



## Electoral Commission of Namibia

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

*(for immediate release)*

**23<sup>rd</sup> February 2023**

### **KEETMANSHOOP RURAL CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION**

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) herewith wish to inform the electorate and the Namibian nation at large that a vacancy occurred in the Keetmanshoop Rural Constituency on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 following the expulsion of the former Hon. Councillor, Mr. Gerrit Witbooi. In terms of Section 10(3) of the Regional Councils Act, a vacancy should be filled within a period of (90) ninety days. In this case, the vacancy in question is to be filled on or before the **15<sup>th</sup> of May 2023**, which is determined as the Election Day.

As the exclusive authority responsible for the conduct of all electoral and referenda processes in terms of the Electoral Act, Act No. 5 of 2014, the ECN, on learning of the vacancy in the Keetmanshoop Rural Constituency, has taken certain steps in line with its statutory obligations in preparation for the conduct of the requisite electoral activities.

As per the norm, the ECN developed an electoral calendar in preparation for the Keetmanshoop Rural Constituency by-election. In accordance with the electoral calendar, the key activities are reflected as follows:

### **SUPPLEMENTARY REGISTRATION OF VOTERS (SRV)**

The SRV exercise for the Keetmanshoop Rural Constituency by-election will take place from the **07<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2023**. The purpose of an SRV before holding of an election is to include

in the voter's register, persons who have since turned 18 years of age after the last registration; persons who have moved from one constituency to another; or persons whose voter registration cards are reported lost or damaged; and any other applicant who qualifies for registration in terms of section 22(1) of the Electoral Act. The current voter's register for the Keetmanshoop Rural Constituency stands at 6224 registered voters.

## **RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING OF REGISTRATION OFFICIALS AND LOGISTICAL PREPARATIONS**

The training of the registration officials will take place from the **01<sup>st</sup> to the 05<sup>th</sup> of March 2023**. The Electoral Act provides for the training of election officials, in order to ensure well trained registration and election officials in the execution of their duties.

The sensitive registration materials for the Supplementary Registration of Voters (SRV) process will be dispatched during the period **03<sup>rd</sup> to the 04<sup>th</sup> of March 2023** under strict security escort of the Namibian police. The registration teams will be deployed on Monday, 06<sup>th</sup> of March 2023, to their various duty stations to ensure logistical arrangements at registration points are arranged in advance before the process commences.

## **VOTER AND CIVIC EDUCATION**

The ECN commenced with its Voter and Civic Education campaign for the SRV from the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 2023 to encourage the electorates to register to vote. Specific targeted programs with customized messaging for the different population groups will be developed. Face to face voter education sessions will be conducted and Information Education and Communication (IEC) materials on the registration process would be distributed in the Constituency. Voter information on the registration process will also be circulated on various local radio stations as well as the ECN social media platforms and website. The ECN will launch a multimedia campaign to ensure that all affected areas and stakeholders are well informed about the by-election.

The Supervisor of Registration for the Constituency Ms. Rosalin Y. Keramen can be reached at 0816304779 for any queries related to the registration process for the Keetmanshoop Rural Constituency.

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**Issued by:**



Theo Mujoro

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