

MEDIA RELEASE

Attention: News/Managing Editors
All Media Houses

Date: 16 July 2025

CLARIFICATION ON THE VOTER EDUCATION OFFICERS' RECRUITMENT ADVERT LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

1. On 14 July 2025, the Commission advertised four Voter Education Officer positions in the IlKharas, Kavango East, Kavango West, and Kunene Regions. The positions were advertised through notice boards at the ECN regional offices in these specific regions. They were advertised based on a needs analysis regarding language gaps in the community demographics in certain areas.
2. The Voter Education Officers are required to be proficient in various languages that reflect the linguistic diversity of their region of deployment. This proficiency enables the hired individuals to communicate effectively in the relevant local languages, which may vary depending on the geographic area and the community's linguistic makeup. Specifically, it is important to have speakers of prevalent languages to ensure effective communication, which is essential for enhancing voter education efforts.
3. However, the Commission has learned that this requirement has sparked negative debate, particularly concerning the position advertised in the IlKharas Region, where one of the prerequisites was for applicants to be conversant in Oshiwambo.
4. We would like to clarify this negative narrative. Currently, the IlKharas Region has four Voter Education Officers who are proficient in local spoken languages, including Rukwangali. However, there is a shortage of staff members who speak Oshiwambo, which is commonly spoken in the Karasberg West, Orangemund and !Nami#nus Constituencies.
5. We wish to emphasise that the goal is to ensure that voter education efforts are accessible to those who primarily communicate in these languages. Similarly, the Commission aims to ensure that all citizens are adequately informed about the electoral process, and prioritising native language speakers often proves beneficial in achieving these objectives.
6. In conclusion, **priority will be given to residents of the specific regions.** We also wish to dispel the negative narrative suggesting that the Commission is disadvantaging the local inhabitants of the region.

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