



**Electoral Commission of Namibia**

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION  
(ECN) OF NAMIBIA, MRS. ELSIE NGHIKEMBUA, AT THE OCCASION OF A  
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON THE 2022/2027 ECN DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN**

*Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022*

**Fellow Commissioners**

**The Chief Electoral and Referenda Officer**

**Distinguished Leaders of Political Parties and Organizations present**

**Distinguished Members of Civil Society Organizations**

**Esteemed Members of the Media**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good morning,

It is my great pleasure and honour to formally welcome you to this Electoral Stakeholders' engagement.

This session is the first major activity in our plan of action for the New Year, and will culminate in the finalization of the Commission's new Strategic Plan for the period 2022-2027.

From the 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> of October 2021, the Electoral Commission undertook a Strategic retreat to review its key strategic priorities in preparation for the 2024 General Registration of Voters (GRV), the Presidential and National Assembly elections, and the 2025 Regional Councils and Local Authority elections.

Following the retreat, a new draft Strategic Plan was developed for the Electoral Commission of Namibia, and was subsequently shared with all our key stakeholders on Monday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2022.

This draft Strategic Plan lays out the path that will guide the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) for the next five (5) years as we build on the success of the 2019/2020 national elections, and continue to improve our electoral processes. We are excited about the transformational journey that we have started and look forward to the opportunities that lie ahead.

The next five years will be guided by specific objectives and priorities that support our vision, mission and values. At the same time, the Namibian electorate can continue to rely on us to conduct elections in an efficient, fair and impartial manner, providing professional, non-partisan services in keeping with established democratic principles.

To achieve our vision, we will focus on optimizing our operations, developing our staff whilst improving the delivery of elections.

Our strategic priorities or key focus areas for the 2022-2027 strategic plan comprise of the following areas:

- 1. Legislative Amendments to the Electoral Act (Act No 5 of 2014)**
- 2. Institutional Independence to enhance operational efficiency**
- 3. Good Corporate Governance**
- 4. Improved Electoral Management Processes**
- 5. Effective Institutional Planning**
- 6. Effective Public Outreach Programmes**
- 7. Effective Administration and Communication**
- 8. Digital Innovation**
- 9. Research and Publications**
- 10. Security Management**
- 11. Data Protection**

In establishing these priorities, we understand our responsibilities and the trust that Namibians have placed in us, and we will continue to respond to the changing needs and expectations of our stakeholders while ensuring that our processes foster inclusiveness.

We are committed to providing the electorate with opportunities to exercise their right to vote independently and in confidence.

This session has therefore brought us together as key players in the electoral process and is aimed at soliciting your recommendations on how the ECN should operate in order to create value and improve the administration of elections for the next five years. We are aware that decision-makers should have access to information about factors that influence organizational goals, objectives and develop plans based on this information. As stakeholders in the electoral process, many of you make decisions that affect the democratic process, hence we are obliged to give you information that will enable you to assist us with planning for the future.

The Commission considers inputs from stakeholders as critical and relevant to the implementation of this Plan and, by extension, the sustenance of our democratic culture. For today's meeting, we will provide you with insights into the strategic objectives or focus areas, the challenges encountered, what was achieved and what we set out to do.

Furthermore, through active participation and frank discussion, I do expect that we will respect each other's opinions and viewpoints. It is difficult to have absolute agreement on all issues, but we can make the greatest effort in trying to ensure that key concerns and important suggestions are documented and considered. I do hope that by the end of this session we would have gathered views, concerns and practical recommendations from different stakeholder groups present today.

I wish to emphasise that transparency is the principle of any election management body that strives towards credibility. Elections are a collective, and all-inclusive participatory process, and therefore, every single societal structure must have a stake in realizing the intended outcome of the process. The involvement of stakeholders, such as yourselves, will certainly allow and help the ECN to meticulously accomplish its mandate.

In conclusion, ladies and gentlemen, as a Commission, we wish to assure you that the work you will produce today will not be in vain. The Commission appreciates your

recommendations or inputs for the way forward in charting the course of the ECN for the next five (5) years.

In light of the above, we thank you for the cordial working relationship, and your role as guardians of, and contributors to, the electoral process.

I thank you all for responding to our invitation and we look forward to constructive, active and fruitful deliberations.

**I THANK YOU.**

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