



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY

HONOURABLE PROF. PETER H. KATJAVIVI, MP

SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

AT THE LAUNCH

OF THE

ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA (ECN)

STRATEGIC PLAN 2022/2023 - 2026/2027

MONDAY, 27 JUNE 2022

**SAFARI HOTEL & CONFERENCE
CENTRE
WINDHOEK
KHOMAS REGION**

Check Against Delivery

**Director of Ceremonies,
Mrs. Elsie Nghikembua, Chairperson of the Electoral
Commission and other Commissioners present,
Mr. Theo Mujoro, the Chief Electoral and Referenda Officer,
Leaders of Political Parties present,
Executive Directors from various OMA's,
Members of the Civil Society Organizations,
Staff Members of ECN,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am honored to have been invited to officiate at the official launch of the 2022/2023 – 2026/2027 Strategic Plan of the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN).

The launching of this Strategic Plan, we are gathered to witness this morning, defines the strategic direction that the ECN will embark on for the next five years. It is gratifying to note that the ECN involved its stakeholders in the crafting and drafting of this Strategic Plan, thereby taking into consideration the concerns, contributions and expectations of various stakeholders, this ensured that the final document is the product of a collective and consultative process.

Director of Ceremonies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In terms of Article 94B of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia, the ECN is established as a constitutional body, exclusively mandated to direct, supervise, manage and control the conduct of elections and referenda, subject to the Constitution, and an Act of Parliament. The Electoral Act, Act No. 5 of 2014, further required the ECN to conduct abovementioned functions in a free, fair, independent, credible, transparent and impartial manner. This Act, also further obliges the ECN to strengthen constitutional democracy and to promote democratic electoral and referenda processes.

The ECN has since 1992 conducted six (6) credible Regional Council and Local Authority Elections and six (6) Presidential and National Assembly Elections as well as several by-elections throughout the years. Although there were challenges here and there, this bears testimony to the Commission's commitment to ensure transparent, credible, and accountable electoral processes.

The ECN through the years, had to ensure that it regularly assesses and adjust its operational direction in response to the changing environment. Organizing elections is an extremely

complex and challenging process. Therefore, it is essential that the institution develop a strategic direction to guide its operations for a given period of time and ensuring that the functionality and the performance of the institution is properly guided.

This morning, I am pleased to be part of the launching the ECN's five-year Strategic Plan for 2022/2023-2026/2027, which defines the Commission's strategic agenda and roadmap. This Strategic Plan defines the goals the ECN want to achieve over the next five years, the actions to be undertaken to achieve them, and how the ECN will measure progress. I am informed that the defined strategic actions contained in this Strategic Plan flow from, amongst others, the Commission's 2016/2017-2021/2022 strategic plan and build on the lessons learnt from the 2019/2020 National Elections as well as subsequent by-elections.

Director of Ceremonies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The development of this Strategic Plan afforded ECN an opportunity for introspection into its purpose, mandate, and responsibility. The successful accomplishment of any task, requires a comprehensive and well-designed plan. Elections are

no exception! It is encouraging to note that the ECN aligned its Strategic Plan to the high-level initiatives of the Government of the Republic of Namibia such as, the Vision 2030, the National Development Plan (NDP 5), the Harambee Prosperity Plan (HPP) II and the National Decentralization Policy.

Our elections are benchmarked to meet international and regional standards, norms and principles. I am confident that this Strategic Plan will help the Commission to manage electoral processes better, plan for change in a systematic approach, adapt processes based on new information and foster better communication within and outside the Commission.

Director of Ceremonies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Effective governance is important in providing transparent and accountable management and oversight of any entity. The Commission's role within the Namibia's democratic system means that it must uphold the highest standards of ethics and governance. This translates into accountability for management of resources and successful delivery on the ECN's mandate. Corporate governance is the most dominant mechanism that

aligns the interest of various stakeholders, thereby enhancing the ECN's operations and success in the long term.

Executing the strategies and achieving goals as contained in this plan, will depend on the strategic foundation of the Commission, its leadership commitment, interactive communications with stakeholders and strong adherence to core values. I wish to assure you that, the ECN is committed to successfully implementing this plan. However, they alone cannot realize the desired goals or results without the full participation and support of each and every stakeholder. I therefore, appeal to all stakeholders, let's work together as collective towards ensuring that ECN with our involvement achieve the objectives as contain in this Strategic Plan.

Director of Proceedings,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is now my distinct honor, to declare officially launched the 2022/2023 – 2026/2027 Strategic Plan of the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

I thank you.