



Overview of 2024 Electoral Calendar and Service Charter

By

**Peter Shaama
Chief Electoral Officer**

**At the Occasion of the launch of the ECN Electoral Calendar and Democracy
Awareness Campaign**

Thursday

07 March 2024

Mercure Hotel

WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

Programme Director, Commissioner Evaristus Evaristus

Hon. Erastus Uutoni, Minister of Urban and Rural Development

Dr Elsie Nghikembua, Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Namibia

Allow me to standby the protocols already established

Good Morning,

Within the context of our legal framework in Namibia, as you may all agree with me; it requires four years to prepare for scheduled National Elections (i.e. *Presidential & National Assembly and Regional Council & Local Authority*). As a result, the Commission embarked upon an electoral review process in preparation for the 2024 National Elections) following the conduct of 2019 *Presidential & National Assembly and 2020 Regional Council & Local Authority* Elections, that culminated, *amongst others*, in the following:

- a) **Review, development and adoption of 2024 Electoral Calendar (EC).**
- b) **Review, development and adoption of Service Charter (SC)**

ECN adopted an EC which is aligned to internationally recognised Electoral Cycle Framework providing administrative and operational framework how to plan and prepare for the conduct of any election including .by-election or scheduled elections. The EC being launched today outlines **Key Electoral Projects, Key Electoral Activities and Timelines** towards the conduct of any election, 2024 GRV and PNA Elections inclusive. Some **electoral activities** and **timelines** are statutory while others are administrative, and they are all interdependent.

Significance of Electoral Calendar

- a) The EC serves as a **Roadmap** to assist the Commission in planning and executing its electoral related activities for any election.
- b) The EC also serves as a **yardstick** that the Commission uses to measure progress of the set electoral activities in the build-up to and post an election.
- c) EC is premised on three Phases (**Pillars**), namely; **Pre-Election Phase, Election Phase and Post-Election Phase**. The EC outlines all *key milestones and activities* to be carried out under each of these phases as well as *Timelines* leading up to, during elections and post-elections

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now allow me to focus on the Premises of Electoral Calendar

Pre-Election Phase: This is the first phase of the EC which takes into account all requisite electoral projects and activities in the build-up to the election day. The phase serves as foundation for preparing for any election. The phase sets a tone of the level of preparedness in conducting any *registration of voters and polling*.

The key electoral activities covered under this phase include, *amongst others*, the following:

- a) **Legal Framework, Reform and Compliance**
- b) **Stakeholders Engagement**
- c) **Enhancement of Elections Management Systems**
- d) **Recruitment and Training**
- e) **Election Result Management, Political Party Registration and Nomination of Candidates
Software Interfacing**
- f) **Voter and Civic Education**
- g) **Registration of Voters (General Registration of Voters) (*Local & Abroad*)**

Election Phase: This is the second and critical phase of the EC aimed at ensuring timely delivery of election results. The phase outlines key electoral activities in the build-up to the polls which include, *amongst others*, the following:

- a) **Observer & Media Accreditation.**
- b) **Nomination of Independent Candidate (*If Any*),**
- c) **Nomination of Political Party Candidates – Public Sitting by the Commission.**
- d) **Design, printing and delivery of Ballot Papers.**
- e) **Dispatch of sensitive and non-sensitive electoral materials (*Local & Abroad*).**
- f) **Issuance of Duplicate Voter Registration Cards.**
- g) **Voting (*Local & Abroad*).**
- h) **Counting of votes, announcement of preliminary election results.**
- i) **Final verification, collation and announcement of national election results.**

Post-Election Phase: This is the last phase of the EC aimed at reviewing the entire electoral process from *registration to polling* including *voter and civic education* and eventually delivering performance and post-election report. The phase serves as a foundation for the next round of the Electoral Cycle in the build-up to the next scheduled national elections (*e.g. RCA Elections*). The key electoral activities covered under this phase include, *amongst others*, the following:

- a) **Electoral Process Assessment**
- b) **Performance assessment and post-election review**
- c) **Compilation of Performance Assessment and Post-Election Report**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I am about to conclude, please allow me to give highlights of the significance of our **Service Charter** which also forms part of the launch today.

Justification: The Electoral Commission of Namibia has developed a Service Charter to enhance service delivery.

Purpose: The Charter aims to reaffirm our commitment, as a Commission, towards delivering our mandate through providing quality services to our stakeholders and the general public.

The Charter informs our desire, as a Commission, to align our corporate values towards a result-driven institution in a distinctive manner, set standards and the delivery of expected services realistically within the budget and time based on efficiency and effectiveness.

Our Service Promise: The Charter is aimed at providing high quality services responsive, accessible, impartial, transparent and consistent. The Charter also strive Deliver customer service guided by our values and delivered with our customers' needs at heart, our *stakeholders*.

Thank you