



**Electoral Commission
of Namibia**

A HISTORICAL JOURNEY OF ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA



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1

CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

Pursuant to our Constitutional mandate of conducting and managing electoral and referenda processes for Namibian citizens with a view to upholding electoral democracy, the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) has, since 1992, successfully conducted six (6) Presidential and National Assembly and six (6) Regional Council and Local Authority Elections as well as several by-elections throughout the years. This is testimony to the Commission's commitment to ensuring transparent, credible, and accountable electoral processes and it is based on the effective planning that the Commission puts into each phase of the electoral cycle and execution thereof.

This historical journey is a testament to the unwavering dedication and commitment of the Commission's members and staff. It illustrates the challenges faced, the milestones achieved, and the continuous efforts to improve the electoral system.

Throughout the years, the Commission faced numerous obstacles, ranging from technological advancements to evolving societal expectations. However, with each challenge, we have adapted and grown stronger, embracing innovation to enhance the electoral processes.

One cannot overlook the immense responsibility that comes with ensuring free and fair elections. The Commission has always taken this responsibility seriously, diligently working to provide a leveled playing field for all candidates and parties. The democratic voice of the people is at the heart of our mission, and we strive to protect and uphold this fundamental right.

Therefore the purpose of presenting this historical journey is to showcase the progress made in safeguarding the integrity of our electoral process. It highlights the implementation of new technologies, such as electronic voting machines and voter registration systems, to expedite the voting process. Additionally, it reflects the expansion of voter and civic education and awareness programmes aimed at empowering citizens to exercise their democratic rights responsibly. We firmly believe that an informed electorate is the cornerstone of a strong democracy.

As we look back on the milestones achieved, we are reminded of the ongoing work that lies ahead. We, therefore, must remain proactive and adaptive to the changing needs and expectations of our citizens. We shall continue to build trust and confidence in the electoral system, encouraging broad participation and ensuring that the voices of all citizens are heard.

I extend my gratitude to all those who have contributed to the success of this historical journey. From dedicated staff members to committed citizens, your unwavering support has been instrumental in our journey thus far.

I encourage readers to delve into this historical journey, as it provides valuable insights into the evolution of our electoral process. May it serve as a reminder of the importance of free and fair elections and inspire continued advocacy for democratic principles.


Together, let us shape the future of our nation, guided by the lessons learned from our historical journey.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'E. Nghikembua', is written over a horizontal dotted line.

Dr Elsie T. Nghikembua
CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION

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CHIEF ELECTORAL AND REFERENDA OFFICER'S MESSAGE



The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) is an independent body established in terms of Article 94B of the Namibian Constitution and the Electoral Act, No. 5 of 2014 with a mandate to direct, supervise, manage and control the conduct of elections and referenda for the Namibia citizens. Its historical journey dates back to 1992 after the first elections held in the independent Namibia.

Over the years, ECN played a crucial role in maintaining the integrity and fairness of elections in Namibia. From 1989 until 2013, Namibia has been conducting election by using traditional method (ballot paper). In 2014, Namibia became the first country on the African continent to introduce Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Post 2019 election, political parties challenged the outcome of the Presidential election and the constitutionality of the determination by the Minister of Urban and Rural Development to suspend the operation of Section 97(3), (4) of the Electoral Act, No. 05 of 2014 that deals with the introduction of the Voter Verification Paper Audit Trial.

The Judgement of the Supreme Court (Electoral Tribunal) on the 05 February 2020 held that the determination of the Minister of Urban and Rural Development that the provisions of Section 97 of the Electoral Act, No. 05 of

were brought into force with the exception of Section 97(3), (4) on 17 October 2014 by Government Notice 208/2014 is in conflict with the Constitution and invalid. This meant that the ECN was no longer permitted to use the EVM without the VVPAT. Hence, since March 2020 onwards, all elections are held using ballot papers.

Currently, Namibia has twenty-one (21) registered political parties and twenty-two (22) organisations/associations.

ECN's main functions include maintaining the electoral register, voter and civic education to promote public awareness and understanding of electoral processes, and setting rules and regulations for political parties and candidates. It also ensures compliance with the Electoral Act, No. 5 of 2014.

ECN historical journey reflects the evolving nature of electoral governance in Namibia, as efforts have been made to strengthen democratic processes and ensure the confidence of the public in the electoral system..



Mr Peter Shaama
CHIEF ELECTORAL AND REFERENDA OFFICER

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ABOUT ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA



Electoral Commission of Namibia

ECN has the exclusive authority to direct, supervise, manage and control in a fair and impartial manner and without fear, favour or prejudice any elections and referenda processes in terms of the Electoral Act. Furthermore, exercise and perform its powers and functions, subject to section 2(3), of the Electoral Act, independent of any direction or interference by any other authority or any person.

The Commission has further powers and functions to:

- a) Supervise, direct and control the registration of voters for the purposes of any election or referendum;

- b) Supervise the preparation, publication and maintenance of a national voters' register and local authority voters' register;
- c) Supervise, direct and control the registration of political parties and organisations;
- d) Supervise, direct and control the conduct of elections and referenda;
- e) Supervise, direct, control and promote voter and civic education in respect of elections and referenda, including the cooperation with educational or other bodies or institutions with a view to the provision of instruction to or the training of persons in electoral and related matters;
- f) Accredite local and international observers;
- g) Establish and maintain liaison and cooperation with political parties, the media and the public;
- h) Undertake and promote research into electoral matters;
- i) Develop and promote the development of electoral expertise and technology in all spheres of government;
- j) Promote knowledge of sound and democratic electoral processes;
- k) Issue and enforce any code of conduct provided for in the Electoral Act;
- l) Supervise and control the disclosure and dissemination of information regarding electoral matters and establish and maintain the necessary facilities for collecting and disseminating the information;
- m) Secure in the electoral and referenda processes the representation of the diverse social and cultural groups in Namibia and seek their cooperation;
- n) Create its own organisational structure, to allow its leadership to take full control of all its operations to strengthen areas where operational effectiveness is lacking; and
- o) Exercise and perform any other powers and functions conferred and imposed upon it by or under the Electoral Act or any other law or which are necessary or expedient for purposes of achieving the objects of the Electoral Act or any other law.

VISION



To be a centre of excellence
in electoral management.

MISSION



To conduct and manage
electoral and referenda processes for Namibian
citizens with a view to uphold electoral
democracy.

CORE VALUES



Secrecy (of the Vote)

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Accountability

•

Non-partisanship

•

Professionalism

•

Integrity

Inclusiveness

•

Innovation

•

Respect for the Rule of Law

•

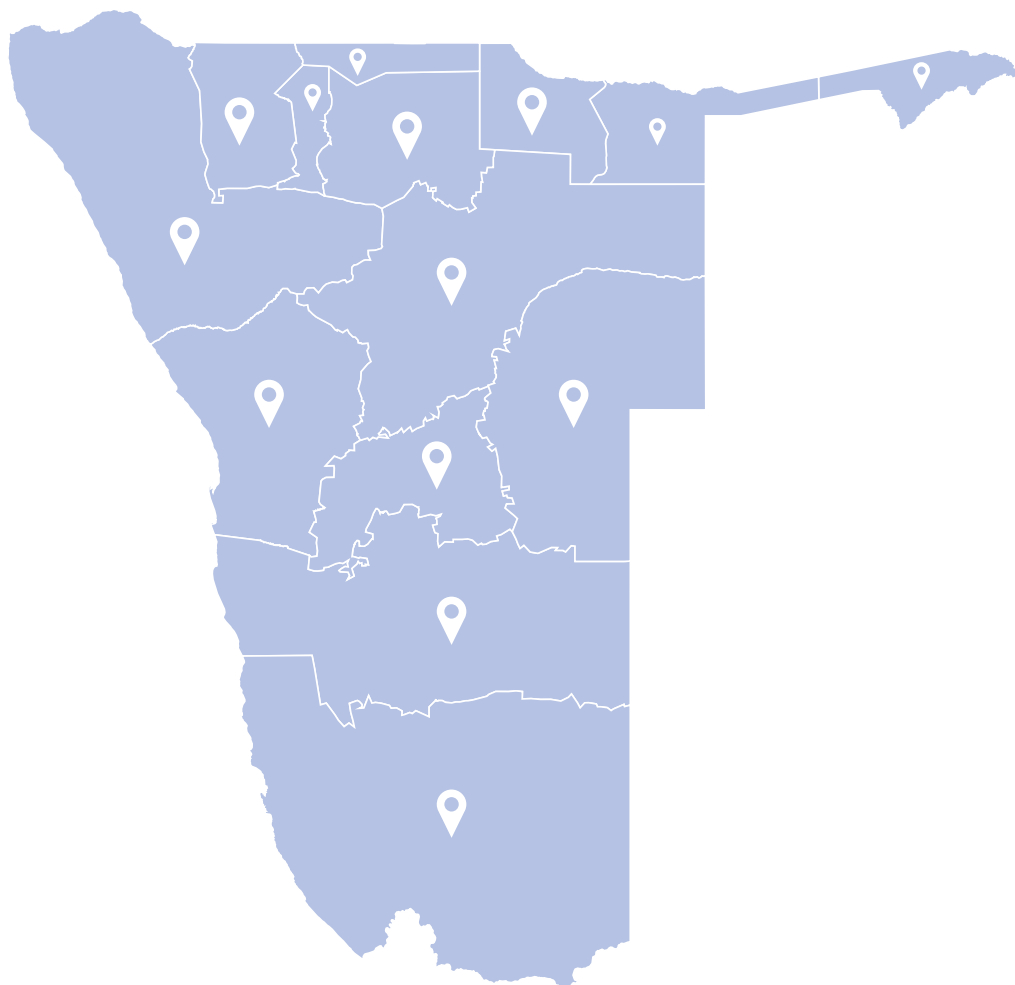
Service Mindedness

•

Accessibility

4

REGIONS, CONSTITUENCIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES



REGION	CAPITAL	CONSTITUENCIES	LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA
1 Kunene	Kaoko	Karasburg East Karasburg West Karasburg Rural Karasburg Urban Karasburg Rural Karasburg Urban Karasburg Rural Karasburg Urban Karasburg Rural Karasburg Urban	Karasburg Karasburg Karasburg Karasburg Karasburg Karasburg Karasburg Karasburg Karasburg Karasburg
2 Erongo	Swakopmund	Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis	Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis
3 Hardap	Mariental	Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis	Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis
4 Karas	Rundu	Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis	Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis
5 Kunene	Kaoko	Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis	Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis Arandis

REGIONS, CONSTITUENCIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

REGION	CAPITAL	CONSTITUENCIES	LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA
6. Karas	Windhoek	John Pienaar	Windhoek
		Bakubus Central	Windhoek
		Bakubus East	Windhoek
		Khomasdal	Windhoek
		Poses (Garoeb)	Windhoek
		Samara Noord	Windhoek
		Teitel-Hartwich	Windhoek
		Windhoek East	Windhoek
		Windhoek Rural	Windhoek
		Windhoek West	Windhoek
7. Kunene	Opuwo	Epapo	-
		Karasburg	Karasburg
		Karasburg	Karasburg
		Opuwo Rural	Opuwo
		Opuwo Urban	Opuwo
		Ouje	Ouje
8. Ohangwena	Eenhana	Eenhana	Eenhana
		Fedda	-
		Ingama	-
		Epemba	-
		Ohangwena	Herero-Ndidi
		Okongo	Okongo
		Omahepo	-
		Omahepo	-
		Omahepo	-
		Omahepo	-
9. Omaheke	Gobabis	Amudus	Leonardville
		Epukiro	-
		Gobabis	Gobabis
		Gobabis	Gobabis
		Gobabis (formerly Sankhumbi)	Windhoek
		Okavango	Okavango
		Okavango	-
10. Omasati	Outapi	Amambya	-
		Amambya	-
		Amambya	-
		Amambya	-
		Amambya	-
		Amambya	-
		Amambya	-
		Amambya	-
		Amambya	-
		Amambya	-

REGION	CAPITAL	CONSTITUENCIES	LOCAL AUTHORITY AREA
11. Oshana	Oshana	Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
12. Oshana	Oshana	Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
13. Oshana	Oshana	Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
		Oshana	-
14. Zambezi	Katima Mulilo	Katima Mulilo	-
		Katima Mulilo	-
		Katima Mulilo	-
		Katima Mulilo	-
		Katima Mulilo	-
		Katima Mulilo	-
		Katima Mulilo	-
		Katima Mulilo	-
		Katima Mulilo	-
		Katima Mulilo	-

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A HISTORICAL JOURNEY 1989 - 2023



THE COMMISSION 1993 - 2023

The Commission is constituted in terms of Article 94B of the Namibian Constitution which provides for the composition of five Commissioners, including the Chairperson who are appointed by the President with the approval of the National Assembly. The objective of the Commission as stipulated in Section 3 of the Electoral Act No. 5 of 2014 is to organise, direct, supervise, manage and control the conduct of elections and referendum in a free, fair, independent, credible, transparent and impartial manner as well as to strengthen constitutional democracy and to promote democratic electoral and referenda processes.

Members of the Commission provide oversight responsibility in respect to the activities of the organisation and facilitate the promotion of principles of peaceful, free and fair elections. The Commission is further responsible for providing oversight responsibility to ensure effective implementation of ECN's core mandate, strategic goals and objectives.

1993



Back (Left to Right): Dr. K. G. Abrahams, Mr. M. Shipanga
Front (Left to Right): Judge G. J. C. Strydom (Chairman), Mrs. I. Murangi, Mr. M. Neib

1998



Front (Left to Right): Dr. B. Sandelowski, Mrs. I. Murangi,
Back (Left to Right): Judge J. P. Karuaihe (Chairperson), Bishop J. Kauluma,
Mr. J. K. Rukambe (Director of Elections) and Mr. V. L. Tonchi

1999



Back (Left to Right): Mr. V. L. Tonchi (Chairperson), Mr. J. K. Rukambe (Director of Elections), Bishop J. Kauluma, Dr. B. H. Sandelowski, Hon. Justice S. Mtambanengwe, Mrs. I. Murangi

2000



Front (Left to Right): Mr. S. D. Jacobs, Adv. N.Tjipueja
Back (Left to Right): Mr. A. N. Nghidinwa, Mrs. N. Karuaihe,
Mr. V. L. Tonchi (Chairperson)

2000



Front Row (Left to Right): Adv. N. Tjipueja, Dr. V. L. Tonchi (Chairperson),
Mr S. D. Jacobs;

Back Row (Left to Right): Mr. A. N. Nghidinwa, Mr. S. F. Ueitele,
Mr. P. H. Kanime (Director of Elections)

2005



Seated (Left to Right): Mr. S. F. Ueitele,
Dr. V. L. Tonchi (Chairperson), Mr. M. Gaomab II
Standing (Left to Right): Mr. W. Potgieter, Mr. L. Shatipamba

2005



Back (Left to Right): Mr. Lazarus Shatipamba, Mr. Philemon Kanime
(Chief Executive Officer), Mr. Shafimana Ueitele
Front (Left to Right): Ms. Ruusa Shipiki-Kapolo, Dr. Victor Tonchi (Chairperson),
Ms. Notemba Tjipueja

2011



From Left to Right: Mr. B. Karuuombe, Mr. B. Nespect, Adv. N. Tjipueja (Chairperson), Mr. U. Freyer, Ms. A. Nangolo

2016



Back (Left to Right): Mr U. Freyer, Mrs E. Nghikembua, Mr B. Karuuombe
Front (Left to Right): Adv. N. Tjipueja (Chairperson), Mrs A. Nangolo

2019



Back (Left to Right): Mr Evaristus Evaristus,
Mr Gerson Uaripi Tjihenuna, Mr Ulrich Freyer
Front (Left to Right): Mrs Elsie Nghikembua, Adv. Notemba Tjipueja (Chairperson)

2021



Back (left to right): Mr Evaristus Evaristus,
Mr Gerson Uaripi Tjihenuna, Dr Gerson Sindano
Front: (left to right): Dr Elsie T. Nghikembua (Chairperson)
and Dr Emmerentia Leonard

THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

1993 - 1998



Prof. Dr. Gerhard K. H. Töttemeyer

THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

1998 - 2003



Mr. Joram K. Rukambe

THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

2003 - 2008



Mr. Philemon H. Kanime

THE DIRECTOR OF ELECTIONS

2008 - 2013



Mr. Moses Ndjarakana

THE CHIEF ELECTORAL AND REFERENDA OFFICER

2013 - 2018



Prof. Paul J. Isaak

THE CHIEF ELECTORAL AND REFERENDA OFFICER

2018 - 2023



Mr. Theo Mujoro

THE CHIEF ELECTORAL AND REFERENDA OFFICER

2023



Mr. Peter Shaama

A HISTORICAL JOURNEY OF ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA

1989

Elections under UN supervision

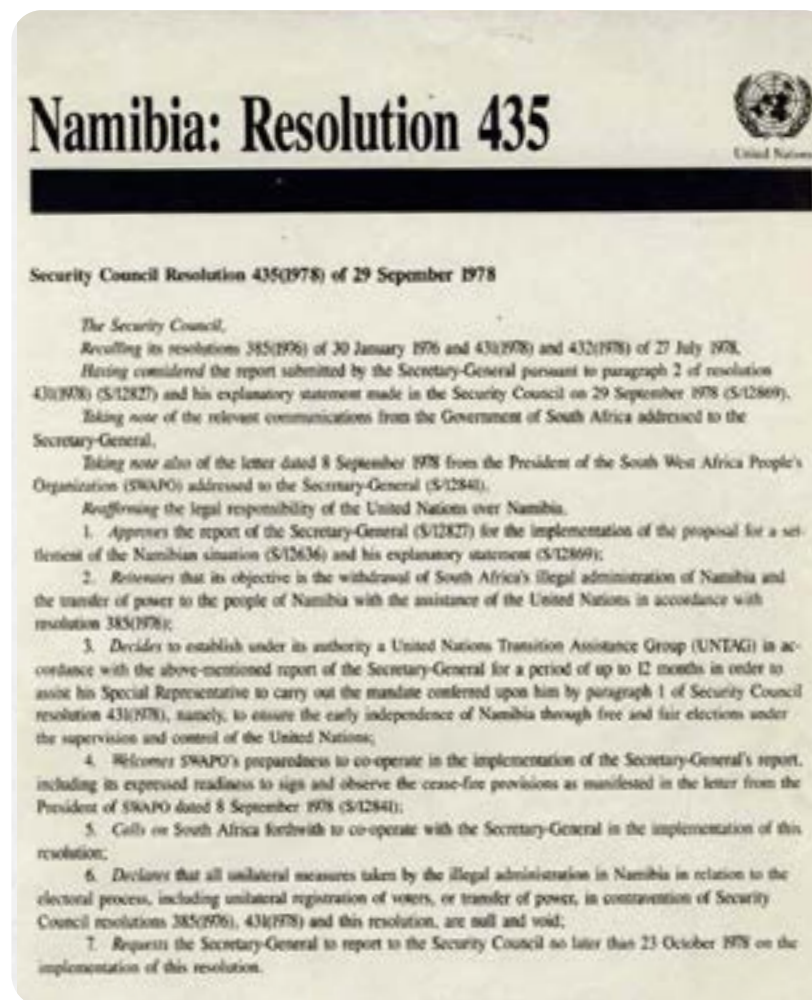
Presidential Election			National Assembly	
Registered Voters	701,483	97.3%	701,483	97.3%
Number of votes cast	682,787		682,787	

In 1989, after 105 years of colonial rule by various colonial powers, Namibia conducted its first national elections under the supervision of the United Nations from 7 - 11 November 1989. The United Nations (UN) acted as the election management body in terms of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 435.

The basic rules governing the conduct of elections were drawn from paragraph A.1 of the 1982 Constitutional Principles, which were taken verbatim from paragraph 6 of the 1978 Contact group.

These included the following:

- Every adult Namibian will be eligible to vote, campaign and stand for election to the Constituent Assembly;
- Voting will be by secret ballot, with provisions made for those who cannot read and write;
- Guaranteed full freedom of speech, assembly, movement and press;
- The electoral system will seek to ensure fair representation in the Constituent Assembly to different political parties which gain substantial support in the election.



The arrangements for the election were conducted under the patronage of the Administrator General of Namibia. However, the Administrator General was to carry out this task subject to the satisfaction of the UN Secretary General's Special Representative.

Using the proportional representation electoral system, a Constituent Assembly consisting of 72 members was elected to draft the country's Constitution. The major work of the Assembly was performed by a standing committee comprising representatives of all political parties in the Assembly. The constitutional proposals as submitted by SWAPO Party were accepted as the working draft. The draft constitution was finally tabled on 25 January 1990 and was unanimously adopted on 9 February 1990. At independence on 21 March 1990 the Constituent Assembly was transformed into the National Assembly.

Presidential and Constituency Assembly Elections

Political Parties	Number of Votes	% of votes	Total Seats
South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)	384 567	57.33	41
Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA)	191 532	28.55	21
United Democratic Front (UDF)	37 874	5.65	4
Action Christian National (CAN)	23 728	3.53	3
Namibia Patriotic Front (NPF)	10 693	1.59	1
Federal Convention of Namibia (FCN)	10 452	1.56	1
Namibia National Front (NNF)	5 344	0.80	1
South West Africa People's Organization-Democrats (SWAPO-D)	3 161	0.47	-
Christian Democratic Voice Party for Social Justice (CDA)	2 495	0.37	-
National Democratic Party (NDP)	984	0.15	-







1992

Namibia's first regional council and local authority elections

Regional Council Elections			Local Authority Elections	
Registered Voters	470,006	81.1%	156,795	82.3%
Number of votes cast	381,041		128,973	

On 31 August 1992, the National Assembly simultaneously passed three critical pieces of electoral legislation namely, the Regional Councils Act (22/1992), the Local Authorities Act, (23/1992) and the Electoral Act (24/1992). The Electoral Act established the Namibian electoral process and paved the way for the first regional and local authorities' election.

These pieces of legislation set the legal framework for elections in Namibia. Thus the Electoral Commission of Namibia, established in terms of the Electoral Act of 1992, put in place the machinery that led to the implementation of the constitutional provision relating to the second and third tier governments in Namibia.

Following the promulgation of the Electoral Act, (24/1992) on 31 August 1992 the first Regional Council and Local Authority elections took place from **30 November – 03 December 1992.**

The first National Voters Register consisting of two separate registers, namely Local Authority elections and one umbrella register for Regional Councils, National Assembly and Presidential elections was compiled.







1994

Presidential Election			National Assembly Election	
Registered Voters	654,189	76,1%	654,189	76,1%
Number of votes cast	497,508		497,499	

The elections were conducted on the 07 – 08 December 1994 and contested by two Presidential Candidates.

Presidential Elections		
Candidate Name	Number of Votes	% of Votes
Sam Nujoma (SWAPO)	370 452	76.34
Mishake Muyongo (DTA)	114 843	23.66

Eight (8) political parties contested the National Assembly Elections, and the seats were allocated as follows:

National Assembly Elections			
Political Parties	Number of Votes	% of votes	Total Seats
South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)	361 800	73.89	53
Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA)	101 748	20.78	15
United Democratic Front (UDF)	13 309	2.72	2
Democratic Coalition of Namibia (DCN)	4 058	0.83	1
Monitor Action Group (MAG)	4 005	0.82	1
South West Africa National Union (SWANU)	2 598	0.53	-
Federal Convention of Namibia (FCN)	1 166	0.24	-
Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP)	952	0.19	-

In 1994, Parliament passed a series of electoral amendments addressing both administrative and substantive shortcomings in the Election Management Body's (EMB) legislative framework. These included amongst other, introduction of tendered votes. The amendment also empowered the Director of Elections to amend the voters' register during the time of elections.



1999

Presidential Election			National Assembly Election	
Registered Voters	878,863	62,1%	878,869	61,6%
Number of votes cast	545,465		541,114	

One of the highlights of 1999 elections was the amendment of the Electoral Act that provided for the appointment of Commissioners. Before 1999, the President directly appointed Commissioners. Opposition political parties and some stakeholders opposed this practice, arguing that the process lacked transparency and implied partisan political manipulation and influence.

In an effort to address this anomaly in the appointment of Commissioners, Parliament passed an amendment to the Electoral Act, which established a selection committee. The main functions of the Committee was to spearhead the recruitment process for Commissioners and to make recommendations to the President for appointment.

Presidential Elections		
Candidate Name	Number of Votes	% of Votes
Sam Nujoma (SWAPO)	414 096	76.82
Ben Ulenga (CoD)	56 541	10.49
Katuutire Kaura (DTA)	52 752	9.79
Justus Garoëb (UDF)	15 635	2.90

National Assembly Elections			
Political Parties	Number of Votes	% of votes	Total Seats
South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)	408 174	76.15	55
Congress of Democrats (CoD)	53 289	9.94	7
Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA)	50 824	9.48	7
United Democratic Front (UDF)	15 685	2.93	2
Monitor Action Group (MAG)	3 618	0.67	1
South West Africa National Union - Workers Revolutionary Party (SWANU- WRP)	1 885	0.35	-
Democratic Coalition of Namibia (DCN)	1 797	0.34	-
Federal Convention of Namibia (FCN)	764	0.14	-







PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

GAROEB		5922
KAURA		6188
NUJOMA		36343
ULENGA		9062



NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COD		2325
DCN		81
DTA		2555
FCN		45
MAG		290
SWANU		55
SWAPO PARTY		16817
UDF		2043

2004

Presidential Election			National Assembly Election	
Registered Voters	977,742	85,2%	977,742	84,8%
Number of votes cast	833,165		829,269	

The 2004 elections, which were the third national elections conducted since independence were contested by nine (9) political parties and seven (7) Presidential Candidates

Presidential Elections		
Candidate Name	Number of Votes	% of Votes
Hifikepunye Pohamba (SWAPO)	625 605	76.44
Ben Ulenga (CoD)	59 547	7.28
Katuutire Kaura (DTA)	41 905	5.12
Kuaima Riruako (NUDO)	34 616	4.23
Justus Garoëb (UDF)	31 354	3.83
Henk Mudge (RP)	15 955	1.95
Kosie Pretorius (MAG)	9 378	1.15

Following the conduct of the election and announcement of results, two opposition political parties, the Congress of Democrats (CoD) and the Republican Party (RP) questioned the high voter turnout of the 2004 elections as well as the counting process and formally filed a court application to have the polls declared null and void, or to have all the ballots recounted. On 10 March 2005, the High Court ordered a recount of the ballots within five days of the judgement. The outcome of the recounting had no effect on the outcome of the initial results/seats allocation.

National Assembly Elections			
Political Parties	Number of Votes	% of votes	Total Seats
South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)	620 787 (620 609)	76.11 (75.83)	55 (55)
Congress of Democrats (CoD)	59 465 (59 464)	7.29 (7.27)	5 (5)
Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA)	41 714 (42 070)	5.11 (5.14)	4 (4)
National Unity Democratic Organization (NUDO)	33 874 (34 814)	4.15 (4.25)	3 (3)
United Democratic Front (UDF)	29 336 (30 355)	3.60 (3.71)	3 (3)
Republican Party (RP)	15 965 (16 187)	1.96 (1.98)	1 (1)
Monitor Action Group (MAG)	6 920 (6 950)	0.85 (0.85)	1 (1)
Namibia Democratic Movement for Change (NDMC)	4 138 (4 380)	0.51 (0.54)	- (-)
South West Africa National Union (SWANU)	3 438 (3 610)	0.42 (0.44)	- (-)











2009

Presidential Election			National Assembly	
Registered Voters	1,181,802	68.7%	1,181,802	68,6%
Number of votes cast	812,233		811,143	

In 2009 following growing concerns by Namibian citizens living outside the country, the legislature passed a welcome amendment to the Electoral Act which provided for voting abroad.

Another highlight of the 2009 electoral amendments included the provision of counting of ballots and announcement of results at the respective polling stations.

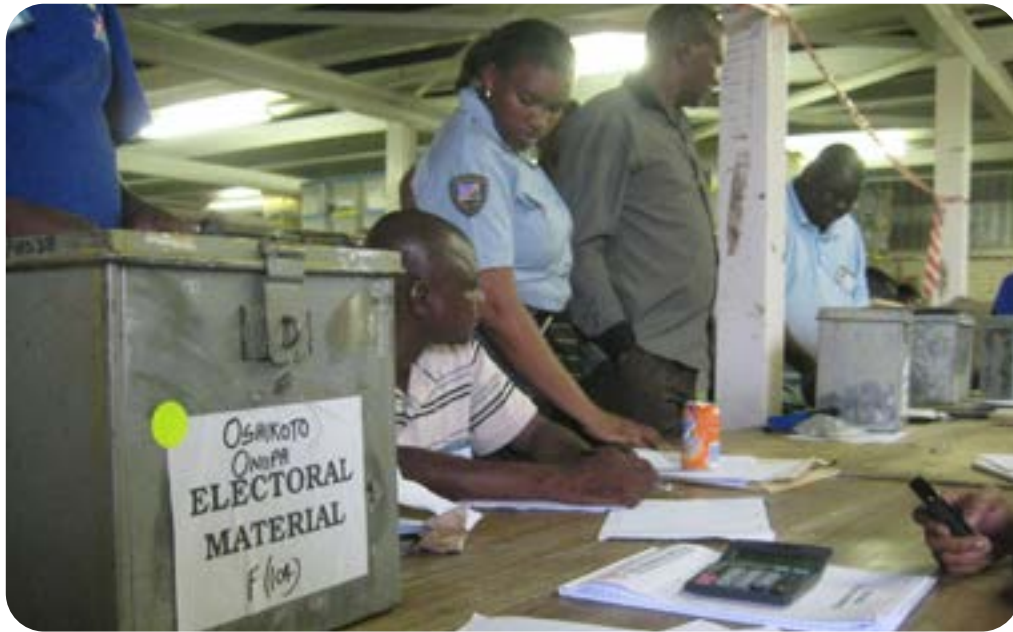
The purpose of this amendment was to speed up the counting process and increase transparency and credibility of the electoral process. In addition, the legislation empowered the Commission to accredit voter education providers and election observers.

Presidential Elections		
Candidate Name	Number of Votes	% of Votes
Hifikepunye Pohamba (SWAPO)	611 241	76.42
Hidipo Hamutenya (RDP)	88 640	11.08
Katuutire Kaura (DTA)	24 186	3.02
Kuaima Riruako (NUDO)	23 735	2.97
Justus Garoëb (UDF)	19 258	2.41

National Assembly Elections			
Political Parties	Number of Votes	% of votes	Total Seats
South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)	602 580	75.27	54
Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)	90 556	11.31	8
Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA)	25 393	3.17	2
National Unity Democratic Organization (NUDO)	24 422	3.05	2
United Democratic Front (UDF)	19 489	2.43	2
All People's Party (APP)	10 795	1.35	1
Republican Party (RP)	6 541	0.82	1
Congress of Democrats (CoD)	5 375	0.67	1
South West Africa National Union (SWANU)	4 989	0.62	1
Monitor Action Group (MAG)	4 718	0.59	-
Democratic Party of Namibia (DPN)	1 942	0.24	-
Namibia Democratic Movement for Change (NDMC)	1 770	0.22	-
National Democratic Party (NDP)	1 187	0.15	-
Communist Party (CP)	810	0.10	-







2013

In accordance with Article 56 of the Namibian Constitution, the National Assembly of Namibia passed the Electoral Act 24 in 1992. The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) was created by the Electoral Act 1992, Section II (4), as the exclusive authority with the responsibility to “direct, supervise and control in a fair and impartial manner elections under this Act.” Since then, the nation’s legal framework for elections has undergone a number of changes (nine amendments) intended to enhance and improve the standard and acceptability of the results of electoral processes.

Following the 2009 election, a consensus emerged among ECN officials, various political actors and stakeholders, and the electorate in the larger Namibian population that an overall review and harmonization of the Electoral Act was necessary in order to create enabling legislation that would introduce new operational aspects and strategies that could reinforce and strengthen mechanisms on the management and administration of future electoral processes.

One of the main driving forces behind the reform process was the fact that various political parties, including the Republican Party (RP) in 2004, the Congress of Democrats (COD) in 2004, the Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP) in 2010, and the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA) in 1994 and 1999, had filed numerous legal challenges in the courts since the Electoral Act’s promulgation. The government’s official commitment to the Law Reform Development Commission (LRDC)-led electoral legislation change was largely influenced by the 2011 High Court verdict on the opposition political parties’ 2009 elections petition.

In light of the 2013 General Registration of Voter (GRV) drive and the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly elections, the ECN considered the

electoral law reform process to be imperative. Interestingly, despite the ECN’s proactive attempts to implement election law revisions since 2007, the desired influence and impact have not materialized.

Another key highlight of the electoral reform was establishment of ECN as a constitutional body, use of voter registration by any means determined by the Commission (which paved the way for the introduction of Biometric Voter Registration) electoral dispute resolution mechanisms, financing of political parties and assessment and evaluation of electoral processes amongst others.

OVERVIEW OF VOTER REGISTRATION

1992 – 2002, ECN used a manual voter registration system issuing manual voter registration cards.



2003 – 2010, ECN migrated to a digital system (Optimal Mark Recognition) – issued laminated voter registration cards, completed manually.



2010 – 2013, the ECN started a process of gradual migration from manual paper-based voter's registration system to a digital biometric voters register system referred to as Mobile Voters Register System (MVRS).



MVRS (Current System) is specifically designed and developed for effective management of ECN

Voters Register (i.e. Voter Registration Module or Application ONLY and uniquely designed for Namibia's voter's registration and is not readily available on the market ("Customer-Made- System");

The voter's kit is comprised of Laptops and Printer Kits as well as accessories such as cameras, fingerprint-readers, voter cards, voter-signature pads and the Operating System, referred to as "Mobile Voter Registration Kits" (MVRKs). The system was introduced and rolled-out since the conduct of the last GRV in 2014 to date. Since inception, the system enabled the ECN to consistently produce and maintain a credible national voters register and no court challenges about the credibility of the voters' register were observed to date.



Biometric Voter's Registration system and Voter Verification Devices (VVDs) was introduced.

Stand-Alone Mobile Voter Registration Kits (MVRKs) System:

Biometric Voters Registration System (BVRS) with Automated Finger Identification System (AFIS) capability.

•
Capability to manage new voters, duplicates, change of addresses or profiles and issue and print voter cards.



2014

Presidential Election			National Assembly Election	
Registered Voters	1,241,194	70,5%	1,241,194	72%
Number of votes cast	875,232		893,643	

Presidential Elections		
Candidate Name	Number of Votes	% of Votes
Hage Geingob (SWAPO)	772,528	86.73
McHenry Venaani (DTA)	44,271	4.97
Hidipo Hamutenya (RDP)	30,197	3.39
Asser Mbai (NUDO)	16,740	1.88
Henk Mudge (RP)	8,676	0.97
Ignatius Shixwameni (APP)	7,266	0.82
Usutuaijie Maamberua (SWANU)	5,028	0.56
Benjamin Ulenga (CoD)	3,518	0.39
Epafras Mukwiilongo (NEEF)	2,514	0.28

National Assembly Elections			
Political Parties	Number of Votes	% of votes	Total Seats
Democratic Party of Namibia (DPN)	1 131		-
National Democratic Party of Namibia (NDP)	1 389		-
Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP)	13 328		2
National Unity Democratic Organization (NUDO)	17 942		2
United Democratic Front (UDF)	18 945		2
Christian Democratic Voice Party (CDV)	2 606		
All People's Party (APP)	20 431		2

Monitor Action Group (MAG)	3 073		-
Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF)	3 259		-
Congress of Democrats (CoD)	3 404		-
Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)	31 372		3
Democratic Turnhalle Alliance (DTA)	42 933		5
Republican Party (RP)	6 099		1
United People's Movement (UPM)	6 353		1
South West Africa National Union (SWANU)	6 354		1
South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)	715 026		77

In 2014, Namibia became the first country on the African continent to introduce Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). The concept of EVMs for use in Namibian elections was conceived in 2005 and intended to enhance the efficiency of the electoral process and cut down on long term costs. Extensive research was conducted on a number of EVM models in different countries and eventually the EVMs produced and used in India was found to be most suitable for the Namibian context.

ECN through an established technical committee engaged all main stakeholders on the concept and design requirements for a Namibian EVM. Presentations were made and input sourced from both Houses of Parliament, Cabinet, all political parties and civil society with regards to the envisaged EVM. Some of the factors taken into consideration with the political parties - EVMs should be in conformity with the legislative framework i.e. should be capable of conducting dual elections simultaneously, secrecy of the vote should be preserved, transparency in the process should be maintained. These consultations continued throughout the process and Cabinet approved in principle the acquisition of the EVMs in 2006.

In 2008, after consultations with all stakeholders, representatives of all political parties in Parliament visited the EVM manufacturing plant at Bharat Electronics in Bangalore India. The delegation also witnessed the Indian EVM at work in an actual election for the Karnataka Legislative Assembly elections. Following the visit to India, during a PLC meeting, all political parties agreed to the adoption of the EVM in Namibia. The use of EVM was initially introduced in the Electoral Act of 1992 through an amendment in 2009. Following the introduction of the EVM in the electoral legal framework the Commission commenced with the acquisition of EVMs for use in the electoral process.

The EVMs were eventually for the first time in Namibia in three by-elections conducted in 2014 prior to National Elections in November 2014 and the 2015 Regional and Local Elections and 2019 Presidential and National Assembly elections.

The constitutional validity of section 209 (2) of the Electoral Act, 5 of 2014 and Government Notice 208 of 2014 was challenged by political parties in *Maletzky v The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) (A 326-2014) [2014] NAHCMD 365 (26 November 2014)*. Judge Miller rejected the notion that Section 209(2) is unconstitutional. As a result, the Judge ruled that it followed that the submissions of the Applicants on this score are devoid of merit and must fail as a consequence. The Court also found that the use of electronic voting machines will not have the result that a citizen's constitutional right to vote is lost or impaired.







2019

Presidential Election			National Assembly Election	
Registered Voters	1,358,468	60,8%	1,358,468	60,4%
Number of votes cast	826,181		820,227	

Presidential Elections		
Candidate Name	Number of Votes	% of Votes
Apius Auchab (UDF)	22 115	2.7
Bernadus Swartbooi (LPM)	22 542	2.7
Epafras Mukwiilongo (NEEF)	1 026	0.1
Esther Muinjangu (NUDO)	12 039	1.5
Hage Geingob (SWAPO)	464 703	56.3
Henry Mudge (RP)	4 379	0.5
Ignatius Shixwameni (APP)	3 304	0.4
McHenry Venaani (DTA)	43 959	5.3
Mike Kavekatora (RDP)	3 515	0.4
Panduleni Itula (IC)	242 657	29.4
Tangeni Iijambo (SWANU)	5 959	0.7

National Assembly Elections			
Political Parties	Number of Votes	% of votes	Total Seats
All People's Party (APP)	44 644	1.8	2
Christian Democratic Voice Party (CDV)	5 841	0.7	1
Congress of Democrats (CoD)	4 654	0.6	0
Landless People's Movement (LPM)	38 956	4.7	4
Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF)	13 580	1.7	2

Namibia Patriotic Front (NPF)	1 785	0.2	0
National Democratic Party (NDP)	4 559	0.6	0
National Unity Democratic Organization (NUDO)	16 066	1.9	2
Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)	136 576	16.6	16
Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)	8 953	1.1	1
Republican Party (RP)	14 546	1.8	2
South West Africa National Union (SWANU)	5 330	0.6	1
South West Africa People's Organization (SWAPO)	536 861	65.5	63
United Democratic Front (UDF)	14 644	1.8	2
Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP)	3 212	0.4	0

Post 2019 election, political parties challenged the outcome of the Presidential election and the constitutionality of the determination by the Minister to suspend the operation of Section 97(3), (4) of the Electoral Act which deals with the introduction of the Voter Verification Paper Audit Trial. The Judgement of the Supreme Court (Electoral Tribunal) on the 05 February 2020, held that the determination of the Minister that the provisions of section 97 of the Act were brought into force with the exception of Section 97(3), (4) on 17 October 2014 by Government Notice 208/2014 is in conflict with the Constitution and invalid. This meant that the ECN was no longer permitted to use the EVM without the VVPAT, hence all elections held since March 2020 onwards were held using ballot papers.



2023

In setting a tone for the preparation of current electoral cycle (i.e. 2024 General Registration of Voters (GRV) and Presidential & National Assembly Elections (PNA), the Commission embarked upon an electoral review process following the conduct of 2019 & 2020 National Elections (i.e. PNA and RCLA Elections) that saw the:

- Development and adoption of 2022/2023-2026/2027 ECN Strategic Plan:
- Employment of key strategic initiatives aimed improving electoral management systems and processes.
- Development and adoption of Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, amongst others.
- Development and adoption of Electoral calendar which is a dynamic document adjustable as circumstances change



MOCK VOTER REGISTRATION ON THE ENHANCED MOBILE VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM

In preparation for the 2024 General Registration of Voters and Presidential & National Assembly Elections, the Commission undertook a comprehensive electoral review process following the conduct of 2019 & 2020 of Presidential & National Assembly Elections and Regional Council and Local Authority Elections, respectively. This review resulted in the Mobile Voter Registration System being enhanced and upgraded into the Integrated Mobile Voter Registration System (IMVRS).

Accordingly, ECN conducted a mock voters' registration exercise of the enhanced and upgraded IMVRS following completion of the "Integrated Solution", interfacing the voters' registration, voter identification and verification.

The purpose of this exercise was to test the real-time functionality and usability of the voter registration system in preparation for the General Registration of Voters in 2024. The enhanced system leverages mobile technology to make voter registration more responsive, efficient and marking a significant milestone in our efforts to modernise and improve our election processes.

The enhanced system incorporates advanced security and verification measures to ensure the integrity of the voter registration process. We are confident that the IMVRS will greatly improve the voter registration process and make our electoral process more efficient. We look forward to the full implementation and rollout of the enhanced system in our electoral process.

Voter Registration Cards printed during the exercise were clearly marked "Mock" and were not issued to applicants, but rather to ECN HQ and were destroyed afterwards.







VOTER AND CIVIC EDUCATION

In accordance to Section 49 of the Electoral Act, Act 5 of 2014, the Commission is required to provide voter and civic education for Namibian citizens. Therefore, ECN carries out voter and civic education activities using information aids such as printed information materials, radio live reads and interviews, seminars or face-to-face sessions, social media, TV, outdoor media, activations and ECN website.

The purpose is to:

- inform citizens about their rights and responsibility as voters and as members of a democratic society;
- increase voter turnout and participation in elections;
- provide information on registration of voters, voting process and regulations;
- create political and democratic awareness among the communities and the public at large;
- provide information and education on electoral systems and processes;
- design and produce voter education materials relevant to electoral activities for ease of reference; and
- encourage popular civic participation in the electoral processes, before, during and after any electoral activities.



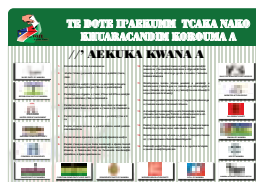
VOTER AND CIVIC EDUCATION



6

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

Code of Conduct



WE PLEDGE OUR COMMITMENT TO FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Intimidation, in any form, is impermissible.
- No weapon of any kind, including any traditional weapon, may be brought to any political rally, meeting, march or other demonstration.
- Parties shall avoid holding rallies, meetings, marches or demonstrations physically close to one another during the same time of the day.
- Parties shall refrain from utilising public address systems, either fixed or mobile between 21:00 and 07:00 hours and which could constitute a public nuisance.
- Speakers at political rallies may not use language which incites violence in any form against any other person or group of persons. Parties will not issue pamphlets, newsletters or posters which contain materials which incite people to violence.
- Party members and supporters will not disrupt other parties, rallies, meetings, marches or demonstrations.
- Party members and supporters will not seek to obstruct other persons from attending the political rallies of other parties.
- Party members and supporters will not disgrace or destroy political or campaign materials of other parties.
- Party leaders will use their good offices to seek to ensure reasonable freedom of access by all political parties to potential voters, including those at farms and on state-owned properties, outside working hours.
- Parties will establish lines of communication to one another at headquarters, regional and local levels, and will appoint liaison personnel who will be constantly on call to deal with any problems that may arise.
- The Chief Electoral Officer will meet party representatives on a weekly basis to discuss all matters of concern related to the election campaign and the election itself. Emergency meetings, will be convened as and when necessary.
- Designated members will attend their parties' rallies to ensure compliance with this Code.
- All allegations of intimidation and other unlawful conduct in the election campaign will be brought to the attention of the Police and to the attention of the Electoral Commission of Namibia at the places where they are alleged to have occurred.
- Party leaders will issue directives to their members and supporters to observe this Code of Conduct, and take all other necessary steps to ensure compliance.
- The Electoral Commission of Namibia and party leaders undertake to publicise this Code of Conduct throughout Namibia by all means at their disposal.
- Parties will in their advertising and propaganda efforts take care not to disgrace the environment.

Logos of political parties: NUDO OF NAMIBIA, REPUBLICAN PARTY OF NAMIBIA, UPM, UNITED PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT, NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY, CONGRESS OF DEMOCRATS, SWAPO PARTY OF NAMIBIA, CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC VOICE PARTY, DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF NAMIBIA, WORKERS REVOLUTION PARTY, OZA OF NAMIBIA, NAMIBIA ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS.







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