



Electoral Commission of Namibia

**DRAFT OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ELECTORAL
COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA, MRS. ELSIE NGHIKEMBUA, AT THE OCCASION OF THE
2022/2023 – 2026/2027 ECN STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH**

Monday, 27th June 2022

Safari Hotel & Conference Center

Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly, Prof. Peter Katjavivi;

Fellow Commissioners;

Mr. Theo Mujoro, the Chief Electoral and Referenda Officer;

Distinguished Leaders of Political Parties and Organizations present;

Executive Directors from other Government Ministries, Offices and Agencies;

Esteemed Members representing Civil Society Organizations;

Electoral Commission Staff Members present;

Esteemed Members of the Media;

Distinguished Guests & Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning to you all;

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you and to extend to all of you, on behalf of the Electoral Commission of Namibia, our deepest appreciation for joining us at this important event where the Electoral Commission is about to launch its Strategic Plan for the next five (5) years.

From the onset, I would like to acknowledge your participation and the excellent support that we received from our stakeholders during the development process of our Strategic Plan. By putting aside your other priorities and accepting our invitation to participate in the launch of this Strategic Plan, you demonstrated, once again, your willingness to contribute meaningfully and to participate in our electoral democracy.

In terms of Section 2 (3) of the Electoral Act, Act No 5 of 2014, the Electoral Commission reports to the National Assembly. In this connection, I wish to extend a special word of gratitude to the Honorable Speaker for consenting to grace this event as well to launch the ECN's new Strategic Plan.

In the course of organising and conducting electoral activities over the years, the Electoral Commission has come to appreciate the strong relationship between Strategic Planning and improved organisational performance in the conduct of elections.

Since its inception about a year ago, the new Commission has already achieved many important institutional milestones which include the implementation of a robust performance management system that is based on the new Strategic Plan developed for next 5 years.

Throughout the development process, we have carefully listened to your comments and guidance and considered them to the extent possible, as we reworked the Plan. We believe that our Strategic Plan strikes a good balance between your priorities, both what we have heard from you as different stakeholders and the existing challenges that we observed in our electoral processes. The Commission is proud to be launching a focused and streamlined Strategic Plan whose Strategic Pillars and Objectives were arrived at through a rigorous process that involved extensive stakeholder inputs obtained through frank discussions.

Distinguished Ladies & Gentlemen,

The Key Goals as outlined in our Strategic Plan include the following:

- Delivering a modern electoral system in Namibia through an effective legal framework, Institutional independence and good governance.
- Managing a modern electoral body through enhanced electoral management processes, continuous public outreach programmes through civic and voter education, effective communication with all stakeholders and information sharing.
- Delivering digitally innovative electoral processes with secure data systems through digital innovation as well as security and risk management.

The implementation period of the new Strategic Plan coincides with major national electoral activities that the ECN will be focusing on, which include, the:

- 2024 General Registration of Voters (GRV)
- Management and delivery of the 2024 Presidential and National Assembly Elections, the 2025 Regional Councils & Local Authorities Elections and delivery of by-elections should the need arise.

Distinguished Ladies & Gentlemen,

The new Strategic Plan will serve as a reference tool for consultations amongst stakeholders to keep working towards common goals. Accordingly, the ECN will engage and communicate with clarity and transparency to ensure that all our stakeholders are well informed and well educated on issues of our democracy.

The ECN commits itself to ensuring that the strategic priority areas in the Plan are attained in a transparent, accountable and impartial manner and that key partners are

part of this process. Hence, the objectives of this Strategic Plan clearly articulates priority areas in the Electoral Cycle aimed at improving operational efficiency, stakeholder awareness and participation by seeking to build on the positive reforms and innovations introduced in the last general elections.

The key objectives of this Launch are thus to:

1. Develop a common understanding of the ECN's Strategic priorities for the next five years.
2. Build awareness, trust and confidence in the capacity of the ECN to manage electoral processes with credibility.
3. Improved understanding of the role of the ECNs programmes and activities.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Organising and conducting Elections is an expensive exercise and the Strategic Plan is, therefore, designed to enable phased funding of key election activities, which will reduce funding pressure on Government and enable the Commission to conduct the elections in a smooth manner. The Strategy aims to enhance the implementation of the plan through strengthening and maximizing synergies amongst the stakeholders to achieve efficiency in resource utilisation, as there is need for a clear and strong electoral and constitutional legal framework to enhance transparency and accountability of the electoral process in the promotion of credible electoral democracy. It therefore emphasises the need to have a well-coordinated and strategic partnership with other arms of government such as the legislature and the judiciary, development partners, civil society organisations, and non-state actors since the implementation of this plan is a shared responsibility.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

I cannot overemphasise the fact that the successful implementation of this Strategic Plan will depend on collaboration and building of synergies amongst stakeholders in order to meet the deliverables of this 5-year Plan.

Conclusively, I want to take this opportunity to underscore the Commission's unwavering commitment and support to the strategy implementation, as we commence with the implementation of our strategic programmes and objectives focusing on transforming our democracy during this very interesting period in the electoral history of our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On this note, I once again welcome you to the launch of the ECN Strategic Plan. It is now my distinct honor to invite to the podium, the Honorable Speaker of the National Assembly for the keynote address and launch of the Strategic Plan.

THANK YOU.