returning Officers for both constituencies conducted meetings with key stakeholders and political party representatives before the registration and polling processes. Some of the topics covered during these meetings included, amongst others, the registration and polling schedule, voter's education, and awareness regarding the COVID-19 regulations that would be applied to ensure the health and safety of the election officials and the eligible voters.

1.6.6 Printing of Ballot Papers

The ECN invited companies to submit bids for the printing of the ballot papers, as per the guidelines of the Public Procurement Act. The awarding of the bid for the Opuwo Rural Constituency was awarded to Solitaire Press on 7th June 2021. The political parties that contested the elections verified the correctness of the final ballot papers on 11th June 2021; thereafter, the printing commenced.

The bid for printing the ballot papers for the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency was awarded to Solitaire Press. Verification of the final ballot papers was finalised on 12th August 2021 and they were printed on 13th August 2021.



1.7 Nominations

The submission of nominations of candidates for the Opuwo Rural Constituency commenced on 6th May 2021 and was completed on 21st May 2021. With regard to independent candidates, the last day for the submission of nominations was 19th May 2021; and for political parties, the last day for the submission of nominations was 21st May 2021.

The duly nominated candidates are as follows:

1. Opuwo Rural Constituency

Duly Nominated Candidate	Political Party / Independent Candidate
Maundu Heinz Hariki	National Unity Democratic Organisation (NUDO)
Muharukua Western Uakaisiua Melchizedek	Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)
Rikambura Kaiho	Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)
Tjambiru Kazepanda	SWAPO Party of Namibia (SWAPO)
Tjituri Howards Kaihepere	Independent Patriots for Change (IPC)

2. Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency

The submission of nominations of candidates for the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency commenced on 30th June 2021 and was successfully completed on 15th July 2021. With regard to independent candidates, the last day for the submission of nominations was 13th July 2021; and for political parties, the last day for the submission of nominations was 15th July 2021.

The duly nominated candidates are as follows:

Duly Nominated Candidate	Political Party / Independent Candidate
Kubwima Poniso Miller	Independent Candidate (IC)
Malipa Lynnette. M	Independent Patriots for Change (IPC)
Matengu Mweti Marklee	Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)
Nkando Gibson Kabuna	Independent Candidate (IC)
Simasiku Chripher. M	National Democratic Party (NDP)
Simasiku Kennedy. S	SWAPO Party of Namibia (SWAPO)

CHAPTER TWO: ELECTION DAY

This chapter focuses on events that took place on polling day, which includes the opening and closing of polling stations, the performance of the Voter Verification Devices (VVDs), the number of polling stations, and the procedures used in the polling stations. Additionally, it explains the observation of ballot paper security, the counting process, results transmission and the analysis thereof, and, finally, the voter turnout.

2.1 Security Arrangements

The provision of security is one of the most important aspects with regard to the preparations for any electoral process. The conduct of an election involves a substantial amount of sensitive and non-sensitive material that requires strict security and safekeeping at all times. For this reason, the ECN has a standing collaboration with the Namibian Police to ensure that law and order is maintained at all times during the electoral process. Specifically, the security measures included guarding the ballot papers during the printing process, transportation and safekeeping of the ballot papers and the VVDs at the constituency police stations, distribution of the election material, and the maintenance of law and order at the polling stations.

Polling Stations

In terms of Section 89(1)(a) of the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014), the Commission must for the purpose of facilitating the taking of a poll in any election, establish polling stations at convenient places for a constituency or a local authority area. Furthermore, in terms of Section 89(4), as soon as practicable after the establishment of polling stations, the Chief Electoral Officer must make known by notice in the Gazette the location of every polling station.

The following number of polling stations were established for the Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies

Constituency	Fixed Polling Station	Mobile stations	Total
Opuwo Rural	8	18	26
Katima Mulilo Urban	15	11	26

2.2 Voting Day

The Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies' by-elections were held on 2nd July 2021 and 25th August 2021, respectively. All polling stations opened at 07h00 and closed at 21h00, as prescribed by the Electoral Act. Manual ballot papers were used with no setbacks and all logistical preparations were in order. On polling day, the teams executed their duties as expected. The Returning Officers were in constant communication with the teams (in the Opuwo Rural Constituency, communication was maintained when in network coverage areas), and they physically visited some of the teams within reach to observe and provide assistance where needed.

2.2.1 Voter Verification Devices

Voter Verification Devices (VVDs) serve to verify and authenticate all eligible voters before allowing them to cast their votes. The final voters' register for the Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies were loaded onto all of the verification devices. The VVD operators were accorded the appropriate training.



2.3 Counting and Announcement of Results

As soon as the polling stations closed at 21h00, the counting of the votes commenced, as required by the Electoral Act. The results for all of the fixed and mobile polling stations were announced and displayed by the presiding officer at the polling stations in the prescribed manner. Thereafter, the teams travelled to the collation centres where the preliminary results were preliminarily announced by the Returning Officers for each respective constituency. Once the statistics were collated and signed off by the Verification Agents, the by-election constituency results were announced and then displayed at the venue doors. The final election results were certified and announced by the Chairperson of the Commission in the Government Gazette No. 7599 dated 11th August 2021 for Opuwo Rural and Gazette No. 7650 dated 4th October 2021 for Katima Mulilo Urban.



2.4 Analysis of Results

The Opuwo Rural and Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies' by-elections were successfully conducted on 2nd July and 25th August 2021, respectively, and their results were announced by midnight. The results constitute the following:

Opuwo Rural Constituency

Total votes counted: **3451**

Rejected ballots: **18**

Full Names of Candidates (in alphabetical order)	Name of Political Party	Votes Recorded for Each Candidate
Maundu Heinz Hariki	National Unity Democratic Organisation (NUDO)	414
Muharukua Western Uakaisiua Melchizedek	Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)	2330
Rikambura Kaiho	Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)	141
Tjambiru Kazepanda	SWAPO Party of Namibia (SWAPO)	486
Tjituri Howards Kaihepere	Independent Patriots for Change (IPC)	80

Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency

Total votes counted: **3002**

Rejected ballots: **6**

Full Names of Candidates (in alphabetical order)	Name of Political Party	Votes Recorded for Each Candidate
Kubwima Poniso Miller	Independent Candidate (IC)	156
Malipa Lynnette. M	Independent Patriots for Change (IPC)	296
Matengu Mwetli Marklee	Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)	294
Nkando Gibson Kabuna	Independent Candidate (IC)	417
Simasiku Chripher. M	National Democratic Party (NDP)	282
Simasiku Kennedy. S	SWAPO Party of Namibia (SWAPO)	1557

The by-elections were conducted in a calm and peaceful manner, and no incidences were recorded.

Mr Muharukua Western Uakaisiua Melchizedek was declared duly elected for the Opuwo Rural Constituency. The total number of registered voters for the Opuwo Rural Constituency by-election was 8194; a total voter turnout of 42%.

Mr Simasiku Kennedy Simasiku was declared duly elected for the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency. The total number of registered voters for the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency by-election was 14 241; a total voter turnout of 21%.

The COVID-19 regulations as well as the ECN's COVID-19 Mitigation Strategy was appropriately enforced during the polling process.

CHAPTER THREE:

ELECTION CHALLENGES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

3.1 Election Challenges and Recommendations

Although the Supplementary Registration of Voters and polling process went well and according to plan, a number of minor administrative and logistical issues were experienced.

The following table presents the challenges and recommendations experienced during the Opuwo Rural and the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituencies' by-elections:

Activity	Challenges	Recommendations
Registration of Voters	Some of the Voter Registration Kits (VRKs) constantly shut down in mid-registration and had to be regularly restarted. This challenge could be attributed to the high temperatures experienced as well as the VRKs having reached their product lifespans.	The VRKs could be updated and upgraded to a much faster processor in order to boost performance.
	Some of the VRKs were unable to operationalise duplicates and change of address; as a result, the applicants were registered anew. This challenge is attributed to the VRKs not having been updated.	To ensure optimum operation of the VRKs, training that includes basic troubleshooting skills needs to be considered.
Generators	Some generators experienced various technical problems such as starting malfunction and shutting down while running; as a result, they had to be replaced.	Each team should include one or two identified generator operators, who should be fully trained on how to operate a generator. All generators should be thoroughly serviced according to a standard service interval.
Budget	The Commission was provided funds for the conduct of one by-election hence it had to utilise funds which were earmarked for other activities.	MoF should be engaged to ensure sufficient funds are released for the conduct of any given election.
Transport	ECN currently operates on a minimal fleet of transport. Most of the vehicles accessories such as tyres are in dire need of replacement.	It is recommended that all fleet be maintained to avoid hampering of election activities particularly the conduct of a by-election.

3.2 Conclusion

The ECN is committed to strengthening electoral democracy in Namibia through the execution of its mandate in a free, fair, credible and transparent manner. The Commission extends its thanks to all the polling officials, the political party agents, and the Namibian Police for their dedication and their professionalism in overseeing and ensuring a credible polling process. Equally, the ECN would like to thank all the voters who, amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, came to the polling stations to cast their votes.

NOTES

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 horizontal blue lines spaced evenly across the page, typical of notebook paper. The lines are thin and light blue, set against a plain white background. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

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