



MEDIA STATEMENT
(for immediate release)

27 February 2024

Attention: News Editors
All Media Houses

**DEREGISTRATION OF REGISTERED POLITICAL PARTIES AND
ASSOCIATIONS/ORGANISATIONS**

In terms of section 135(2)(a) of the Electoral Act, 5 of 2014, as amended, the principle object of any registered political party must be to participate in and promote elections under the Electoral Act. This includes the nomination of persons as candidates for elections, the canvassing -for votes for a candidate at that election and the devotion of any of its funds or any part thereof to the election expenses of any candidate taking part in an election.

Furthermore, section 152(b) of the Electoral Act provides for one of the instances where the Commission is given the prerogative to cancel the registration of a political party, i.e. if, in the opinion of the Commission, any registered political party has at any time after its registration failed to participate in and promote elections as contemplated in section 135(2)(a); or any registered political party or registered organisation no longer functions or no longer intends to be registered as a political party or an organisation or to take part in elections.

Section 152(d) of the Electoral Act also states that if a registered political party contravenes or fails to comply with section 141, the Commission can deregister such a political party. Section 141 provides for the disclosure of foreign or domestic financing by registered political parties.

Lastly, section 152(f) provides that the Commission may cancel the registration of a political party if the party or office bearer of the party persists, in the opinion of the Commission to contravene the Electoral Act.

Section 152 of the Act then provides that the Commission may cancel the registration of the political party after the political party or authorised representative was given an opportunity to be heard.

The Electoral Commission of Namibia noticed with concern that correspondence regarding compliance with sections 139, 140 and 141 of the Electoral Act to the Democratic Coalition of Namibia Party (DCN); Federal Convention of Namibia Party (FCN) and Namibia Democratic Movement for Change Party (Namibia-DMC), was not replied to or complied with. Furthermore, it was also noticed that the abovementioned parties were not participating in elections, or were not functioning, as per the requirement of the Electoral Act. The last time some of these parties participated in elections was in 2004.

As a result, and due to the fact that the authorized representatives, as appearing on ECN register of political parties and associations/organization, were not reachable on the telephone numbers and addresses provided to ECN, a notice was placed in local newspapers, calling on the authorized representatives of the respective parties to contact the Electoral Commission, and to be heard, before a decision was taken regarding deregistration. It should also be noted that it is a requirement of the Electoral Act that should a registered political party changes its authorized representative, the Electoral Commission should be informed in writing of such a change.

None of the authorized representatives appearing on the ECN register of political parties and associations/organizations contacted ECN and neither were any changes communicated to Commission. As a result, the Commission took a decision to deregister these specific political parties and associations/organizations as provided for by the Electoral Act.

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