



MEDIA RELEASE
(For immediate release)

17 November 2025

Attention: All Media Houses

**ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA ADDRESSES BALLOT PAPER LOGISTICAL
DISCREPANCIES AHEAD OF 2025 REGIONAL AND LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTIONS**

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (*the Commission*) issues this statement to provide the public with an update regarding the logistical status of election materials for the forthcoming 2025 Regional Councils and Local Authorities Elections, scheduled for 26 November 2025 countrywide.

In the spirit of transparency, the Commission deems it prudent to appraise the public of recent logistical developments concerning the printed ballot papers.

1. Developments

The Commission confirms the conclusion of the allocation and packing of ballot papers to the various teams in all constituencies and local authorities across the country. However, during the final stages of the internal distribution and quality control exercise, a few discrepancies in the supplied ballot packs were detected. This was done in the presence the representatives of political parties who participated in the ongoing process of verifying, distributing, packing and subsequently dispatching of ballot materials to the regions, at the ECN Logistics Store.

The Commission, in the presence of the representatives of political parties who participated in the ongoing verification process, successfully dispatched sensitive materials under escort of the Namibian Police to Zambezi, Kavango East, Omaheke, Hardap, //Kharas and Oshana regions as they are not affected by the identified discrepancies.

2. Detection of Discrepancies in Ballot Paper Delivery

The Commission confirms that during the internal distribution and verification exercise, the Commission detected some discrepancies in the ballot packs supplied by the contracted printing company, UniPrint Global, based in South Africa.

The detected issues include:

- (a) Under allocation and overallocation of ballot papers to some polling stations
- (b) The presence of duplicates in ballot packs designated for both regional councils and local authority ballots

- (c) Overall discrepancies were noted for some constituencies and local authorities in Kavango West, Ohangwena, Khomas, Omusati, Oshikoto, Otjozondjupa, Kunene and Erongo regions, impacting the quantities required at specific polling stations.

These issues were detected despite the distribution schedules indicating the actual quantities required. The representatives of political parties who participated in the ongoing process of verifying, distributing, packing and subsequently dispatching the ballot materials to the regions, were informed about the discrepancies detected.

3. Immediate Engagement with the Supplier

Following the detection of these discrepancies, the Commission, through the Chief Electoral and Referenda Officer, promptly communicated with the supplier, UniPrint Global.

In this official correspondence, the Commission demanded:

- (a) A comprehensive report outlining what transpired for each of these detected discrepancies
- (b) The establishment of mitigating measures by the company to immediately remedy the shortcomings
- (c) Confirmation of production timelines to ensure the correct ballot papers are delivered to the Commission in time for the conduct of the elections, specifically acknowledging that deployment of teams is scheduled for 23 November 2025. Accordingly, the Commission directed delivery of the rectified quantities of ballot papers before or on 19 November 2025.

The Commission considers time to be of the absolute essence to ensure adherence to the elections timetable.

4. Communication with Electoral Stakeholders

The Commission values transparency and has simultaneously notified all registered electoral stakeholders (political parties, organisations/associations and independent candidates) of these developments. This action aligns with the Commission's mandate to establish and maintain liaison and cooperation with all electoral stakeholders.

5. Commission's Position and Way Forward

The Commission assures the public and all stakeholders that it has taken decisive action to guarantee that all required and correct quantities of ballot materials are secured for the special voting on 24 November 2025 and the main voting on 26 November 2025.

The supplier has committed to rectifying the discrepancies and delivering the correct quantities of ballot papers in the country, at its own cost on 18 November 2025 at the Hosea Kutako International Airport. The exact time will be communicated to stakeholders once it has been confirmed.

The process of verifying and packing of these ballot papers is expected to immediately commence, in the presence of designated representatives of all participants (political parties, organisations/associations and independent candidates), at the ECN Logistics Store, followed by the dispatch of remaining sensitive materials to the respective regions to ensure timely delivery and deployment of the teams thereafter.

Furthermore, the Commission confirms that all the duplicate and ballot books in excess of the required quantities have been stored and sealed in ballot boxes and representatives of political parties, associations and organisations represented at the ECN Logistics stores have affixed their seals. These ballot boxes will remain sealed as per the norm, the Commission will determine the date of disposal in consultation with PLC members.

The Commission remains fully committed to its mandate of organising, directing, supervising, managing, and controlling elections in a free, fair, independent, credible, transparent, and impartial manner.

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