



PRESS RELEASE
(For immediate release)

19 May 2024

Attention: All Media Houses

**RESPONSE TO THE NAMIBIAN NEWSPAPER ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON
17 MAY 2024, ON “WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2019 ELECTIONS”**

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) takes the findings and recommendations of the Namibian Newspaper Fact Check Report published on the 17th of May 2024 seriously. As the only body with exclusive authority to direct, supervise, control and manage the electoral processes in Namibia, we acknowledge the importance of addressing mis-/disinformation in the lead-up to the elections.

The Commission is fully aware of the potential impact that mis-/disinformation can have on the electoral landscape. Therefore, we are committed to promoting transparency and trust in the electoral process and ensuring that all Namibian citizens have access to accurate and reliable information.

In response to the recommendations put forth in the report, we wish to inform the electorate and public at large that the Commission has already commenced with a review of the current code of conduct for registered political parties and organisations/associations. During a regular consultative engagement, the Commission shared the draft code of conduct with registered political parties and organisations/associations to solicit inputs before it is adopted. The draft code of conduct aims, amongst others, to address the provision and dissemination of accurate information thereby avoiding mis-/disinformation during election campaigns. The Commission implores all stakeholders to work together towards upholding the integrity of the electoral process and prevent the spread of mis-/disinformation.

As we approach the presidential and parliamentary elections on the 27th of November 2024, the Commission is urging all Namibian citizens to critically evaluate information, verify sources, and engage in responsible civic participation. Together, we can create an environment that is conducive to free, fair and peaceful elections.

End

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