



MEDIA RELEASE
(for immediate release)

27 June 2024

Attention: All Media Houses

DEREGISTRATION OF THE NEFF, CDV AND DPN AS POLITICAL PARTIES

- 1 The Commission issues this statement to confirm that it has, in terms of section 152 (f), read with 153 of the Electoral Act 5 of 2014 (“The Act”), as amended, deregistered the:
 - a) Christian Democratic Voice Party (CDV),
 - b) Democratic Party of Namibia (DPN), and
 - c) Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF) as political parties and removed their names from the Commission’s Political Parties and Organisations/Associations’ Register.
2. The deregistration of the said political parties follows a thorough assessment of the compliance in terms of sections 140 and 158 of the Act respectively and a consequent finding of non-compliance by the said parties, which constitutes a contravention of the Electoral Act.
3. Equally so, the Commission issues this statement to clarify a number of incorrect assertions and misconceptions.
4. From the onset, we wish to record that the Commission has in its resolve of creating awareness on the compliance obligations and requirements engaged **all** political parties and highlighted the relevant provisions requiring compliance, and the consequences associated with non-compliance. The provisions in question are section 140 which provides for the keeping of records and conducting of an audit of registered political parties, and section 158 which requires political parties represented in Parliament to account for the Funds allocated to them. The engagements referred to date back to 2019, when the Commission published Regulations simplifying the application of:
 - 4.1 section 139, which provides for the declaration of assets and liabilities of the registered political parties and organizations/associations, and
 - 4.2 section 141, which provides for the disclosure of foreign and domestic financing of political parties, organizations or other persons.
5. These are peremptory provisions demanding compliance from and by all registered political parties and organizations. Despite the Commission's efforts of engagement as enumerated above, the Commission’s requests for submissions by political parties and organizations, and subsequent reminders remained unheeded. The Commission continued with its efforts from November 2020, and in November 2021 the Commission addressed correspondence to all authorised representatives of registered political parties directing a compliance deadline of **31 March 2022**. Following a poor compliance response by the political parties, the Commission resolved to conduct a workshop which was held in September 2022. The workshop was aimed at reinforcing the understanding of political parties and organisations on the importance of compliance. Following this workshop, the Commission extended the compliance deadline to **31 August 2022**, however a number of political parties missed the said deadline.

6. The Commission subsequently resolved to invoke section 152, which provides for the cancellation of the registered political parties or registered organisations. In compliance with section 152 (f), the Commission resolved to have same preceded by one-on-one engagements with all affected political parties, to afford the political parties a further opportunity to make representations on the reasons underpinning their non-compliance. These individual engagements were held in June 2023. Following these engagements, the Commission resolved to grant a five months-extension and allow political parties to comply by **30 November 2023**. Following this, the Commission observed substantial compliance by some political parties partial while others persistent with non-compliance.
7. With emphasis on the three political parties referred to in 1 above, and which have been deregistered, the Commission's details of engagement are as enumerated *ad seriatim* below:

7.1 Christian Democratic Voice (CDV)

CDV, attended the one-on-one engagements and following that only submitted audited financial statement for the 2021/2022 financial year. The compliance documents in respect of sections 139 and 141 were only submitted on 13 May 2024. The Commission engaged in a series of correspondences and subsequent reminders cautioning the deregistration consequence. In the Commission's final reminder dated 25 April 2024, this political was granted a 14 days-extension, which lapsed on 10 May 2024, to submit all outstanding documents or be deregistered. Nothing has been submitted to date, and this formed the basis its deregistration.

7.2 Democratic Party of Namibia (DPN)

Correspondence addressed to the authorised representative was never responded to. The non-compliance persisted, hence the deregistration.

7.3 Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF)

We reiterate as expressed earlier on, having engaged in several meetings and through correspondences with **all** political parties. The authorised representative received the correspondences in question referencing sections 139 and 141 and the consequences thereto from 26 November 2021 and only responded to same on 19 December 2023.

The submission of audited financial statements as required by sections 140 and 158 respectively dating back from 2020 to 2023 remained outstanding. From the one-on-one engagements held in June 2023, the party undertook to lodge its audited financial statements for 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 and the abridged version publications in the newspapers by the set deadline of 30th of November 2023. We re-iterate that this deadline was applicable to **all** political parties to submit the requisite documents. The Commission records that the party through a letter addressed to the Commission by its auditor, requested for an extension to submit these documents by **15 December 2023**. However, the documents remained outstanding by the said deadline, which was self-imposed. Additionally, in a correspondence from its auditors, the party undertook to submit the audited financial statements for 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 on 28 February 2024. Similarly, this undertaking was not honoured.

The Commission resolved to grant NEFF 14 days to comply or face deregistration. The 14 days' notice was communicated to the party on 25 April 2024, with a compliance deadline of 10 May 2024. Despite the deadline of the 10th of May 2024, **the 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 audited financial statements were only lodged with the Commission on 31 May 2024. The 2022/2023 financial statements and abridged newspaper publications remain outstanding as at the date of deregistration.** This remains the Commission's basis for the deregistration of the party as detailed in the final reminder letter dated 25 April 2024 issued only to political parties with outstanding submissions. **The Commission never granted an extension to the compliance deadline of 10 May 2024 pertaining to the submission of the 2022/2023 audited financial statements and the abridged newspaper publications.**

Section 158 of the Act provides that all political parties that are represented in Parliament must submit their audited financial statements within three months after the end of their financial year. As such, the Commission undertook to remind ALL political parties represented in Parliament whose financial years end in March (including NEFF), to submit their audited financial statements for the 2023/2024 financial year by the 30 June 2024. We therefore wish to emphasise that the deadline of 30 June 2024, does not relate to records that should have been submitted on the 10 May 2024.

The Commission reiterates its commitment to upholding the sound principles of democracy, transparency and fairness. We encourage all political parties to abide by the rules and regulations governing their participation in the democratic process, as this is essential for maintaining the integrity of our electoral system. We will continue to work closely with all political parties to ensure that they understand and comply with the requirements for registration.

END

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