



MEDIA RELEASE
(For immediate release)

06 November 2025

Attention: News Editors
All Media Houses

**UNFOUNDED AND MALICIOUS ALLEGATIONS BY LPM REGARDING EXCLUSION FROM
LOCAL ELECTIONS**

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (the Commission) views with extreme seriousness the unfounded allegations propagated by the Landless People's Movement (LPM) in recent media reports, including those published on 29 October 2025 in The Namibian newspaper, claiming that the ECN deliberately blocked their nominations for local authority councils.

The Commission unequivocally refutes these accusations as they are full of inaccuracies, malicious, and represent a deliberate attempt to discredit the integrity of the electoral process.

The Commission reaffirms that its actions throughout the nomination period for the Regional Councils and Local Authorities (RCLA) elections were strictly conducted in accordance with the law, ensuring impartiality and adherence to established procedures.

Integrity of the Nomination Process and PPCM System

1. The Commission confirms that the use of the Political Party and Candidate Management (PPCM) system, introduced in 2024 as an administrative tool designed solely to assist the Commission, political parties, and candidates in streamlining the nomination process, reducing paperwork, and enhanced due diligence. The PPCM system proved efficient and successfully facilitated nominations submitted by all other political parties, organisations, and independent candidates contesting the 2025 RCLA elections in all 121 constituencies and 59 local authorities.
2. Nominations for RCLA elections commenced on 26 September 2025, culminating in the public sitting day on 16 October 2025. The mandatory deadline for submissions was 11:00 on 16 October 2025.
3. The statutory requirement dictates that nomination lists must be submitted to the respective Returning Officers (ROs) for the local authority area concerned. The ECN Head Office served only as a Help Desk to address queries, and ECN staff there were not legally mandated to accept official nomination forms.

LPM's Failure to Comply

1. The LPM successfully submitted nominations for some regional councils' elections and some local authorities' elections that were ready by the 11:00 deadline on 16 October 2025, using the PPCM portal.

2. However, some of LPM's local authorities' submissions, were non-compliant in that they failed to meet the legal requirement concerning gender proportionality or the allocation of the correct number of candidates as required by law.
3. Crucially, the Commission states definitively that at the close of nominations at 11:00 on 16 October 2025, the LPM did NOT submit nominations for the following local authorities, either through the PPCM portal or with the Returning Officers in those localities: Rehoboth, Tses, Luderitz, Bethanie, Stampriet, Aranos, and Berseba. Allegations regarding exclusion from these specific constituencies are therefore unfounded.
4. Recognising the time-sensitive nature of rectifying identified errors, the Commission, through the CEO acting on behalf of Returning Officers, formally communicated an extension to all affected political parties, organisations, associations and candidates, including LPM. This extension allowed for rectification until 15:00 on 17 October 2025.
5. During this granted extension period, the LPM, as one of the affected parties, successfully corrected errors identified in nominations for 18 out of 20 local authorities. This fact confirms that the LPM utilized and benefitted from the administrative mechanisms put in place by the Commission and subsequently complied where they chose to do so.

Consequences of Delay and Engagements Held

The ECN acknowledges meetings held with LPM representatives on 22 and 28 October 2025, subsequent to the legal deadlines, which were intended to provide further clarification.

The Commission maintains that its officials, acted with professionalism, courtesy, and decorum at all times when engaging parties seeking assistance at the help desk. Claims of system failure or intentional administrative obstruction are baseless speculation and hearsay.

The Electoral Commission maintains its commitment to executing a transparent, independent, and lawful election process. We warn all political entities against making deliberately inaccurate and malicious statements intended to undermine public faith and the integrity of the electoral institutions. The Commission operates strictly within the confines of the Electoral Act, 2014, and expects all participating parties to adhere diligently to the rules and deadlines set forth by the relevant proclamation.

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