



## Electoral Commission of Namibia

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### **MEDIA RELEASE**

*(for immediate release)*

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

### **STATE OF PREPAREDNESS TO CONDUCT THE OKAKU CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION**

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) is pleased to inform the Namibian public and the electorate that the preparations for the Okaku Constituency by-election are on course. The by-election is scheduled to take place on **17<sup>th</sup> of March 2023**.

A vacancy occurred following the untimely passing on of Honorable Gerson Hannu Kapenda, former Councillor for Okaku Constituency on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022. In terms of 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 90 days from the date the vacancy has occurred.

The ECN conducted the Supplementary Registration of Voters (SRV) in the Constituency from the **10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> of January 2023**. The final voters register was made available on the **13<sup>th</sup> of February 2023** with **10 920** total registered voters for the Okaku Constituency.

#### **Nominated Candidates**

The nomination of candidates was concluded on the **04<sup>th</sup> of February 2023**. Below are the names of candidates that have been duly nominated:

<b>Duly Nominated Candidate</b>	<b>Political Party/Organisation/Independent candidate</b>
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FILLIPUS DAVID TAUKONDJELE	SWAPO PARTY OF NAMIBIA ( <b>SWAPO PARTY</b> )
HAUFIKU JASON NGHINOMENWA	POPULAR DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT ( <b>PDM</b> )
JAKOB SAKARIA	INDEPENDENT PATRIOTS FOR CHANGE ( <b>IPC</b> )
NAMBAMBI TOMAS NATANGWE	NAMIBIA ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS ( <b>NEFF</b> )

### **Voter Education**

The voter education campaign for the Okaku Constituency to educate residents on the importance of casting their votes amongst other electoral matters, commenced on **06<sup>th</sup> February 2023** and will be concluded on the **16<sup>th</sup> of March 2023**. Face to face, digital media, posters and radio are currently some of the media employed to ensure the ECN reaches the electorate in the constituency.

### **Printing of Ballot papers**

The ECN had completed the bidding process for the printing of ballot papers in terms of the provisions of the Public Procurement Act No.15 of 2015. The bid was awarded to Solitaire Press. The verification of the Sample Ballot Papers by authorized representatives of the political parties will be conducted on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2023. The printing of Final Ballot Papers has been scheduled to take place on the **02<sup>nd</sup> of March 2023** followed by packing process scheduled to take place on the **03<sup>rd</sup> of March 2023**.

### **Dispatch of sensitive election materials**

All sensitive materials for the Okaku Constituency by-election will be dispatched on the **13<sup>th</sup> March 2023** under strict security and escort of the Namibian Police. The materials will be placed under safekeeping and custody at a police station within the Constituency.

### **Training of polling officials, police officers and election agents**

A total number of **90** polling officials have been recruited to make up **18 Teams, 15 Fixed** and **3 Mobile Teams** for the conduct of the by-election. The training of election agents and police officers will be conducted during the **09<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2023**, while training of polling officials will be conducted between the **11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> of March 2023** at the Ondangwa Town Hotel. The ECN



is obliged, in terms of Section 65(2)(a) read together with Section 69 of the Electoral Act, to provide training to election officials and all other stakeholders to ensure credible elections.

### **Deployment of teams**

Eighteen (18) teams will be deployed on **16<sup>th</sup> of March 2023** for the commencement of the polls on the **17<sup>th</sup> of March 2023**

### **Coordination of polling process within the Constituency**

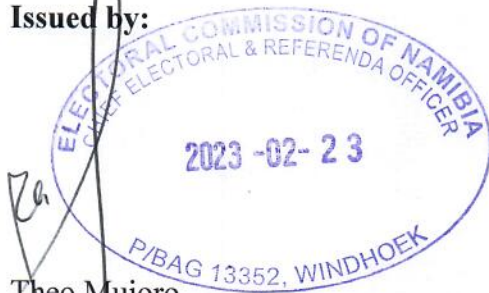
The Returning Officer for the Okaku Constituency by-election, Mr. Naftal Shipanga can be reached at **+264 081204792** for any queries related to the polling activities for this Constituency by-election.

Finally, the Commission encourages all voters to go out in numbers to exercise their democratic right and **VOTE on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March 2023**

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Issued by:



Theo Mujoro

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