

MEDIA RELEASE

Attention: News/Managing Editors
All Media Houses
Date: 19 July 2025

DENUNCIATION OF FALSE AND MALICIOUS ALLEGATIONS REGARDING THE OUTAPI CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION BY HON JOB AMUPANDA (MP), LEADER OF AFFIRMATIVE REPOSITIONING POLITICAL PARTY

1. The Commission issues this statement to unequivocally refute and denounce the malicious and baseless allegations propagated by the leader of the Affirmative Repositioning Political Party picked up on social media on 16 July 2025. The unfounded publication asserted that the **“SWAPO Party and ECN are having behind the scene meetings strategising to violate the law” following the occurrence of a vacancy in the Outapi Constituency, further implying “corruption or electoral fraud”**. Such false claims are not only devoid of any truth but also represent a deliberate attempt to sow confusion and distrust towards the Commission.

THE FACTS ARE CLEAR AND LEGALLY MANDATED:

2. A vacancy in the membership of the Omusati Regional Council for the Outapi Constituency occurred on 01 July 2025, as a direct result of the resignation of Honourable Immanuel Shishiweni Shikongo, due to his appointment as the Governor of Omusati Region.
3. In strict adherence to legal requirements, notice of this vacancy was duly given and gazetted in the Government Gazette No. 8692 on 18 July 2025, in terms of section 10(2) of the Regional Councils Act, 1992 (Act No. 22 of 1992).
4. Section 10(3) of the Regional Councils Act, explicitly states that a casual vacancy in a Regional Council “shall be filled within three months” after it occurs through an election, on a date to be determined by the President through proclamation in the Gazette. This means that the vacancy in Outapi Regional Council must be filled by the end of September 2025.
5. The phrase “unless” referenced in Section 10(3) denotes that this requirement applies “unless the period of office of the member who has so vacated his or her office expires during the said period of three months”. Given that the next General Regional Council Elections are scheduled to be held on 26 November 2025, and Hon Shikongo’s original term would have expired around that date, the “unless” condition is demonstrably NOT met, thereby legally compelling the by-election within the three- month period.

THE ECN’S ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TRANSPARENT, DILIGENT, AND ENTIRELY WITHIN THE BOUNDS OF THE LAW:

6. Following the vacancy, the Commission immediately invoked its preparatory processes for the conduct of a by-election in the Outapi Constituency, including the compilation of a statutory Election Schedule. This comprehensive planning requires due legal consideration at all stages.
7. As part of our unwavering commitment to transparency and adherence to the rule of law, the Commission convened a Political Parties Liaison Committee (PLC) meeting on 14 July 2025 at the Election House. The purpose of this meeting was specifically to share the Draft Election Schedule and discuss the potential legal, logistical and administrative challenges and the implications involved in conducting a by-election so close to the General Regional Councils and Local Authorities Elections on 26 November 2025. This consultative step underscores our commitment to strict compliance and sound governance.
8. **The Affirmative Repositioning Political Party was not only represented at this meeting, but its representative actively participated in all deliberations and decisions taken.**
9. **We wish to record that the Commission never resolved to not proceed with the by-election.** Instead, various options and their implications for both the Commission and the political parties were presented for consideration, and these were also echoed by the PLC.
10. It was collectively agreed during the PLC meeting that the Commission would further analyse and weigh all presented options and subsequently inform the political parties on the way forward. This, in our view, is an exercise of due diligence, not a secret strategy to violate the law.
11. We affirm and further record that the ECN is, in terms of section 4 of the Electoral Act, 2014 (Act No. 5 of 2014 as amended), the exclusive authority to direct, supervise, manage and control elections and referenda in a free, fair, independent, credible, transparent and impartial manner. We operate without fear, favour, or prejudice, and our objectivity is paramount.
12. We unequivocally state that there is no evidence whatsoever to substantiate any claims of “corruption or electoral fraud” as alleged.
13. As we approach the upcoming elections, we urge all Namibian citizens to remain vigilant and to rely exclusively on credible, verified information. It is the collective responsibility of every citizen to help preserve the integrity of our democratic processes. We should not allow yourselves to be misled by misinformation designed to manipulate public opinion and derail a peaceful and fair election.
14. The Commission remains steadfast in its commitment to conducting free, fair, transparent, and credible elections at all material times. We call upon all citizens and political actors to support the Commission in safeguarding the integrity of our democracy and ensuring that the electoral rights of all Namibians are upheld.

//END

Issued by:

The Commission

Inquiries:

De Wet Siluka
Manager: Corporate Communications
Cell: +264 81 414 5205

