



Electoral Commission of Namibia

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



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Acronyms

AA	Affirmative Action	LPM	Landless People's Movement
AFIS	Automatic Fingerprint identification System	MHAISS	Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security
AI	Artificial Intelligence	MIRCO	Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation
APP	All People's Party	MVRK	Mobile Voter Registration System
AR	Affirmative Repositioning	NA	National Assembly
BOC	Body of Christ	NAMPOST	Namibia Post Limited
CCL	Cabinet Committee on Legislation	NANGOF	Namibia Non-Governmental Organisation Forum
CCN	Council of Churches in Namibia	NBC	Namibian Broadcasting Cooperation
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television	NCO	New Commissioners Orientation workshop
CDV	Christian Democratic Voice Party	NDP	National Democratic Party of Namibia
CEO	Chief Electoral and Referenda Officer	NEFC	National Empowerment Fighting Corruption
CERC	Central Elections Results Centre	NEFF	Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters
COD	Congress of Democrats	NFPDN	National Federation of People with Disabilities in Namibia
CPEOM	Commonwealth Pre-Election Observer Mission	NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
CSO	Civil Society Organisation	NIPAM	Namibia Institute of Public Administration and Management
DHL	Dalsey, Hillblom and Lynn express services	NMH	Network Media Hub
ECF-SADC	Electoral Commissions' Forum for Southern Africa Development	NPF	National Patriotic Front of Namibia
ECN	Electoral Commission of Namibia (the Commission)	NSA	Namibia Statistics Agency
ECZ	Electoral Commission of Zambia	NUDO	National Unity Democratic Organisation of Namibia
EE	Employment Equity	PDM	Popular Democratic Movement
EMB	Electoral Management Body	PEOM	Pre-Election Observer Mission
ERMS	Election Results Management System	PLC	Political Parties Liaison Committee
FARM	Finance Audit and Risk Management	PNA	Presidential and National Assembly (elections)
FY	Financial Year	PVR	Provisional Voters' Register
GMN	NBC Good Morning Namibia	PWDs	People with Disability
GRV	General Registration of Voters	RDP	Rally for Democracy and Progress
HQ	Headquarters	REOs	Regional Electoral Officers
HR	Human Resources	ROs	Returning Officers
ICT	Information Communication Technology	RP	Republican Party of Namibia
IDEA	(International) Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance	RVCML	Research, Voter, Civic Education and Media Liaison
IEBC Kenya	Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission of Kenya	SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
IEC Botswana	Independent Electoral Commission of Botswana	SEAC	Electoral Advisory Council
IEC Lesotho	Independent Electoral Commission Lesotho	SOPs	Standard Operations Procedures
IEC South Africa	Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa	SORs	Supervisors of Registration
IEVP	International Election Visitors' Programme	SWA ID	South-West Africa Identity Document
IFES	International Foundation for Electoral Systems	SWANU	South West Africa National Union Party of Namibia
IMVRS	Integrated Mobile Voter Registration System	SWAPO	South West Africa People's Organisation
INEC Nigeria	Independent National Electoral Commission of Nigeria	UDF	United Democratic Front of Namibia
IPC	Independent Patriots for Change	UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
IT	Information Technology	UNP	United Namibians Party
ITSELA	Security and Legal Affairs Committee	UPM	United People's Movement
		VCE	Voter and Civic Education

Chairperson's Foreword



As we present the 2024/25 Integrated Annual Report, I do so with a profound sense of responsibility and commitment as I reflect on the key achievements, challenges faced, and lessons learned by the Commission during the reporting period. Our mandate to ensure free, fair, and credible elections is not merely a constitutional obligation but a fundamental pillar of our democracy and a testament to the will of the Namibian people.

This reporting period has been marked by significant milestones in our efforts to enhance electoral processes, maintain transparency, and foster public trust in our electoral systems. We remain dedicated to our vision of being a leading electoral management body that upholds the principles of democracy, inclusivity, and innovation.

In the lead-up to the 2024 elections, we have prioritized the strengthening of our administrative frameworks and the utilization of technology to streamline operations. With the implementation of an integrated voter management system, we emerged better equipped to ensure the integrity of our voter registration processes and enhance the overall efficiency of election management.

Furthermore, we recognize that civic education plays a crucial role in empowering citizens to participate meaningfully in the electoral processes. Our outreach initiatives have been expanded to engage diverse communities, ensuring that citizens are informed, adequately educated and empowered to exercise their rights to vote.

As we navigate the complexities of modern governance, the importance of collaboration cannot be overstated. We have pursued partnerships with various stakeholders, including civil society organisations, international electoral bodies, and government entities. These collaborations have been instrumental in fostering an environment of shared responsibility and mutual accountability.

Despite the challenges posed by external factors, such as the ever-evolving public expectations and technological advancement, the Commission remains resilient and adaptive. It is imperative that we continue to uphold the standards of democratic governance, particularly in the context of evolving public expectations and technological advancements.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to the Commissioners, Management and staff members of the Commission (both permanent and temporary), whose unwavering commitment and professionalism have been pivotal in our achievements. Your hard work not only ensures the successful delivery of electoral services but also reinforces the democratic ethos that we are tasked to uphold.

As we look ahead to the upcoming electoral cycle, our resolve is strengthened by our achievements and lessons learnt while converting challenges faced, into opportunities. We are committed to delivering elections that reflect the voice of the Namibian people, safeguarding the tenets of democracy, and continually improving our practices to meet the challenges of a dynamic political landscape.

In conclusion, I invite you to explore this integrated annual report as a comprehensive account of our activities, achievements, and aspirations. Together, let us continue to nurture our democracy and work towards a prosperous future for all Namibians.

Dr Elsie Tuleingepo Nghikembua
CHAIRPERSON

CEO's Executive Summary



Welcome to the Electoral Commission of Namibia's 2024/25 Annual Report that focuses on our activities during the period 01 April 2024 until 31 March 2025.

As the Chief Electoral and Referenda Officer of the Commission, I am honoured to present the executive summary of our 2024/25 Integrated Annual Report. This report captures our commitment to conducting free, fair, and transparent elections while outlining our strategic initiatives and financial performance over the past year.

Operational Highlights

In the last fiscal year, the Commission has made significant strides in enhancing the electoral process in Namibia with 92% operational performance rate recorded. We successfully conducted national elections, ensuring that our systems remain robust and responsive to the needs of Namibian citizens. Our efforts to increase voter participation have shown promising results, with a noticeable uptick in registered voters, particularly among youth and first-time voters.

Strategic Initiatives:

- a. **Voter Education Campaigns:** We have launched extensive voter education programme aimed at informing the electorate about their rights and the voting process. This includes targeted outreach to marginalised communities and the use of digital platforms to reach a broader audience.
- b. **Technological Advancements and innovation:** Our investment in technology has modernised our electoral processes. We have implemented an upgraded integrated mobile voter registration system (IMRVS) and improved voting mechanisms that enhance security and efficiency.
- c. **Strengthening Institutional Capacity:** Continuous training and development of Commission staff have been a priority. We aim to build a skilled workforce capable of handling the complexities of modern elections and respond effectively to emerging electoral challenges.

Financial Performance:

The Commission is fully funded by the state. Our allocated budget was prudently executed, focusing on essential operations and process improvements. We maintained fiscal discipline while ensuring that all activities adhered to national financial regulations. The Commission is committed to transparency, and detailed financial statements are included in this report for comprehensive oversight by stakeholders.

As we look towards the upcoming regional and local authorities' councils' elections, our focus will remain on enhancing electoral integrity. We have developed and launched the 2025. Electoral calendar which is a roadmap for the 2025 regional council and local authority elections, prioritising accessibility, inclusivity, and security. Strategic partnerships with civil society and international organisations will be instrumental in achieving these goals.

In conclusion, the achievements outlined in this report reflects the Commission's unwavering dedication to strengthen constitutional democracy and fostering sound democratic electoral and referenda processes in Namibia. We remain committed to upholding the principles of democracy, ensuring that every citizen's voice is heard. I would like to express my gratitude to our dedicated staff, stakeholders, and the community for their ongoing support. Together, we will continue to build a robust electoral system that serves the interests of all Namibians.

Peter Shaama

CHIEF ELECTORAL AND REFERENDA OFFICER

About The Theme

“Towards a centre of excellence in electoral management”

This is testimony to the Commission’s commitment to ensuring transparent, credible, and accountable electoral processes based on the effective planning that the Commission put into each of the phases of the electoral cycle/schedules and execution thereof.

As we complete the third stretch of the ECN five-year (2022/23 – 2026/27) Strategic Plan, we are optimistic that we will gradually adjust our operations and institutional direction in response to the evolving political landscape to professionally administer the conduct of election processes. Furthermore, ensuring excellent planning and execution of the conduct of any elections in a timely and credible manner.

Pursuant to our Constitutional mandate of conducting and managing electoral and referenda processes for Namibian citizens with a view to uphold electoral democracy, the Commission has since 1992 conducted six successful Regional Council and Local Authority Elections and seven Presidential and National Assembly Elections as well as several by-elections throughout the years.

About This Report

The Commission is required in terms of Section 15 (1) of the Electoral Act, No. 5 of 2014, (the Electoral Act) as amended, and herein referred to as the Electoral Act, to submit to the Speaker of the National Assembly a report in respect of its activities and the activities of committees performed during the preceding year or in respect of any other matter relating to elections and referenda under the Electoral Act which the Commission finds necessary in the public interest to report thereon.

Therefore, the report presents a summary of strategies, activities, programmes and achievements of the Commission employed to create value in executing its mandate.

Legal Framework

The **Namibian Constitution and the Electoral Act** establish the legal framework for conducting elections in Namibia. These two legal instruments primarily guide how elections are organised and executed. Section 4 of the Electoral Act, read together with Article 94B of the Namibian Constitution, outlines the powers and functions of the Commission. In particular, this framework must be considered with due regard to Schedule 2 and any other relevant laws, where the Commission:

- a. is 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 under the Electoral Act; and
- b. must 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.
 - i. The Regional Council Act No. 22 of 1992, read together with relevant provisions of the Electoral Act provides the regulatory framework for the conduct of scheduled Regional Council Elections and by-elections.
 - ii. The Local Authority Council Act No. 23 of 1992, read together with relevant provisions of the Electoral Act provides the regulatory framework for the conduct of scheduled Local Authority Elections and newly proclaimed local authorities elections.
 - iii. The Public Procurement Act No.15 of 2015 prescribes various methods of procurement of goods and services, procurement structures and processes including election materials and electoral related services.
 - iv. The State Finance Act No.31 of 1991 prescribes the management of the budget and disbursement of appropriated funds.



Our Vision

To be a centre of excellence in electoral management



Our Mission

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

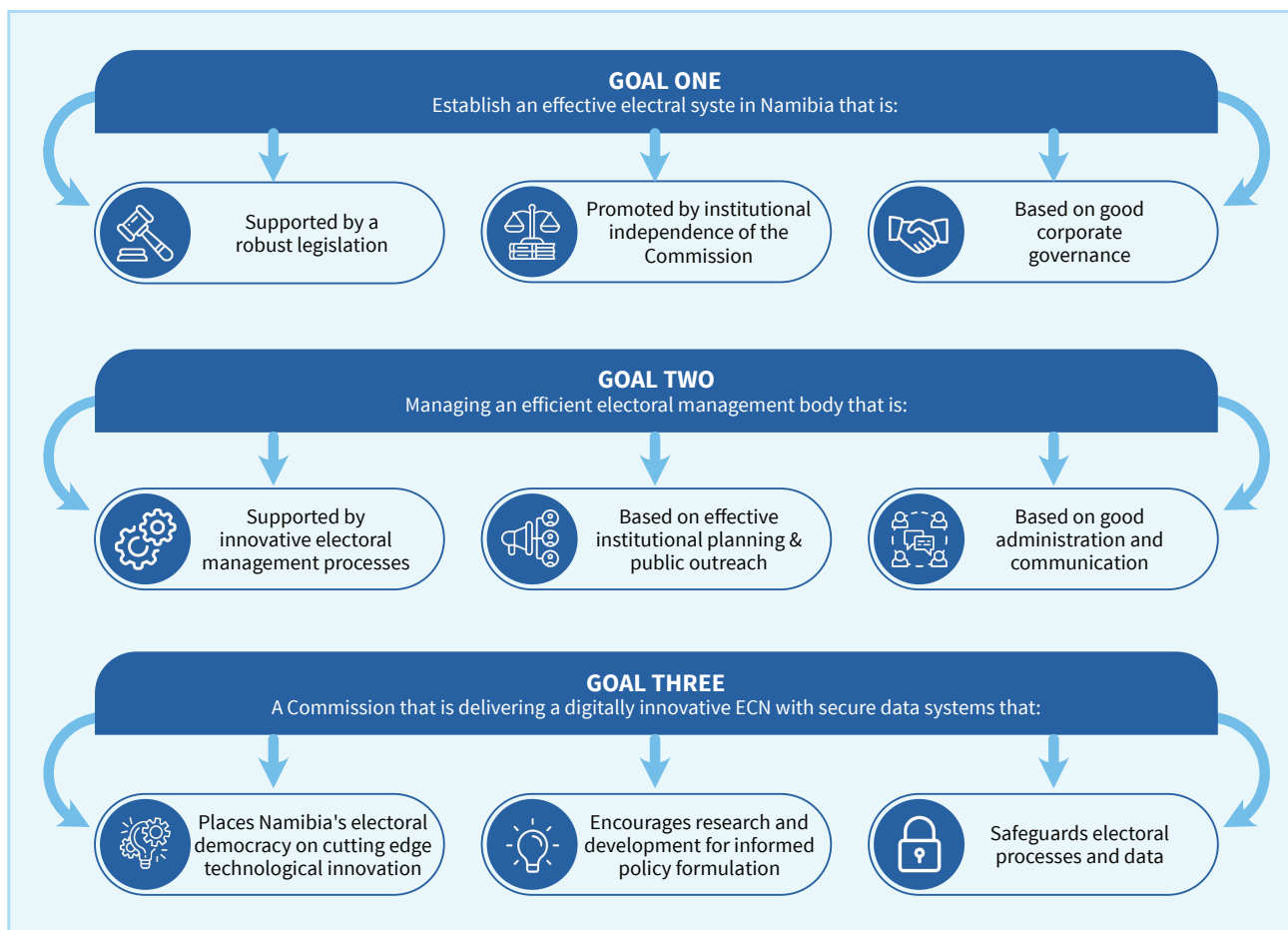


Core Values

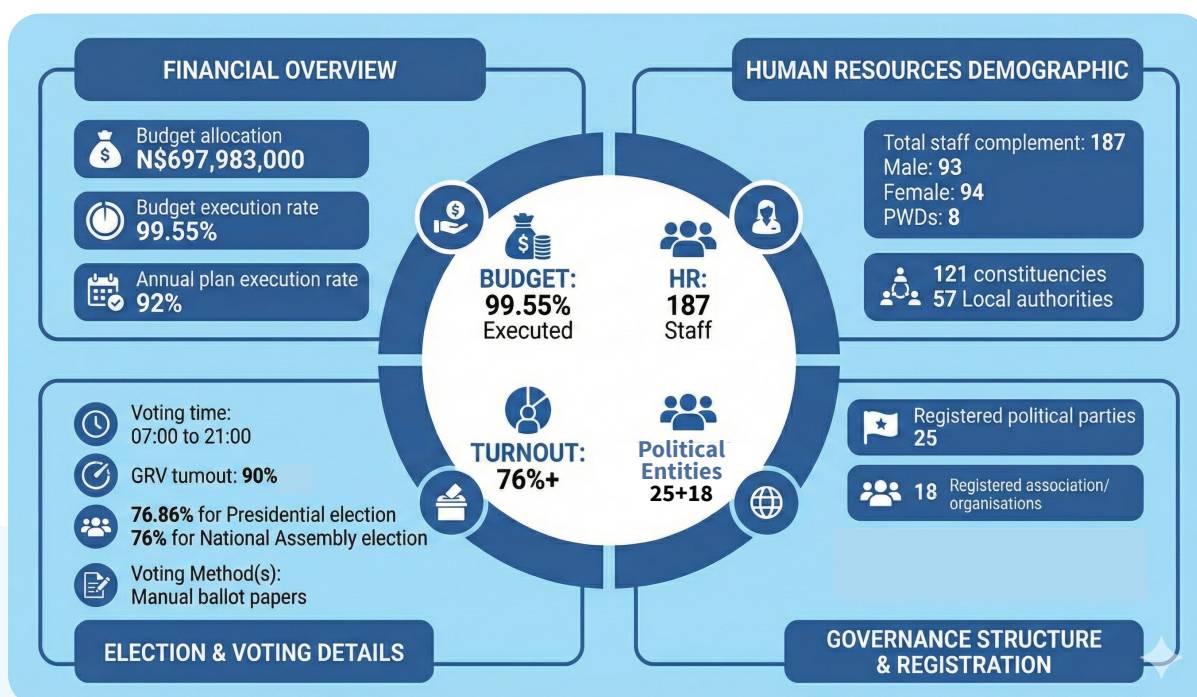
The description of the Commission's core values, which its staff members should uphold in the execution of their duties are as follows:

Value	Description
Secrecy of the vote	To respect and protect the voter's choice.
Accountability	Account to Parliament and Namibian nation.
Non-Partisanship	To maintain political neutrality and refrain from deliberately advancing or prejudicing the interest of political parties, organisations and independent candidates.
Professionalism	Demonstrate the highest level of competence, skills and acumen in the delivery of its mandate.
Integrity	Uphold honesty and transparency in the electoral processes.
Inclusiveness	Involve stakeholders through broad consultation in the delivery of service.
Innovation	Enhance advanced ways of conducting electoral processes.
Respect for the rule of law	Adhere to the Constitution and legislation.
Service Mindedness	Develop and implement service delivery standards.
Accessibility	Ensure the practice of making electoral information, activities, and/or registration/polling venues accessible, meaningful, and usable for all our stakeholders including people with disabilities by providing equitable opportunities.

Key Enablers for Achieving our Mandate

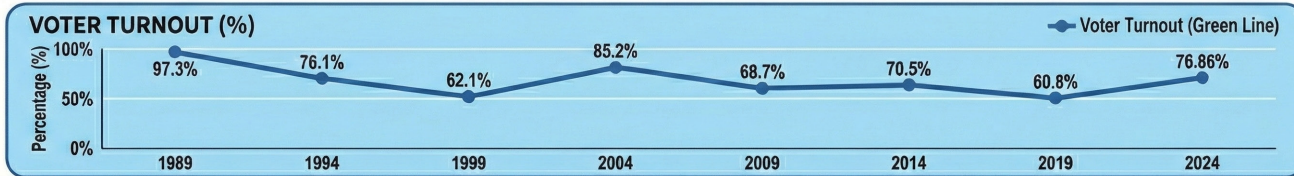
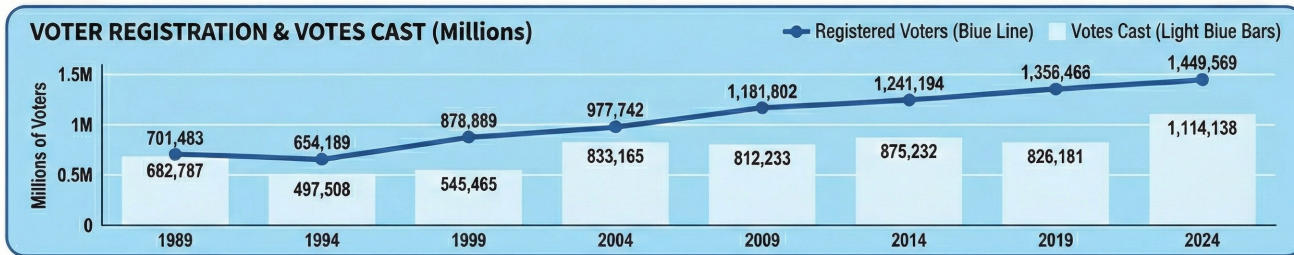


2024/25 At a Glance



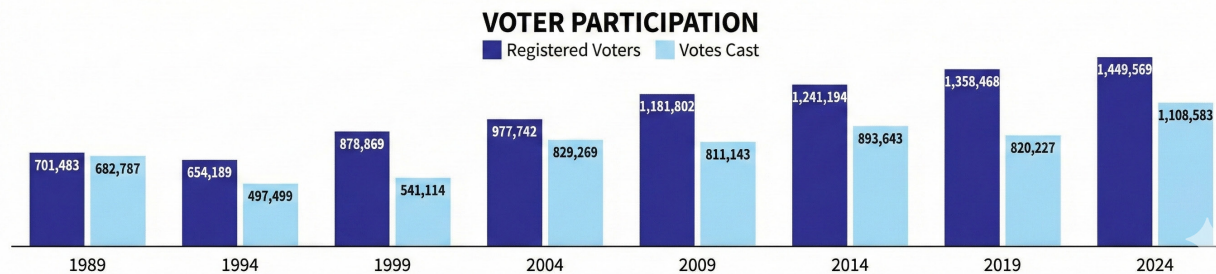
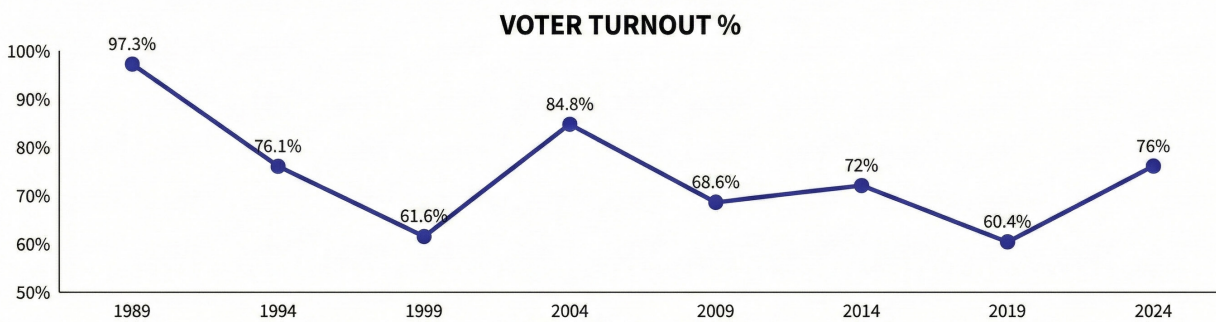
Presidential Elections

Elect19on year	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009	2014	2019	2024
Registered Voters	701 483	654,189	878,869	977,742	1,181,802	1,241,194	1,358,468	1,449,569
Number of votes cast	682,787	497,508	545,465	833,165	812,233	875,232	826,181	1,114,138
Voter turnout	97.3%	76.1%	62.1%	85.2%	68.7%	70.5%	60.8%	76.86

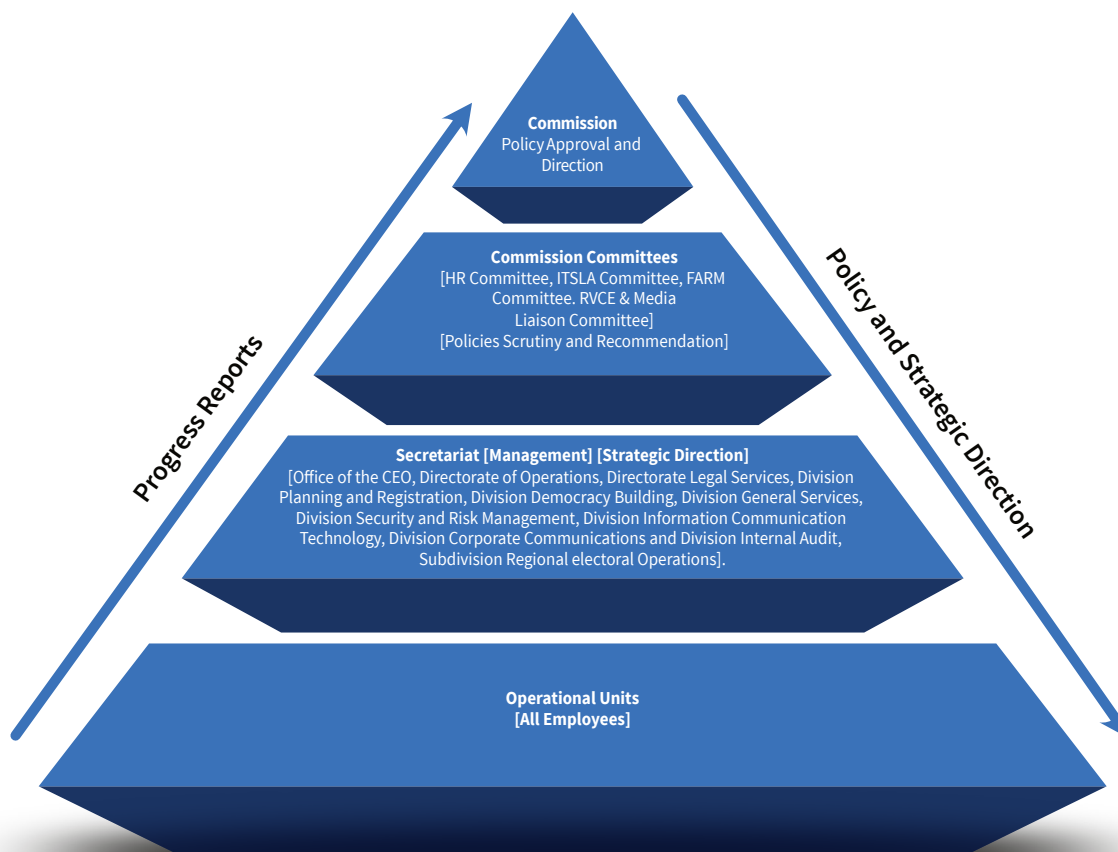


National Assembly Elections

Election year	1989	1994	1999	2004	2009	2014	2019	2024
Registered Voters	701,483	654,189	878,869	977,742	1,181,802	1,241,194	1,358,468	1,449,569
Number of votes cast	682,787	497,499	541,114	829,269	811,143	893,643	820,227	1,108,583
Voter turnout	97.3%	76.1%	61.6%	84.8%	68.6%	72%	60.4%	76%



Governance Structure



Composition of The Commission

The Commission is constituted in terms of Article 94B, of the Namibia 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 for a period of five years and eligible for reappointment for a second term.

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

Led by the Chairperson who is appointed on a fulltime basis for a period of five years, the Commission provides strategic oversight responsibility to enable value driven institutional performance. To ensure that the Commission is a strategic asset, the Electoral Act prescribes that it must have the right mix of skills and knowledge as well as the ability to work effectively as a team. The Electoral Act further provides that the composition of the Commission must include a minimum of two women as members of the Commission.

Current Commissioners

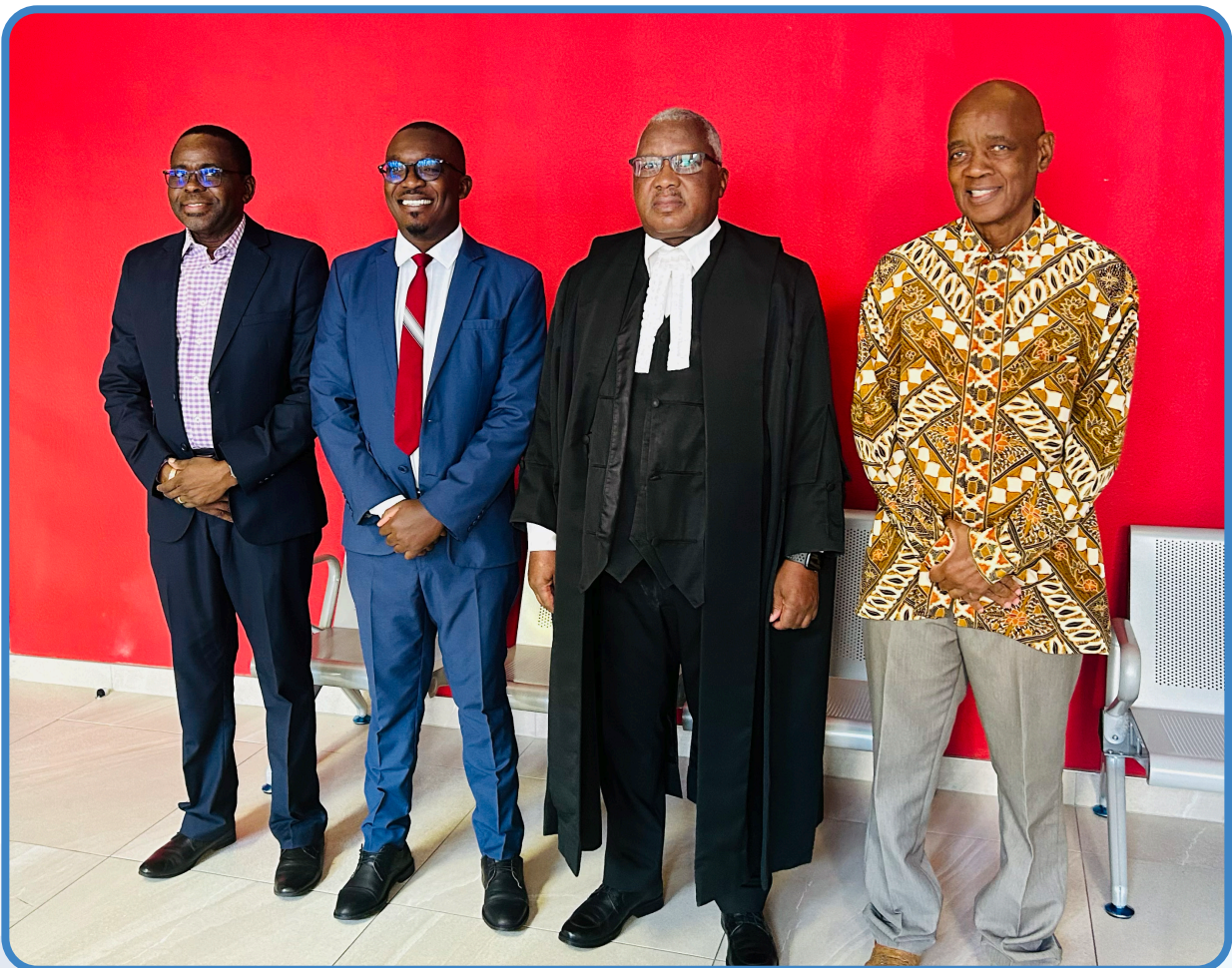
Name	Position	Period
Dr Elsie T. Nghikembua	Chairperson	Five (5) years with effect from 15 September 2021
Dr Emmerencia Leonard	Commissioner	Five (5) years with effect from 15 September 2021
Dr Gerson Sindano	Commissioner	Five (5) years with effect from 09 September 2022
Mr Gerson Uaripi Tjihenua	Commissioner	Five (5) years with effect from 15 March 2024
Mr Pius lilende likwambi	Commissioner	Five (5) years with effect from 15 March 2024

Table 1: The Commissioners and their term of office



From left: Dr Gerson Sindano , Dr Emmerencia Leonard , Dr Elsie T. Nghikembua (Chairperson), Peter Shaama (CEO), Mr Pius Iilende Ikwambi and Mr Gerson Uaripi Tjihenua

Commissioner Pius Iilende Ikwambi and Commissioner Gerson Uaripi Tjihenua were sworn in on the 29 April 2024, following their appointment as ECN Commissioners for a period of 5 years with effect from 15 March 2024.

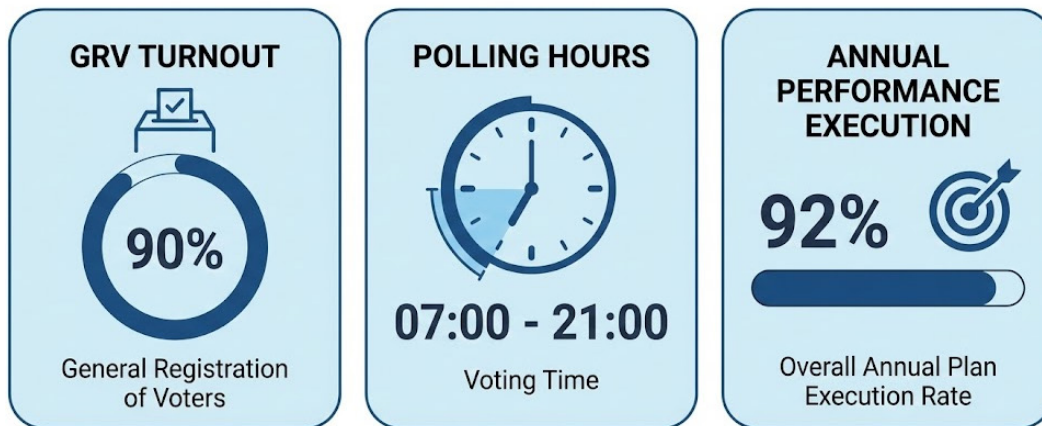


From left: Peter Shaama (CEO), Mr Pius Iilende Ikwambi, Deputy Judge-President Hosea Angula and Mr Gerson Uaripi Tjihenua

Oversight Function of The Key Strategic Initiatives

This specific reporting period coincided with the conduct of the 2024 Presidential and National Assembly elections Electoral Cycle. As a result, most activities reported were geared towards the preparations for the conduct of the 2024 Presidential and National Assembly elections and post-mortem on the performance assessment which set the basis for the roadmap to the 2025 Regional Councils and Local Authority Elections.

In exercising its oversight role, the Commission was able to achieve the following key strategic initiatives during the period under review. These are:



Commission Committees

The various committees of the Commission, as presented below in table 2, are established under Section 13 of the Electoral Act. These committees assist the Commission in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities across different functional areas within the organisation, ensuring compliance with the Constitution, Electoral Act and other relevant legislations.

Additionally, the committees consider matters submitted by Management and make recommendations to the Commission for approval and subsequent implementation by management.

Committees	Research, Voter, Civic Education & Media Liaison (RVCML)	Security and Legal Affairs (ITSELA) Committee	Human Resources (HR) Committee	Finance, Audit and Risk Management (FARM) Committee
Purpose	Provides strategic direction and leadership in the Commission's information dissemination to ensure effective and efficient service delivery	Advises and provides strategic direction and leadership on issues related to Information Technology (IT), Security, legislative and regulatory issues.	Provides strategic direction and leadership on issues related to Human Resources, Recruitment, and Training.	Provides strategic direction and leadership on issues related to effective financial management and audit activities for prudent financial management and accountability by implementing internal controls and management systems.
Commissioners	Commissioner Gerson Uaripi Tjihenua – Chairperson Commissioner Dr Emmerentia Leonard - Member	Commissioner Dr Gerson Sindano – Chairperson, Commissioner Pius likwambi – Member	Commissioner Dr Emmerentia Leonard – Chairperson Commissioner Dr Gerson Sindano – Member	Commissioner Pius likwambi – Chairperson Commissioner Gerson Uaripi Tjihenua – Member Ms Linda Elago – Member (External)
Technical Resources Persons	CEO Director: Operations Deputy Director: Corporate Communication Deputy Director: Voter and Civic Education	CEO Director: Operations Chief Legal Advisor Deputy Director: Security and Risk Management Deputy Director: Election Administration Deputy Director: ICT	CEO Director: Operations Deputy Director: General Services	CEO Deputy Director: Internal Audit Deputy Director: General Services

Table 2: Composition of the Commission Committees

Commission and Committees' Meetings

The Commission and Committee meetings are held on both pre-scheduled quarterly and ad-hoc basis. During the year under review, the committees convened meetings as summarised in table 3 below.

Commissioners	Meetings attendance						
	Ordinary Commission meetings	Special Commission meetings	PLC	RVCML	ITSELA	FARM	HR
Dr Elsie T. Nghikembua - Chairperson	7	47	10	-	-	-	-
Gerson Uaripi Tjihenua	7	47	10	3	4	1	-
Pius Iikwambi	7	47	10	-	4	1	3
Dr Emmerentia Leonard	7	47	10	3	-	-	3
Dr Gerson Sindano	7	47	10	-	4	-	-

Table 3: Commission and committees' meetings

Political Party Liaison Committee (PLC)

During the period under review, the Commission strengthened its relationship with stakeholders. The PLC chaired by the Chairperson of the Commission, is maintained as a formal platform established in terms of the Electoral Act to serve as a link between the Commission and registered political parties and organisations/associations. The platform is aimed at sharing and keeping the political parties and organisations/associations abreast with any development on electoral matters and to promote transparency and accountability. In addition, the PLC serves as a platform through which political parties and organisations/associations raise their concerns and move proposals on electoral matters for discussion. The PLC served as a critical engagement forum on elections related matters.



PLC engagement

Date	Activity	Mode & Time	Participants
13 Feb 2024	PLC Meeting (Refer to Activities under EC 2024)	Physical, 09h00	Commission Management PLC members
29 Feb 2024	Launch of Electoral Calendar, GRV and Democracy Awareness Campaign	Physical, 09h00	Commission Management PLC members
28 Mar 2024	PLC Meeting (Refer to Activities under EC 2024)	Physical, 09h00	Commission Management PLC members
30 Apr 2024	PLC Meeting (Refer to Activities under EC 2024)	Physical, 09h00	Commission Management PLC members
23 May 2024	PLC Meeting (Refer to Activities under EC 2024)	Physical, 09h00	Commission Management PLC members
25 Jun 2024	PLC Meeting (Refer to Activities under EC 2024)	Physical, 09h00	Commission Management PLC members
23 Jul 2024	PLC Meeting (Refer to Activities under EC 2024)	Physical, 09h00	Commission Management PLC members
22 Aug 2024	PLC Meeting: a) Readiness of Voter Verification, Candidate Management and Election Results Management Module b) Mock Voting Preparation	Physical, 10h00	Commission Management PLC members
23 Aug – 20 Sept 2024	Induction for Political Parties – Candidate Management (Online Nomination)	Physical	Commission Management PLC members
29 Aug 2024	PLC Meeting - Presentation: a) Release of Provisional Voters Register b) Provisional GRV Demographic Data	Physical, 10h00	Commission Management PLC members
19 Sep 2024	PLC Meeting (Refer to Activities under EC 2024)	Physical, 10h00	Commission Management PLC members
29 Oct 2024	PLC Meeting (Refer to Activities under EC 2024)	Physical, 09h00	Commission Management PLC members
19 Nov 2024	PLC Meeting (Refer to Activities under EC 2024)	Physical, 09h00	Commission Management PLC members
19 Dec 2024	PLC Meeting (Refer to Activities under EC 2024)	Physical, 10h00	Commission Management PLC members
08 Jan 2025	PLC Meeting: Update on the conduct of the Guinas Constituency By-Election, verification and signing- off sample ballot Papers	Physical, 10h00	Commission Management PLC members

Table 4: PLC engagements

Commission Engagements With International and Regional Electoral Management Organisations

In preparations for the execution of the 2024 PNA elections, the Commission undertook various consultative and information sharing engagements and symposiums to strengthen capacity through partnerships and collaboration.

Cambridge Regional Conference on Electoral Democracy



Picture: Cambridge Conference on Electoral Democracy delegation

A delegation led by the Chairperson of the Commission attended a two-day regional conference on electoral democracy from 24 – 25 April 2024, in Mauritius, marking the 65th anniversary of the Office of the Electoral Commissioner. Themed “Ensuring Credible Elections for Stable Democracy: Options for Managing Misleading and Incorrect Information in Electoral Processes,” the conference was organized by the Cambridge Conference on Electoral Democracy, and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES). Delegates from several African electoral bodies, including INEC Nigeria, IEBC Kenya, and the Electoral Commission of Ghana participated.

The conference addressed the decline of democracy in Africa, highlighted by recent coups in West Africa and upcoming key elections in 2024. It explored three key themes:

- a. Education versus Regulation: Attendees discussed the need to protect voters from false information by promoting media literacy and evaluating the reliability of online information. Both educating the electorate and regulating political advertising were deemed essential, despite the challenges both approaches face. There were recommendations for a supportive framework for Tech companies and EMBs, developing strategies to educate the public on misinformation, disinformation, and the impacts of AI and hate speech.
- b. Partnerships: EMBs seek to collaborate with social media platforms to combat misinformation. While initial partnerships showed promise, recent disinvestment in moderation resources by many platforms raises concerns about the sustainability of this model. The conference highlighted the necessity for EMBs to consider diverse partnerships beyond social media companies.
- c. The Role of Electoral Commissions: EMBs must navigate negative social media narratives that often demonize electoral officials. Delegates advocated for transparency and engagement with stakeholders as a more effective approach than censorship. The conference acknowledged the varying roles of EMBs, from defenders of democracy to custodians of electoral processes, emphasizing the importance of operational excellence to foster trust.

Recommendations from the Conference:

- i. Enhance transparency by developing a comprehensive electoral portal.
- ii. Create a crisis communication strategy involving partnerships with Tech companies.
- iii. Conduct regular media briefings and establish a hotline for public inquiries.
- iv. Invest in capacity-building and knowledge sharing among EMBs.
- v. Domesticating the Guidelines for social media use within local contexts.

In summary, the conference focused on equipping electoral bodies with strategies to manage misinformation, promote credibility, and strengthen democratic processes in the face of growing challenges.

ECF-SADC CEOs and Exco Meetings – Eswatini, Mbabane

The Commission and serving as the Chairperson of ECF-SADC, attended the EXCO meeting hosted by the Elections and Boundaries Commission (EBC) of the Kingdom of Eswatini from 08 – 12 July 2024. The engagement provides a platform where Chief Electoral Officers and Executive Committee of ECF SADC regularly meet to discuss, strategies, plan and mobilise resource for the implementation of ECF SADC activities in the region.

Cambridge Conference on Electoral Democracy, Møller Institute

The Commission participated at the Cambridge Conference on Electoral Democracy held in Cambridge, UK on 18 – 19 July 2024. The Cambridge Conference on Electoral Democracy focused on the challenges to the integrity of elections and the operations of Election Management Bodies (EMBs) arising from false and misleading information spread through social media.

The Commission was also able to pay a courtesy visit at the Namibia High Commission in the UK and South Africa (Pretoria) to assess the GRV process that was underway at the respective diplomatic mission registration points.

Outcome of the conference

- a. educating the electorate to be more discerning about information presented on social media.
- b. regulating social media to encourage responsible information sharing practices.
- c. partnering with other organisations to assist in these tasks.
- d. the appropriate role and responsibilities of EMBs in managing these challenges.

Regional Workshop for Embs and Election Observer Missions to Fulfil Their Obligations Under The AU Framework on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information

The Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, in collaboration with ECF-SADC convened the workshop at Hilton Hotel in Windhoek from 23 – 24 July 2024, hosted by the Electoral Commission of Namibia. The overall aim of the workshop was to increase knowledge and mainstreaming of the 2019 Declaration of Principles of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information, the Guidelines to Access to Information and Elections in Africa, amongst others.

Outcome of the meeting

- a. Enhanced understanding of information ecosystem dynamics.
- b. Improved capacity to monitor and respond to misinformation and disinformation.
- c. Strengthened collaboration between EMBs and EOMs.
- d. Development of guidelines or best practices.
- e. Actionable recommendations for policy and practice. The workshop participants generated actionable recommendations for policymakers and practitioners in EMBs and EOMs to improve their approaches to handling information during electoral periods, ensuring transparency, fairness, and credibility.

Invitation to The Inaugural Meeting of Women Chairpersons of African Election Management Bodies, 5 – 6 August 2024, Accra, Ghana

The Commission accepted an invitation from the UNDP Regional Service Centre for Africa, UN Electoral Assistance Division in collaboration with the African Union Commission and the International IDEA to attend the first strategic reflection meeting for women Chairpersons of African Election Management Bodies (EMBs) in Accra, Ghana. The meeting was hosted by the Electoral Commission of Ghana and the Secretariat of the Association of African Electoral Authorities (AAEA). This meeting offered an opportunity for women who are EMB leaders to reflect on establishing a continental network of senior electoral administrators with a bid to fostering peer-support among women in election management leadership in Africa. A two-member delegation from the Commission attended the meeting.

ECF-SADC 12th Session of New Commissioners' Orientation – Zambia

The ECF- SADC and international IDEA in collaboration with the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) invited all new Chairpersons, Commissioners, and CEOs to the New Commissioners Orientation (NCO) workshop in Lusaka Zambia, during the period 26 – 30 August 2024.

The overall objective of the NCO was to support policymakers within EMBs in the SADC region in their mandate to deliver transparent, credible, and peaceful elections.

IFES US Election Program, Washington DC, USA

The International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) extended an invitation to the Commission to participate in the 2024 U.S. Election Programme, held from 3 – 6 November 2024. The program provided participants with an opportunity to gain firsthand insights into the American electoral process and to engage in discussions on democracy and elections from comparative international perspectives.

On 05 November 2024, Americans cast their ballots for the offices of President and Vice President, as well as for members of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. The Commission was represented by a Commissioner and staff member of the Commission.

26th Annual General Conference (AGC) of The Electoral Commissions Forum Of Sadc Countries (ECF-SADC) 9 – 13 December 2024, MAHE, Seychelles

A two-member delegation from the Commission attended the 26th ECF-SADC's elective conference hosted by the Electoral Commission of Seychelles under the Theme "The impact of digitalisation, social media and youth engagement in elections in the SADC Region".

During the same event, the conference elected the leadership of the Forum for the period 2024 – 2026, IEC South Africa was elected the new Chairperson, deputised by CENI-DRC. The Electoral Commission of Namibia remains a member of the Executive Committee.

During the conference, the Electoral Commissions discussed and considered key trends, challenges, and potential solutions to emerging challenges and opportunities presented by the growing wave of digitalisation in electoral processes and engagement of the region's specific youthful population.

The Commissions actively participated in the AGC gaining insights and sharing experiences on the implementation of digital technologies in elections and methods to engage young voters more effectively.

International Conference, Election Commission of India, New Delhi, India



Picture: Chairpersons of EMBs and their delegations, A-Web Secretariat, IFES, and International IDEA

A three-member delegation from the Election Commission of Namibia participated in the "Global Election Year 2024" International Conference held in New Delhi, India in January 23 – 24 2025. Organized by the Electoral Commission of India, the conference gathered various electoral management bodies (EMBs), including representatives from Bhutan, Georgia, Indonesia, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Mauritius, Namibia, Nepal, the Philippines, Russia, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, and Uzbekistan.

The conference aimed to explore contemporary election management strategies, focusing on the future of elections through six thematic sessions: major learnings from 2024 elections, technology's role in election management, social media's impact, electoral equity and accessibility, capacity building and international cooperation, and the future of elections.

Key outcomes included:

- Presentations on the future of elections and the challenges posed by social media in Namibia.
- The establishment of the Delhi Declaration 2025, highlighting concerns over declining voter turnout, abusive campaigns, and misinformation affecting election integrity.
- A proposal for a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Election Commission of India and the Electoral Commission of Namibia to enhance electoral management efficiency.

Overall, the conference facilitated knowledge sharing and collaborative approaches to address pressing challenges in electoral processes.

Courtesy and International Visits

Courtesy Visit by The Indian High Commissioner to Namibia

The Chairperson of the Commission received the Indian High Commissioner HE Mr Mandarapu Subbarayudu, on 02 May 2024, before her travel to New Delhi, India to observe the General Election to the Lok Sabha on 07 May 2024, at the invitation of the India Elections Commission.

Courtesy Visit by The Embassy of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela's Charge D' Affairs, Mrs. Aurelin Diaz Gil

The Chairperson of the Commission received the Charge d' Affairs, Mrs Aurelin Diaz Gil on the 17 May 2024 at which an invitation was extended to the Commission to observe Venezuela's Presidential Elections held on 28 July 2024.

Courtesy Meeting by The UN Resident Coordinator, Ms Hopolang Phororo

The Chairperson of the Commission met with the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms Hopolang Phororo who was accompanied by UNDP Deputy Representative, Mr Christian Shingiro on 05 June 2024, at the Elections House.

Visit to Namibia by The Secretary General of The International Idea – Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora

Dr Casas-Zamora & delegation was hosted by the Commission and MIRCO during his visit to Namibia on 24 – 26 June 2024, and delivered a public lecture on “The Global State of Democracy” attended by various Commission key stakeholders on the 25 June 2024 the Secretary General also had an opportunity to visit various registration points in Windhoek during the conduct of the GRV exercise.

Courtesy Call by The Deputy High Commissioner at Post, Mr Ben Stride

On 15 July 2024, the British Deputy High Commissioner met with the Chairperson of the Commission, accompanied by Ms Lwimba Mufune, who serves as the Communications, Scholarships, and Political Officer. The purpose of the meeting was to gain insight into the work of the Commission.

Courtesy Meeting by Usa Ambassador to Namibia

On 28 August 2024, the Chairperson of the Commission welcomed the U.S. Ambassador to Namibia, Mr Randy Berry, and his delegation. The purpose of the meeting was to congratulate the Chairperson and the Commission on achieving a commendable voter registration rate. Additionally, the Ambassador sought insights into the process of applying for accreditation to observe upcoming elections in November.



Visit to Namibia by The Secretary General of The International Idea – Dr Kevin Casas-Zamora (Centre)

Elections Observation Missions (EOMs)

ECF-SADC Election Observation Mission to South-Africa, Pretoria

An invitation was extended to ECF-SADC member commissions to observe the National & Provincial Elections in the Republic of South-Africa that took place on 29 May 2024. The Commission was represented by a five-member delegation.

India General Elections to Lok Sabha

A four-member Commission delegation participated in the International Election Visitors' Programme (IEVP) from 04 – 09 May 2024 during the General Election to the Lok Sabha on 07 May 2024, at the invitation of the Election Commission of India.

2024 General Elections of The Republic of Botswana

A one-member delegate from Commission observed the Republic of Botswana's General Elections held on 30 October 2024 under the ECF-SADC observer mission.

ECF-SADC CEOs and Exco Meetings – Lesotho, Maseru

A three-member delegation from the Commission attended the CEOs & EXCO meetings hosted by IEC Lesotho during the period 23 – 28 March 2025.



Monitoring of Electoral Processes

The Commission, as mandated, oversaw the successful conduct of the 4th GRV from 03 June – 01 August 2024, as well as the conduct of the PNA elections on 27 November 2024, both inland and at Namibia diplomatic missions. The details of the electoral activities performed pertaining to GRV and PNA elections are contained in the 2024 PNA Performance Assessment and Post-Election Report.

Electoral Performance Review

The Commission conducted post 2019 & 2020 National Elections in preparation for 2024 and 2025 Electoral Cycle. The review was guided by institutional performance reports and observer missions' reports.

Key Reform Initiatives

- a. Review of 2017-2022 Strategic Plan (SP), development and adoption of 2022-2027 SP
- b. Review and Amendment of the Electoral Act No.5 of 2014
- c. Development and adoption of administrative frameworks
- d. Review, upgrading and enhancement of elections management systems
- e. Review, development and adoption of 2024 Electoral Calendar – Electoral Roadmap.

Oversight Role and Monitoring of 2024 Pna Elections

During the year-under review the Commission supervised the execution of the 2024 PNA elections. As part of its oversight roles, the Commission carried out the following activities:

- a. Electoral reforms
- b. General Registration of Voters (GRV): 03 June – 01 August 2024
- c. Nomination of Independent Candidates, Political Parties and the Public Sitting Day 16 October 2024
- d. Voting Abroad, Voting for Sea-going Personnel, and Members of the Security Personnel: 13 November 2024
- e. Election Day: 27 November 2024

Overall Conduct Of Elections

The Commission is pleased to report that the 2024 PNA elections were organised and conducted in strict accordance with its constitutional mandate and international best practices. However, the Commission acknowledges that conducting elections is inherently complex, especially when it is preceded by the conduct of GRV.

To ensure the smooth execution of elections, the Commission requires timely electoral amendments, national population data, and reports on boundaries and delimitation. These elements are critical for effective planning and execution of the electoral processes.

In this regard, the Commission noted that challenges arose during the preparation and conduct of the elections, as reported in the 2024 Presidential and National Assembly elections performance and post-election report. Nevertheless, the Commission is proud to highlight that these challenges did not impede the effective execution of its mandate and the significant national task at hand achieving 76.86 % voter turnout during presidential and 76% during national assembly elections.

Furthermore, the Commission is of the view that many of these challenges stem from the legislative requirements in the Electoral Act requiring electoral reforms. Despite the concerted efforts of the Commission to submit the Electoral Amendment Bill, to date, this Bill has not been finalised. The proposed amendments also include the Commission's full autonomy in respect of administrative and financial independence.

2024 PNA Election Observer Missions

Pre-Election Assessment Observer Missions (PEAOMs)

The Commission received four pre-election observer missions to assess ECN’s state of preparedness for the 2024 PNA and to ensure adherence to international standards of fairness, transparency and inclusivity.

NO.	PEAOM	Date	Head of Delegation
1	ECF-SADC	16 – 20/09/2024	Hon Justice Priscilla M. Chigumba
2	Commonwealth	28/08/2024	Mr Linford Andrews
3	Africa Centre for Governance	19 – 23/08/2024	Mr Tumelo Mokoena
4	SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC)	27/07 – 08/08/2024	Dr Leonard Sesa

Table 3: List of PEAOMs

The Commission received Preliminary Statements from the Electoral Commissions Forum (ECF-SADC), Africa Centre for Governance (ACG) and the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) with the following summarized finding/observations, and recommendations.

Overall, the government of the Republic of Namibia and all electoral stakeholders were commended for subjecting themselves to the scrutiny, which demonstrated their openness to democratic and good governance values.

Observers and Diplomatic Missions Accreditation

Accrediting election observers is a vital component of an electoral system as it ensures transparency, accountability, and fairness throughout the electoral process. Section 56 of the Electoral Act No. 5 of 2014, as amended, outlines the criteria used by the Commission to qualify individuals and organisations as election observers. The Commission equally applied this criterion to accredit both local and international observers and media.

The Commission through the then Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) extended invitations to African Union, SADC, European Union, Commonwealth and other international and regional organisations to observe the 2024 PNA elections. Furthermore, a call for application to all other interested organisations was extended on 19 August 2024 and closed on 30 October 2024. The invitation with detailed requirements was placed on the ECN website and social media platforms.

Number of Accredited Observers and Diplomatic Missions

A total of four local and ten international observer missions, two Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs), and three individuals totalling 483 individuals were accredited to observe elections. Furthermore, 19 diplomatic missions domiciled in Namibia were accredited.



Dr Elsie T. Nghikembua (Chairperson) handing over accreditation cards to Shelleygan Petersen (Journalist) on behalf of the media

No.	Name of Organisation	Number of Observers Deployed/ Mission Size
1	British High Commission	9
2	Embassy of Japan	6
3	European Union delegation	51
4	Embassy of the United States of America	36
5	Zambian High Commission	4
6	Embassy of the Republic of Zimbabwe	4
7	High Commission of the United Republic of Tanzania	2
8	Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia	1
9	Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	2
10	Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo	1
11	Embassy of Algeria	1
12	Kenya High Commission	5
13	Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria	5
14	South African High Commission	4
15	Embassy of the Republic of Türkiye	2
16	Embassy of the People's Republic of China	5
17	Botswana High Commission	4
18	Embassy of the Russian Federation	3
19	Embassy of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire (Pretoria)	1
20	Namibia Institute For Democracy	132
21	Hanns Seidel Foundation Namibia Office	11
22	Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Namibia-Angola	2
23	Namibia Non-Governmental Organisation Forum (NANGOF)	1
24	African Union Commission (AU)	47
25	SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM)	54
26	Cambridge Conference on Electoral Democracy	1
27	Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation	4
28	Zimbabwe Election Support Networks	7
29	National Council of Namibia & Federal Council of Russian Federation	6
30	African Centre for Governance	62
31	SADC Parliamentary Forum	4
32	AAEA Peer Support Mission to Namibia	11
33	ECES	
34	Ms Leena Ndaendelao Nghivelwa (political science student- UNAM)	1
35	Mr Indongo Lazarus Ashipala (political science student- UNAM)	1
36	Mr Gerson Ingashipola Shikukumwa (political science student- UNAM)	1
37	Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC Countries (ECF-SADC)	34
38	Central Election Commission of Russia	2

Table 4: List of Accredited Observers

Consideration of Applications for Registration of Political Parties and Organisations

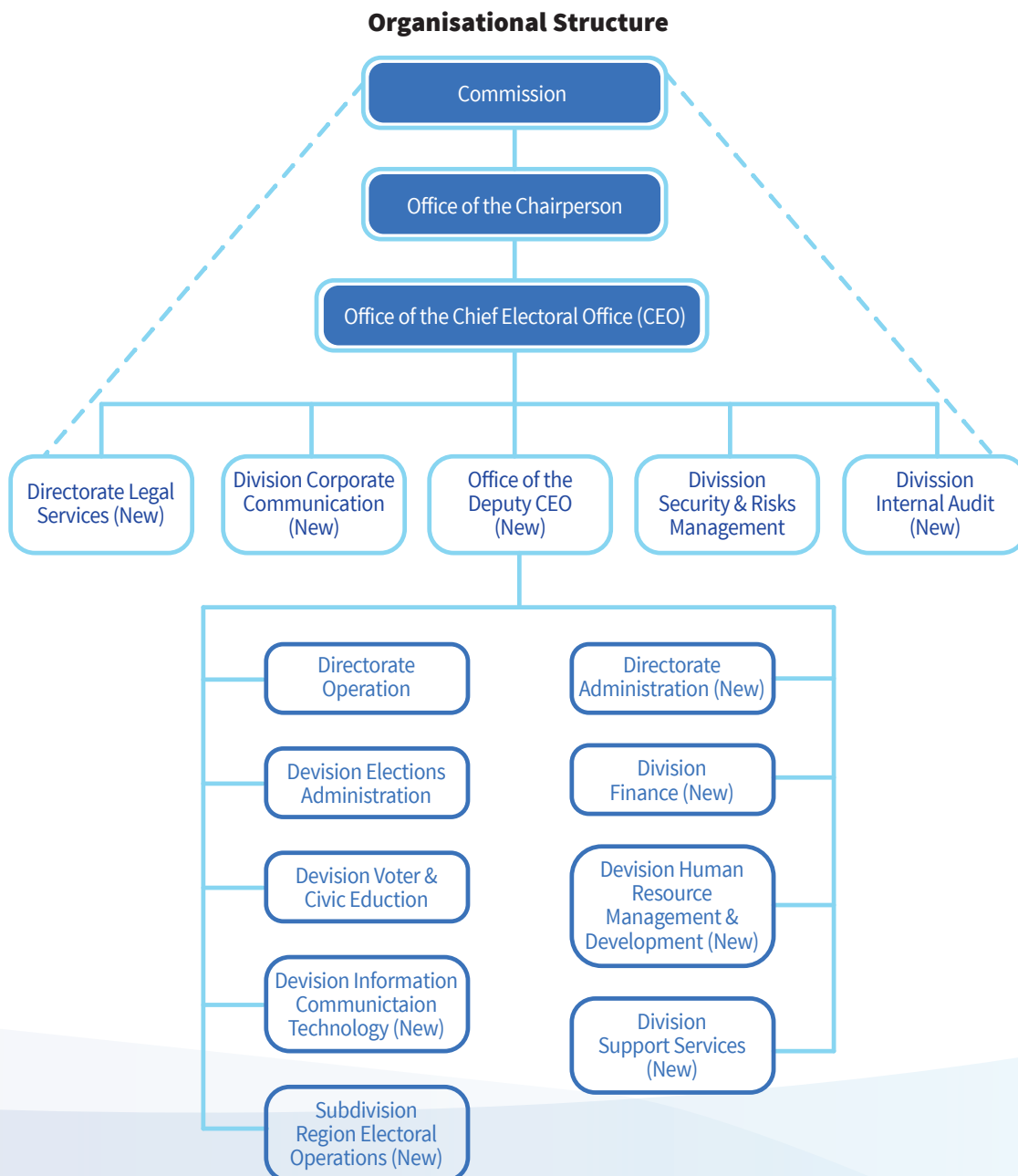
In accordance with Section 135 of the Electoral Act, the Commission serves as the Registrar of Political Parties and Organisations. Applications regarding political parties must be submitted to the Commission pursuant to Section 136, while applications for organisations/associations are governed by Section 148. It is crucial that the registration of political parties and organisations/associations meets the following requirements:

- a. The applicant complies with Section 135; and
- b. Other legal registration requirements as outlined in the Electoral Act.

In light of the above, the Commission received four applications from various interested parties seeking registration as political parties, of which two were approved and subsequently registered, with their names entered in the Political Parties and Organisations Register. The other two applications had queries, which the applicants have yet to address. Additionally, the Commission received two applications for registration as organisations/associations. The Commission reviewed these applications and approved them, resulting in their names being entered into the Political Parties and Organisations Register.

Operationalising The Independence Of The Commission

In terms of the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia in Article 94B and Section 4 of the Electoral Act the Commission is constitutionally and legally an independent electoral management body free from government or any executive influence and or coercion. In view of the above, the Commission in 2024 undertook an exercise to ensure that the statutory independence of the Commission as contemplated in the stated legislation is operationalised in all spheres of Commission’s operations. The Commission is pleased to note that this exercise is ongoing and the Commission will keep engaging with all relevant stakeholders to achieve this objective.



Management

Led by the CEO, the day-to-day execution of duties of the Commission are overseen by a passionate group of fully committed individuals, who ensure that the Commission fulfils its mandate.

The management of the Commission is focused on striking a balance between achieving the Commission's constitutional mandate and doing so in a responsible and accountable manner. It is the engine and the implementation organ of the Commission as constitutionally mandated.

Management Team



Mr Peter Shaama
Chief Electoral and
Referenda Officer



Advocate Heidi Jacobs
Chief Legal Advisor



Ms Zenia Klazen
Director of Operations



Mrs Josefina Muhapi
Deputy Director:
General Services



Mrs Marilyn Kazetjikuria
Deputy Director:
Civic and Voter Education



Mr Thomas Shapi
Deputy Director:
Election Administration



Mr Mulauli Siluka
Deputy Director: Corporate
Communications & Marketing



Mr Paulus Shigwedha
Deputy Director:
Information and
Communications
Technology (ICT)



Mrs Hilma Ashipala
Deputy Director:
Internal Auditor



Mr Charles Matengu
Deputy Director:
Security & Risk
Management

Perspective on Our Business Operational Review

OFFICE OF THE CEO

The Commission in terms of section 17 of the Electoral Act appoints the CEO. The CEO is the head of administration and is the Commission's Accounting Officer. The office of the CEO is responsible for the overall strategic management of the Commission, and it monitors the implementation of the Commission strategic priorities, policies and directives. The office monitors the overall coordination and implementation of the Commission's strategic objectives, outputs and overall operations and policies. The office oversees the day-to-day running of the entire operations, financial management, optimal utilisation of the allocated resources and ensuring that resources are adequately managed to enable the Commission to fulfil its mandate.

Structurally, the Department of Legal Services and Divisions of Internal Audit, Division of Corporate Communication and Marketing as well as the Division of Security and Risk Management resort under the Office of the CEO.

The activities of the CEO's office during the 2024/25 financial year are reflected below.

Institutional Performance

Execution and review of the 2024/2025 Annual Management Plan

The 2024/2025 Annual Management Plan was developed and successfully implemented by all divisions, with 92% execution rate. The implementation of the plan was monitored, and quarterly reviews were done to evaluate performance against set targets and performance indicators. However, one major challenge faced during the reporting period is that the current institutional staff complement does not fully provide adequate human resources, putting pressure on the execution rate.



Management team

Publication Andsubmission of Statutory Reports

i. Annual Reports

The 2023/24, Annual Report is submitted in compliance to Section 15(1) of the Electoral Act which stipulates that the Commission must submit to the Speaker of the National Assembly a report in respect of its activities and the activities of the committees performed during the specific financial year. The report provides a comprehensive overview of all the activities and operations undertaken by the Electoral Commission during the period 01 April 2024 – 31 March 2025. The report includes the institutional audited statements for the year 2023/24.

ii. Accountability report

The purpose of accountability reports by Government Offices, Ministries, and Agencies (OMAs) in Namibia is to demonstrate transparency, ensure proper use of public funds, and show compliance with government goals and legislation. These reports hold OMAs answerable for their performance and are crucial for promoting good governance, achieving national objectives like those outlined in Vision 2030, and allowing for public and parliamentary oversight.

iii. Annual Stock taking report

Annual Stock Taking Report was produced and submitted to Treasury in April 2025.

iv. Affirmative Action Report

In compliance with Section 27(2) and 28(2) of the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, No.29 of 1998, the Commission prepared and submitted its report to the Employment Equity Commission.

v. Payroll Verification Report

The Commission conducted a payroll verification process to ensure the complete accuracy, compliance, of all payroll processes for the financial year under review and submitted a report.

vi. Annual Procurement Plan

The Commission prepared, submitted and published its 2024/24 Annual Procurement Plan in compliance with the Public Procurement Act, No.15 of 2015, as amended. The plan aims to ensure transparency, efficiency, accountability and value for money in the expenditure of public funds.



and integrity

Governance and Policy Mandates

In its drive to attain its operational independence as guaranteed in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia in Article 94B and Section 4 of the Electoral Act, the Commission reviewed, developed and approved a number of operational policies, key governance documents to improve its oversight on governance as well as MOUs. Effective governance is important in providing transparent and accountable management and oversight of any entity. The Commission's role within the Namibian democratic system means that it must uphold the highest standards of governance and accountability for how it uses its resources and delivers against its plans.

i. Performance Management Policy

The Performance Management Policy (PMP) provides the governance framework and procedures to enable the ECN to assess how its vision, mission and strategic objectives will be realised over the planning period. Through the Commission's PMP, efforts are made to measure the overall institutional, departmental, and individual performances based on the targets and outcome indicators outlined in the Strategic Plan, Annual Management Plan and individual Performance Agreements of staff members.

ii. Electoral Operations Policy

The Electoral Operations Policy (EOP) defines the administrative framework under which electoral operations are managed, executed, monitored and assessed in compliance with the provisions, Regulations of the Electoral Act and all other relevant pieces of legislation. Therefore, this policy serves as a fundamental instrument to operationalise the Commission's legislative mandate.

iii. Risk Management Strategy

The Risk Management Strategy (RMS) outlines an overall approach to risks impacting the attainment of the Commission's vision, mission and strategic objectives. This strategy, therefore, ensures that risk management is embedded within the daily operations of the Commission, from strategy and policy formulation to strategic leadership, strategic management and operational levels.

iv. Decentralisation Plan

The Commission has an obligation towards strengthening constitutional democracy and promoting democratic electoral and referenda processes of which decentralisation of electoral functions is very fundamental. In its drive to meet this obligation, the Commission is busy executing the decentralisation plan which is a policy-driven effort aimed at enhancing and guaranteeing democratic participation by the majority of the citizens at grassroots level as well as achieving sustainable development through participatory democracy.

v. Electoral Security Policy

The Electoral Security Policy was established and adopted in accordance with Chapter One of the “Guidelines on Common minimum standard of protective measures for Government Ministries and Public Offices of the Republic of Namibia”. The primary security measures of the Commission include physical, personnel, and information security management.

vi. Disability Mainstreaming Framework

The Disability Mainstreaming Framework of the Commission aims to ensure that people with disabilities can participate fully and equally in all aspects of the electoral process. It’s about embedding disability inclusion into the Commission’s policies, procedures, and practices, rather than treating it as a separate issue.

vii. Communication Strategy

The Commission’s Communication Strategy (CS) is designed to transform its Vision and Mandate into actionable tasks, ensuring transparency and effectiveness in disseminating information. The CS aims to guide communication processes internally and with external stakeholders, with the long-term goal of fostering strong partnerships. It provides clear standards for managing both internal and external communications.

As an institution responsible for overseeing the entire electoral process, the Commission must consistently and promptly provide information across its extensive network of staff and offices, as well as to the public. This is achieved through various communication channels.

viii. The Service Charter

The Commission launched its Service Charter on 07 March 2024. The purpose of the Commission’s Service Charter is to re-affirm our commitment to continue providing quality services to our stakeholders. It informs our desire to align our corporate values towards a result-driven institution in a distinctive manner, setting standards and the delivery of expected services realistically within the budget and time. It also presents an opportunity to create and exchange ideas with our stakeholders.

The charter further signifies our commitment to the legal framework that underpins our mandate in order to be responsive to the expectations and needs of our stakeholders.

ix. ICT Policy

The primary purpose of the ICT Policy is to provide a framework for selecting, implementing, and managing ICT security services. It guides the institution on how to effectively manage ICT assets. Additionally, the Policy aims to protect both the data stored and processed within the institution’s computer systems, as well as the services provided by these systems, ensuring the confidentiality, integrity, and availability of information.

Moreover, the Policy strives to create a cohesive environment for addressing ICT security issues for all staff and individuals who access the institution’s information systems. It also offers guidance on considerations for developing agreements that define service levels for service providers. Furthermore, the Policy provides essential information for decision-makers and other relevant parties on cybersecurity to facilitate the acquisition of comprehensive ICT security services.

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Signed

- a. Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Namibia (UNAM)
- b. Memorandum of Understanding with the Namibia Statistics Agency (NSA)

Operationalise the Institutional Independence of the Commission

The proposed Electoral Amendment Bill includes the full operationalisation of the Commission, which is designed to ensure its independence as envisioned by Article 94B of the Namibian Constitution.

DIRECTORATE: LEGAL SERVICES

During the year under review, the Commission through the Directorate of Legal Services successfully crafted relevant Proclamations, Government Notices and General Notices for the national elections, providing legal opinions and advice to the Commission and Management.



STRATEGIC GOALS

- a. To strengthen the legal framework to establish a modern electoral management system
- b. To operationalise the institutional independence of the Commission

ELECTORAL AMENDMENT BILL

i. Electoral reforms

With the ever changing political and legal environments, harmonising legal framework by reviewing and reforming laws to ensure that they are significant to our operations.

The Commission commenced with the electoral review following the conduct of 2019 PNA and 2020 Regional Councils and Local Authorities (RCLA) elections through extensive engagements with all key electoral stakeholders held between 2021 and 2023. This consultative process culminated in a Draft Electoral Amendment Bill which was submitted and considered by the Cabinet Committee on Legislation (CCL) and Cabinet in October 2023. The Bill could not be finalised ahead of 2024 national elections prompting the Commission to initiate the process of extrapolating section 25 of the Electoral Act for amendment to allow the Commission to start with the planning and preparation for the conduct of GRV from 03 June to 01 August 2024.

ii. ii) Electoral amendments

Section 25 of the Electoral Act mandates that a General Registration of Voters (GRV) occurs at least once every ten years as determined by the President. The previous GRV was conducted from 15 January 02 March 2014. Given potential issues like inclement weather and the festive season, the Commission sought legal advice on the possibility of holding the next GRV between April and July 2024, despite the ten-year period from the last GRV having lapsed.

In 2023, Section 25 was amended to allow the 4th GRV to take place no later than 31 August 2024, resulting in its scheduling from 03 June to 01 August 2024. Additionally, on 09 April Section 77 of the Electoral Act was amended to allow public service members to be nominated for the National Assembly elections.

During this period, the Commission also initiated a review of the Electoral Act to develop an Electoral Amendment Bill aimed at improving the efficiency of the electoral process and the Commission itself. This exercise will include consultations with stakeholders in preparation for upcoming elections, including a review of the challenges and proposed recommendation from emanating from the 2024 General Voters Registration and Presidential and National Assembly Elections, as well as the 2025 Regional and Local Authorities Councils Elections.

iii. Legal matters

iv. LEGAL MATTERS (COURT CASES)

The following legal matters were contended by the Commission.

A) IN THE MATTER RDP AND OTHERS V ECN AND OTHERS ETA/01/2024

In this matter of RDP and others vs ECN and others in the Electoral Tribunal, the Applicant, which is a political party brought an application in pursuant to section 162 and section 163 of the Electoral Act 5 of 2014, as amended.

They sought a series of order, which among others:

- To direct the first and second respondents to forthwith replace the name of the authorised representative RDP from Nicanor Ndjoze to Mr John Shiwa Nghishehiva(sic) of the first applicant.
- Directing 3rd and 5th respondents to forthwith withdraw the party lists purportedly submitted on behalf of the first applicant for purposes of section 73(1)(4) and section 77(1) of the Electoral Act.
- That first and second respondents be directed forthwith declare that my announcing third respondent as the democratically elected president in 2019 was false and unconstitutional and is set aside.
- Declaring the swearing in of the 3rd and 4th respondents as members of National Assembly unconstitutional, unlawful and therefore null and void.

The case was heard on 21 August 2024, and the judgement was delivered on 28 August 2024. One of the critical preliminary points raised by the respondents was lack of jurisdiction by court because the tribunal court was only empowered to deal with matters arise before elections. There was no election during that period. The Court after had applied its minds on the matter as presented on papers and during oral argument, it concluded that the applicants' case was brought under frivolous and vexatious manner. Thus, the application was dismissed with costs on the basis that the Electoral Tribunal lacks the necessary jurisdiction on the reliefs sought.

b) NAMIBIA ECONOMIC FREEDOM FIGHTERS V ECN AND ANOTHER, CASE NO: HC-MD-CIV-MOT-GEN-2024/00381.

The applicant is a political party duly registered in terms of the Electoral Act 5 of 2014, as amended ('the Act'). It is common cause that the applicant failed to comply with the disclosure regime set out in s 139 of the Act, in relation to its assets and liabilities. It further failed to comply with its responsibilities in relation to filing necessary records and the audit of its financial statements as required by s 140 of the Act. The Commission had engaged the applicant in writing and further had one-on-one engagement during June 2023, yet there was no positive response on as far as the applicant's compliance was concerned. In 2024, the Commission (respondent) resolved to deregister the applicant and applicant being aggrieved by the decision of the respondent approached the high court to review the decision of the respondent. The High court set aside the decision of the respondent dated 17 June 2024 aside, with cost

c) THE INDEPENDENT PATRIOTS FOR CHANGE V THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA EC1/2024

In this matter, the applicant, Independent Patriots for Change, a political party registered in terms of section 137 of the Electoral Act 5 of 2014, was aggrieved. The crux of the grievance concerned the nomination of one candidate for both the Presidential and National Assembly elections. The applicant was of the view that a political party's candidate should not be nominated for both the Presidential race and the National Assembly, as such dual nomination is inconsistent with the constitutional principles of separation of powers.

Consequently, the applicant approached the Electoral Court by way of an urgent application to compel the respondent to disclose a legal opinion previously obtained from the Attorney-General, which addressed the issue in dispute.

The respondent submitted that the court lacked jurisdiction, arguing that the applicant's request for the disclosure of the legal opinion did not constitute an electoral issue as envisaged under the Electoral Act. The Court agreed with the respondent and dismissed the application, holding that the matter of dual candidacy and the related legal opinion did not amount to an electoral issue within the meaning of the Act.

d) DR PANDULENI ITULA AND OTHERS V PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND 32 OTHERS (A2/2024) BEFORE THE SUPREME COURT OF NAMIBIA

In this Supreme matter, Dr Panduleni Filemon Bango Itula and Mr Bernadus Swartbooi, both candidates in the 2024 Presidential election, had filed applications under s 172 (1) of the Electoral Act 5 of 2014, sought to have the election results set aside. They contended that the election held on 27, 29 and 30 November 2024 were unlawful and invalid. Their challenges were based on several grounds: (a) the election contravened Part 5 of the Electoral Act and the Namibian Constitution (b) it was tainted by serious illegalities (c) the verification tablets used were not authorised under the Act (d) ineligible voters were permitted to cast ballots and (e) Proclamation 34 of 2024 which extended the voting period was unlawful. Based on these grounds, applicants pleaded with the court that the election results warranted judicial intervention and as a result should be declared invalid.

The matter was heard on 10 February 2025, with judgement delivered on 28 February 2025.

The Court dismissed the applicants' case, reasoning that the respondent was within the ambit of the law when recommended to the President to extend the Proclamation 34 of 2024 and that the Proclamation 34 of 2024 was lawfully enacted and the voting occurred on 29 and 30 November 2024 was valid and lawful. The applicants were therefore found not have made out a case for the invalidation of the impugned Proclamation,

e) INDEPENDENT PATRIOTS FOR CHANGE VS CHAIRPERSON OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA AND OTHERS EC5/2024 AND LANDLESS PEOPLE'S MOVEMENT V CHAIRPERSON OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA EC 6/.2024

The Applicants in these matters brought by urgent applications in the Electoral Court, requesting the applicants to access information from different forms used during Presidential and National Assembly elections. Specifically, they requested the Electoral Court to access information pertaining to:

- i. Total number of votes cast
- ii. Total number of votes rejected
- iii. Total number of votes counted
- iv. Total number of spoiled ballots
- v. Total number of voters who voted outside their constituencies (Tendered Votes)

By way of settlement agreements, the respondents did not oppose the matter and the settlement was made an order of court.

Apart from the information requested, the respondent was ordered to make the information available to the applicant on 18 and 19 December 2024. The information inspection was further subjected to be conducted in presence of the Namibian Police and the respondent's officials. While the applicants were ordered to identify and give to the respondent five names of their officials who were to inspect the information.

v) POLITICAL PARTY AND ORGANISATIONS/ASSOCIATIONS COMPLIANCE

Chapter 4 of the Electoral Act outlines the establishment, registration, and deregistration of political parties and their funding. The Commission has an exclusive body responsible for overseeing elections and managing political party registration, including deregistration for those who violate the Act.

Political parties must comply with specific sections, including:

- i. Section 139: Declaration of assets and liabilities
- ii. Section 140: Records and auditing of parties
- iii. Section 141: Disclosure of financing
- iv. Section 158: Accountability for funds

Since the promulgation of the Electoral Act, the Commission has worked to educate political parties on compliance, yet some have not engaged. In June 2023, the Commission held meetings with all twenty registered parties to discuss compliance, specifically regarding assets, record-keeping, and audits.

During these meetings, the Commission stressed the importance of financial transparency and compliance. Parties were also reminded to submit annual audited statements and manage their funds appropriately.

In June 2024, the Commission deregistered the Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF) and the Christian Democratic Voice Party (CDV) for non-compliance. While NEFF challenged its deregistration in court, the court ruled in favour of NEFF, citing a lack of due process, and reinstated the party. However, the court judgement underscored that political parties are in terms of the law expected to adhere to the law. Following this, CDV was also reinstated due to similar justification.

Consequently, the Commission recognises the need for an independent body to handle the registration and compliance enforcement of political parties while balancing its regulatory and registration roles to ensure impartiality and maintain public confidence in the electoral process.

Summary of Political Parties Submission-2024/25 Financial Year

Name of Political Parties	Date of Opening of National Assembly	Submission of Declaration of Assets and Liabilities, Form 33 - (Section 139) All political parties	End of Party Financial Year	Due date of Submission Financial Statements	Audited Financial Statements - All Political Parties (Section 140)	Newspapers advert	Disclosure of Foreign and Domestic Financing of political parties, organisations or other persons, Form 34 - (Section 141)	Form 34 - Section 141	Due Date for Disclosure of Public Funding (Section 158)	Submission of Audit Report (Political Parties represented in parliament)	Newspapers advert	Notes
Action Democratic Movement		Grace period	31 Mar	30 Sep	N/A	N/A		Not Submitted	30 Jun	N/A		
Affirmative Repositioning		Grance period	31 Mar	30 Sep	Auditor's letter	N/A		Not Submitted	30 Jun	N/A		
All People's Party (APP)	14 Feb 2023 - Due date for submission all political parties 08 Mar 2023	Submitted	31 Mar	30 Sep			Due Date for submission 30 August 2024	Submitted	30 Jun	Submitted	Submitted	
Body of Christ (BCP)		Submitted	31 Mar	30st Sep				Submitted	Not applicable			New party only apply for 2024
Christian Democratic Voice (CDV)		Submitted	30 Sep	30 Mar	Letter on finance			Submitted	30 Dec	Submitted	Not Submitted	
Congress of Democrats (COD)		Submitted	30 Jun	30 Dec				Submitted	Not applicable			
Independent Patriots for Change (IPC)		Submitted	31 Dec	30 Jun	Submitted			Submitted	30 Mar	Submitted	Not Submitted	
Landless People's Movement (LPM)		Submitted	30 Jun	30 Dec	Submitted			Submitted	30 Sep			
Monitor Action Group (MAG)		Submitted	31Mar	30 Sep				Submitted	Not applicable			
National Democratic Party of Namibia (NDP)		Submitted	31 Mar	30 Sep	Auditor's letter	N/A		Submitted	Not applicable			
National Empowerment Fighting Corruption (NEFC)		Submitted	31 Dec	30 Jun				Submitted	Not applicable			
Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF)		Submitted	31 Mar	30 Sep				Submitted	30 Jun	Submitted	Submitted	

National Patriotic Front of Namibia (NPF)	Submitted	30 Apr	30 October			Submitted	Not applicable			
National Unity Democratic Organisation of Namibia (NUDO)	Submitted	31 Mar	30 Sep			Submitted	30 Jun	Submitted	Submitted	
Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)	Submitted	31 Mar	30 Sep			Submitted	30 Jun	Submitted	Submitted	
Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)	Submitted	28 Feb	30 August			Not submitted	30 May	Submitted	Submitted	
Republican Party (RP)	Submitted	28 Feb	30 August	Submitted		Not submitted	30 May	Submitted	Submitted	
SWANU of Namibia	Submitted	28 Feb	30 August			Submitted	30 May	Submitted	Submitted	
SWAPO Party of Namibia (Swapo Party)	Submitted	30 Mar	30 Sep			Submitted	30 Jun	Submitted	Submitted	
United Democratic Front of Namibia (UDF)	Submitted	30-Jun	30 Dec			Submitted	30 Sep	Submitted	Submitted	
United People's Movement (UPM)	Submitted	30 Mar	30 Sep			Submitted	30 Sep	N/A	N/A	
United Namibians Party (UNP)	N/A	30 Mar	30 Sep	N/A		N/A	30 Jun	N/A		
Workers Revolutionary Party (WRP)	Submitted	30 Mar	30 Sep			Not submitted	Not applicable			

Table 5: Political parties and organisations/associations compliance

- vi) The department further facilitated the drafting and review of Service Level Agreements (SLA), Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and contracts for stakeholders, including service providers.



Electoral Court



ECN and NSA MOU signing

DIVISION: SECURITY & RISK MANAGEMENT

The Division of Security and Risk Management is responsible for overseeing the management, maintenance, and monitoring of security services and systems. Additionally, the division provides guidance, support, and expert advice to the Commission regarding risk and security.



STRATEGIC GOALS

- To ensure the implementation of security management policy & SOPs
- To enhance physical security measures
- To ensure the security of electoral processes
- To improve internal security controls

Activities and Achievements

Development of the Security Policy, and Operationalisation of Standard Operating Procedures

The SRMS division has developed the Security Policy and the Standard Operations Policy which are the guiding tools for the division. The policy outlines a number of activities the division should carry out and these include security audits, emergency preparedness, awareness and evacuation drills. These activities were successfully conducted by the division quarterly. Some staff members were trained as Fire Marshalls to save as emergency rescue and guides during emergencies.

Maintenance and Enhancement Of Security to Safeguard the Resources of the ECN

Through the division, the Commission successfully managed the security of electoral processes with the support from the NAMPOL. During the review period, the Commission conducted the PNA Elections. The police played a crucial role throughout all electoral stages, starting from the pre-election phase to the election itself, ensuring that safety and security were under the care of NAMPOL. All sensitive election materials were escorted and guarded by NAMPOL, and these materials were securely stored at police stations.

Additionally, the Commission through this division maintains a collaborative relationship with the NAMPOL, with personnel stationed 24/7 at head office premises to ensure the security of all resources.

Conduct Security Audit at Head Office and All Regional Offices

As part of the implementation of enhanced physical security, the division conducted the security audit of all ECN offices to evaluate the existing security and risk management measures. This assessment aimed to strengthen the physical security at the ECN structures, protective, electronic, personnel and document security. As a result of the audit, the Commission prioritised the installation of CCTV cameras and biometric Access Control System at ECN Head Office. Physical security was heightened with the aid of NAMPOL at ECN HQ who are permanently stationed 24/7.

In addition, the division conducted a needs assessment of the fire protection system to ensure safety at workplace. This project is expected to be expedited in phases and will be proportionally executed every financial year until final completion. As part of fire safety strategy, the division has appointed and trained fire marshals from the existing employees who are stationed at the head office. This, division further conducts fire drills on a quarterly basis.

Improved Internal Security Controls

The Commission has a stand-by generator for power failure as another security tool serviced monthly for the safety and security of the institution and staff. This equipment has been maintained well during the period under review. Monitoring and evaluation on all equipment is being conducted on a quarterly basis to prevent malfunctioning and maintain functionality.



Security protocol on transportation of sensitive election materials



DIVISION: INTERNAL AUDIT

The Commission established the Internal Audit function in terms of Section 13, 14 & 15 of the State Finance Act 1991, No 1 of 1991. Accordingly, the purpose, authority and responsibility of the internal audit function is defined in its Audit Charter as approved by the Commission. As required by the Global internal audit standards, internal audit function reports functionally to the FARM Committee and administratively, to the Chief Electoral Officer. In accordance with these requirements, the Commission has established an Internal Audit function to ensure the execution of its annual risk-based plan. Internal Audit seeks to enhance and protect Commission's value by providing risk-based and objective assurance, advice and insight.



STRATEGIC GOALS

To strengthen good governance processes and risk management culture

Activities and Achievements

Strengthen Good Governance Processes And Risk Management Culture

Through this function, the Commission successfully achieved some of its planned objectives through the audits undertaken during the year under review. Notably, the development and implementation of the following Internal Audit mechanisms.

a) Risk Based Internal Audit Plan 2024/2025

On an annual basis and in consultation with senior management and the finance division, audit and risk committee, the internal audit function developed a risk-based plan to determine priorities for internal audit activity, consistent with the Commission's strategic and operational plans. The internal audit plan is reviewed quarterly to ensure adequate coverage of areas with the greatest exposure to risks. During this audit cycle, the FARM Committee approved 4 audits projects for which 3 reports were Finalised, equating to 3 reports funded in the 2024/2025 operational plan which were completed and issued.

b) Internal Control Environment

In support with the organisation's strategic objectives, particularly the promotion of good governance, operational efficiency, and compliance, the Internal Audit function carried out targeted audits covering procurement management and compliance, information and technology general controls, transport fleet management, and the demobilization process of election materials. These audits provided valuable and actionable insights that led to measurable improvements in process efficiency and effectiveness, driven by the implementation of agreed management action plans. The FARM notes improvements in the systems of internal controls over the period under review.

c) Risk Management

Effective risk management is critical to ECN as an EMB's ability to fulfil its core mandate. The Commission approved Risk Management Strategy and adopted the Enterprise Risk Management Framework (ERM), which establishes a comprehensive approach to risk management. This framework mandates the continuous identification, assessment, management, reporting, and monitoring of risks.

Commission is committed in further investing in enhancing and improving the administration and controls around the risk management function.

DIVISION: CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Through the Corporate Communications and Marketing Division, the Commission coordinated the internal and external communications function as well as managed efforts to strengthen electoral democracy and ensure free and fair elections. In addition, the Commission through the division ensured enhanced participation in the electoral process through effective communication and facilitating stakeholder engagements.

In terms of Section 4(2) of the Electoral Act, the Commission is required to establish and maintain liaison and cooperation with political parties, the media and the public. The Commission's communication function is targeted towards effective communication and robust stakeholder engagement about its plans, activities, achievement and challenges. During the reporting year, the following activities were conducted.



STRATEGIC GOALS

- a. To improve the Commission's reputation and image
- b. To enhance stakeholder's trust and confidence through effective communication

Activities and Achievements

Improve the Commission's Reputation and Image

Stakeholder engagement

No.	Stakeholder	Engagement methods
1	Employees	Formal Meetings/Internal Memos/Directives/emails/
2	Political Parties	Formal meetings/letters/emails
3	Organisations/Associations	Formal meetings/letters/emails
4	Candidates	Formal meetings/letters/emails
5	Electorate (Eligible and Registered Voters)	Face to face interactions (trade fairs/expo, seminars)/Radio/Digital Media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X, Tik Tok, WhatsApp, and Website)/written communique (public notices, brochures, flyers, annual reports)
6	Government Offices, Ministries & Agencies	Formal letters and emails
7	Non-Voters	Face to face interactions (trade fairs/expo, seminars)/Radio/Digital Media (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X, Tik Tok, WhatsApp, and Website)/written communique (public notices, brochures, flyers, annual reports)
8	Civil Society Organisations	Formal meetings, letters and emails
9	Community-Based Organisations	Formal letters and emails
10	Faith-Based Organisations	Formal letters and emails
11	Local and International Election Observers	Formal letters and emails
12	Media	Formal meetings/letters/emails/media briefings
13	Suppliers	Formal letters and emails
14	1. International & Regional Democratic Organisations	Formal letters and emails

The Commission continuously strived to engage, maintain, strengthen and foster a trust-based and transparent relationship with all its stakeholders in a collaborative manner that promotes excellent service and creating long-term value.

During the year under review, the Commission carried out 41 stakeholder engagement sessions with various stakeholders. These stakeholders include political parties, associations/organisations, CSOs, NGOs, NFPDN, FBOs, NAMPOL, EMBs, Media, International and Local Observer, electoral assistance organisations, Foreign Missions accredited to Namibia and OMAs. These engagements and collaborations conducted at both local and international levels were aimed at guaranteeing a clear understanding of its mandate, the duties and responsibilities, the preparation for the 2024 PNA elections to ensure all stakeholders are kept abreast. The Commission's stakeholder engagements were also managed at regional level by the Regional Electoral Officers (REOs).

i) Participation at trade and carrier fairs/expos

The Commission participated at eight trade fairs/expos and five career fairs. These expos and fairs provided the Commission the opportunity to directly engage with the public, position and promote its brand. The Commission further used these platforms to provide and distribute important information through print, audio/visuals as well as face-to-face interactions.

ii) Branding

The Commission through the Corporate Communications and Marketing Division continued to play a significant role in ensuring that the Commission enhances its image. This is accomplished by ensuring compliance to the existing brand manual in all its materials. In addition, the Commission branded three offices and displayed brand promotional materials, such as static and digital billboards, in strategic locations. Additionally, the Commission participated in trade fairs, expos, and career fairs to boost its brand visibility among both internal and external stakeholders. These efforts were carried out efficiently and effectively, while ensuring that the Commission's vision and mandate are consistently upheld.

Enhance Stakeholder's Trust and Confidence Through Effective Communication

To ensure effective communication, the Commission has implemented its Communication Strategy from 2023. The strategy sets out goal that are designed to transform its Vision and Mandate into actionable tasks, ensuring effective communication. It aims to guide communication processes with both internal and external stakeholders, with the long-term goal of fostering strong partnerships and building strong trust-based reputation. It provides clear standards for managing both internal and external communications

a) Reputation management

Throughout the period under review, the Commission managed its reputation to ensure public trust and confidence in the electoral process. The Commission actively engaged with key stakeholders to clarify its position and providing redressal measures. These engagements were aimed at strengthening transparency, integrity and building sound relations with all stakeholders.

b) Effective communication

In total, the Commission created content and collectively released over 280 statements, speeches, public notices, infographics and adverts aimed at enhancing effective communication, addressing issues and challenges, mis/disinformation and reporting progress on the execution of the 2024 PNA Electoral Calendar. The Commission further engaged in robust media engagement to keep the nation up to date on all its activities.

i) Electronic engagements

Namibia's diverse population, spread across urban and rural areas, relies heavily on radio and TV as key communication channels, particularly in areas with limited internet and print media access. These mediums broadcasts in multiple local languages, broadening their audience reach. The Commission has effectively used radio to engage the public through interactive talk shows and call-ins, allowing citizens to express their opinions directly. Additionally, the Commission has participated in various TV shows and live debates to discuss its activities and electoral issues.

In Namibia's electoral context, leveraging radio and television has proven crucial for fostering informed citizen participation and ensuring transparent elections. As traditional media, they have enhanced civic engagement, shaped public opinion, and promoted democratic values, making them essential tools during elections.

ii) Print engagement

Newspapers are often viewed as credible sources of information. While some reports may have been misleading or inaccurate, print newspapers provided in-depth coverage and analysis that fostered public trust in the electoral process. Despite the rise of digital media, print newspapers still enjoy a significant readership across the country. Many citizens, especially the elderly and professionals in urban areas, rely on physical newspapers for their news. This wide reach ensured that election-related information was disseminated to diverse demographics. Additionally, radio discussions were often referencing newspaper reports, which serve as a historical record of the election period, documenting debates and voter sentiments.

Additionally, the Commission produced the annual report for the 2023/24 financial year, which was published in print and made available for public consumption. The report was also uploaded to the website to ensure easy access.

iii) Digital engagements

In this modern era, social media provides us with the best opportunity to grow our audience and boost our bottom line exponentially. We are also aware that proactive and transparent digital engagement enables the Commission to identify and address the needs, expectations and concerns of our stakeholder groups.

With social media use increasingly becoming one of the effective platforms to engage our target audiences, especially among the youth. The emerging use of social media channels such as Facebook, Instagram, X (formally Twitter), You Tube, Tik Tok, as well as the website have increasingly been rewarding in the Commission's efforts to enhance effective communications.

NAMIBIA VOTES 2024

DID YOU KNOW?

Mobile polling stations are used in remote areas of Namibia to reach voters who live in places with limited infrastructure, ensuring that all eligible citizens can vote.

27 NOVEMBER 2024

Scan the QR code to access the polling stations

Put your voice in the BoX

Electoral Commission of Namibia

NAMIBIA VOTES 2024

INVITATION BRIEFING

Invitation to the Presidential and National Assembly Election Observer Missions and Media Briefing.

Friday, 22 November 2024 at 10h00, Mercure Hotel - WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

ENQUIRIES:

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

Electoral Commission of Namibia

NAMIBIA VOTES 2024

INVITATION BRIEFING

Invitation to the Presidential and National Assembly Election Observer Missions and Media Briefing on the state of preparedness.

Friday, 22 November 2024 at 10h00, Mercure Hotel - WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA

RVSP - MEDIA

De Wet Siluka
Manager: Corporate Communications
Mobile: +264 81 414 5205
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RVSP - OBSERVERS

Ushi-Kuvata Nauyala
PA: Chairperson
Mobile: +264 81 122 1069
UNauyala@ecn.na

Electoral Commission of Namibia

iv) Outdoor engagements

Outdoor media featured prominently. Static and digital billboards were hired in high-traffic urban areas, while mobile advertising trailers traversed national roads, veterinary checkpoints, and rural localities to expand our reach during GRV and polling.

The mobile trailers were instrumental in reaching remote populations who might otherwise not have access to mainstream media. A total of 27 mobile billboards trailers depicting registration and polling dates were placed at strategic places at various roadblocks and road intersections countrywide. In addition, a number of static billboards were rented to flight infographics in the following places Hosea Kutako International Airport, Windhoek Independence Avenue, Windhoek Hosea Kutako Drive, Windhoek Mandume Ndemufayo Drive (digital screen), Mariental B1 Road, Okahandja B1 Road, Gobabis B2 Road, Karibib B2 Road, Walvis Bay close to the fire station, Oshakati Main Road (both static and digital screen), Otjiwarongo (digital screen), Outapi, Eenhana, Omuthiya, Rundu, Divundu and Katima Mulilo.

c) Deep Fakes and Mis/Disinformation

The spread of deep fakes and mis/disinformation evidently increased during the financial year becoming one of the biggest challenges to the management of elections. With increased access to social media and other platforms, some media houses and citizen journalists fabricated false, inaccurate and fake news and put that into public discourse. Twelve (12) deep fakes and mis/disinformation were recorded through internal media monitoring mechanisms.

Some of this fake news was packaged using Artificial Intelligence (AI), which made it convincing to the recipient, when in actual fact, it was fake news. To address the mis/disinformation, the Commission issued seventeen media statements during the financial year to dispel these fake narratives.

While acknowledging and appreciating some media houses for accurate reporting and support in combating mis/disinformation, the Commission wishes to convey disappointment to those media houses that deliberately fabricated fake narratives for own gain. Such acts of unprofessional journalism should be discouraged at all costs as it can spark civil unrest. Media being a bridge between the ECN and the public, has the responsibility to ensure accurate, balanced, and timely reporting of all election-related matters. Speculation and unverified reports can lead to unnecessary confusion or disputes. We count on the media to work with the Commission in disseminating verified election information going forward.



Election talk on NBC Talk of the Nation programme

DIRECTORATE: OPERATIONS

The Directorate of Operations comprises three divisions, namely, the Division of Election Administration, the Division of Voter and Civic Education and the Division of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The Directorate of Operations is mainly responsible for the administration, management and conduct of elections.



DIVISION: ELECTION ADMINISTRATION

The Division Elections Administration facilitates the participation of voters in regular and free elections, using sustainable systems, people and processes. The division preliminary responsible for administration of elections & referenda processes in terms of planning and implementation of electoral operations, deployment and demobilization of electoral resources. The main activities of the division include efficient provision of services in relation to the maintenance of the national voters' register and the planning and coordination of activities during registration of voters and Election Day, the counting of votes and collation of results. The section logistics provides support in terms of electoral materials and equipment as provided for in terms of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's).

The divisional key goal and objectives for the past year was to manage an efficient electoral management body that is supported by innovative electoral management processes in order to achieve the set objectives of conducting free and fair elections as well as to establish a robust and innovative electoral management process that can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of election administration.



STRATEGIC GOALS

To establish a robust and innovative electoral management process that can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of election administration.

Activities and Achievement

Maintenance of the National Voters Register

As provided for in Section 25 (1) of the Electoral Act, (Act No 5 of 2014) as amended, the first general registration of voters after the commencement of this Act must take place not later than 10 years after the last general registration of voters in terms of the repealed Act. In light of this, 2024 was exactly 10 years after the General Registration of Voters conducted in 2014, as a result thereafter the general registration of voters was conducted during the period under review.

The Commission continually, in its efforts to strengthen the voters register management process and systems, has introduced several initiatives to enhance the credibility of the voter registration processes and maintenance of the national voter register as outlined below:

a) Voter registration process re-engineered

During the financial year, the Commission continued its discussions with MHAISS to formalize a Collaboration Agreement aimed at creating a secure electronic interface for transferring data from the MHAISS National Population Register to the ECN National Voters Register. This initiative will facilitate the verification of voter identity, voting age, citizenship, and eligibility, while also streamlining the transfer of death registration data, moving away from the current manual process.

As noted in previous reports, the agreement has two key objectives. The short-term goal focuses on leveraging the Namibian ID document as the sole legal identification for voter registration, an approach included in the Electoral Amendment Bill currently before Parliament. Additionally, MHAISS is phasing out the SWA ID as a legal identity document.

The long-term objective aims for a complete integration of the Voter Registration System with the National Population Registration System.

b) Updating of the software of the IMVRS

Since the Commission upgraded the Mobile Voters Registration System (MVRS) to the Integrated Mobile Voters Registration System (IMVRS), continuous software updates have been implemented to improve system compatibility.

Despite minor challenges, the IMVRS has reliably supported the Commission in maintaining a credible national voters register since its launch. The upgrades have enhanced the system's capabilities, integrating functionalities for voter registration, voting, managing election results, and facilitating the registration of political parties and associations, as well as online candidate nominations for elections.

c) General registration of voters

Section 25 of the Electoral Act as amended obliges the Commission to conduct the GRV after every 10 years. The GRV provides for the total registration of all eligible voters, regardless of whether they had been registered as voters in the past or not. During GRV, the ECN ensure that every Namibian citizen who qualifies to be registered as a voter in terms of Section 22 (2) of the Electoral Act is registered.

In preparations for the GRV, the Commission approached the NSA to determine the number of eligible Namibians to be registered as voters in order to plan and prepare the resources accordingly.

The GRV, which was initially planned to be conducted during January - March 2024 has to be postponed following an amended to Section 25 of the Electoral Act. In view of this, the GRV was successful conducted during the period 03 June – 01 August 2024. A total of 1,467,604 eligible Namibians were registered during the period 03 June – 01 August 2024, representing 91% turnout.

Region	Registered voters	% turnout
//Kharas	61,861	88%
Erongo	142,812	94%
Hardap	53,407	84%
Kavango East	88,762	84%
Kavango West	47,284	83%
Khomas	287,107	91%
Kunene	55,929	97%
Ohangwena	140,212	94%
Omaheke	48,214	86%
Omusati	142,681	95%
Oshana	126,704	97%
Oshikoto	111,146	87%
Otjozondjupa	107,153	89%
Zambezi	52,173	87%
TOTAL	1,465,445	

Table 7: Total number of registered voters per region before the display of Provisional Voters Register:

d) Provisional voters register

Following completion of the GRV, the Electoral Act, requires the ECN to prepare, publish and display a Provisional Voters Register for public scrutiny and possible objections against the names of persons included in the voters' register. For this reason, the number of registered voters as illustrated in the above table might not be the same when the final voters register is finalised.

The PVR for the Presidential and National Assembly elections was displayed for inspection and possible lodging of objections during the period 29 August – 04 September 2024 at the designated places in all 121 constituencies and at all Foreign Mission Abroad. No objections were recorded; however, it is worth noting that the PVR were subjected to a rigorous internal verification process.

e) Final voters register

Following the display of the Provisional Voters Register, without any objection being registered, the PVR was subjected to rigorous internal verifications, AFIS before the final voters' register was produced and published on 30 September 2024, as provided for in terms of Section 36 (4) and displayed in all 121 constituencies.

f) Updating and maintenance of the National Voter register

ECN is legally obliged to compile and maintain the voters' register, providing all eligible voters the opportunity to register, verify their registration details or update their registration details where applicable, to ensure the accuracy of the voters' register. Through the use of an Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), our voter registration systems ensure that no voter is registered in more than one constituency.

During the period under review, the main activities carried out included the capturing newly registered voters, verifying new data against the existing voters roll to eliminate duplicate entries, removal of deceased voters, and issue of duplicate voter registration cards.

The table below provides numbers of newly registered voters and issuing of duplicate voter registration cards, change of addresses as well as duplicate cards issued for the conduct of the Guinas constituency by-election.

g) Guinas Constituency by-election

New applicants	Change of address	Duplicate	Final Voters register
169	0	9	4337

Table 8: Guinas Constituency by-election SRV

Region	Deceased	Duplicate	Region	Deceased	Duplicate
//Kharas	274	0	Omaheke	227	166
Erongo	363	4	Omusati	677	0
Haradap	280	16	Oshana	380	232
Kavango East	195	101	Oshikoto	437	0
Kavango West	141	0	Otjozondjupa	319	0
Khomas	691	23	Zambezi	155	0
Kunene	158	0	TOTAL	4 863	542
Ohangwena	566	0			

Table 9: Statistics on the removal of deceased voters on National Voters Register and issuance of duplicate cards

Determination and Establishment of Registration/Polling Venues

The primary infrastructure that is required to support an election is registration/ polling venue. During the period under reviews the division carried out the exercise of identifying suitable area(s) or location(s) within a constituency and local authority boundary establish registration points/ polling stations/venues.

The exercise was carried out by the Regional Electoral Officers and Regional Voter Education Officers, using existing registration/polling venues as a baseline. The following key factors were used to serve as guidelines in identifying and determining suitable registration/polling venues as provided for in the SOP Document:

- i) Type of locality (i.e. urban or rural)
- ii) Topographic features
- iii) Vastness and distances
- iv) Population size
- v) Population density
- vi) Accessibility
- vii) Ablution facility

During the process of identifying venues for registration/polling purposes, due consideration was taken in determining the suitability of places to be used as registration points/polling stations/venues. The following criteria were used as guidelines as provided for in the SOP in establishing places as registration points/polling stations/venues:

- i. Facility:** Both physical facilities (buildings) and tents shall be used as venues for registration and polling
- ii. Accessibility:** The venue must be accessible in terms of distance to be travelled and easily accessed by all eligible voters irrespective of physical ability
- iii. Lighting:** It is essential that venues used for both registration and polling/voting should have reliable lighting
- iv. Voter population density:** Constituency voter population together with the distance and vastness serves as a yardstick in determining the number of registration points and polling stations and the type of station, i.e. whether fixed or mobile
- v. Distance:** A distance between registration points/polling venues as specified in standard operating procedures within urban area shall be maintained
- vi. Familiarity:** Potential registration and polling stations should be established at places familiar to voters by virtue of having been used for other services to the public or in previous local, regional or general registration/election processes.

Most venues identified as registration and polling stations were schools, tertiary institutions, public institutions, community centre, open public places (in rural areas), private farms and religious establishments.

The Commission is planning to sign MOUs with venue owners and public institutions to have these permanent registration and polling venues whenever electoral activities are to be carried out. Furthermore, the Commission aims to establish long-term strategic partnership with relevant institutions to ensure efficient accessibility of voters during the conduct of any registration or polling exercise and facilitate the planning for the conduct of these events.

The exercise was successfully executed. Registration venues and polling stations were established and used during the 2024 GRV and PNA elections respectively.

Conduct of Elections

In terms of Section 89 (1) of the Electoral Act, the Commission must establish polling stations for the purpose of facilitating the conduct of any election. Further, in Subsection 3 of the same section, the Act mandated the Commission to establish polling stations outside Namibia to enable voters to vote in the Presidential and National Assembly elections.

In view of the above, the Commission established 4 734 (4 699 local and 35 abroad) polling stations across the country and at all Namibia missions abroad to enable all eligible voters to cast their votes as enshrined in Article 17 of the Namibian Constitution.

a) Nominations of candidates

Section 64 (3) of the Electoral Act provides for commencement period of submission for nominations of candidates for political parties or independent candidates and also the last day of nomination, known as the nomination day. In the context of the 2024 Presidential and National Assembly nominations, this process was conducted from 26 September to 16 October 2024. The last day of nomination for independent candidates was on the 14 October 2024 and for political parties' Presidential candidates and list of National Assembly lists was on 16 October 2024.

A total number of fifteen (15) Presidential candidates submitted by political parties were duly nominated. For the National Assembly election, twenty-one (21) political parties submitted their party lists to the Commission.

Unlike in 2019, where one independent candidate was duly nominated, three independent candidates who submitted their nominations could not meet the legal requirements. Thus, no independent candidate participated.

Name of the Political Party	Name of the Presidential Candidate
Action Democratic Movement	Erastus Shuumbwa
Affirmative Repositioning	Job Shipululo Amupanda
All People's Party	Ambrosius Kumbwa
Body of Christ Party	Festus Thomas
Congress of Democrats	Vaino Amutenu
Independent Patriots for Change	Panduleni F. B. Itula
Landless People's Movement	Bernadus Swartbooi
Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters	Jan M.E. Mukwiilongo
Popular Democratic Movement	McHenry Venaani
Rally for Democracy and Progress	Kamboto R. M. Kavekatora
Republican Party of Namibia	Henry F. Mudge
SWANU of Namibia	Evilastus Kaaronda
SWAPO Party of Namibia	Netumbo Ndemupelila Nandi-Ndaitwa
United Democratic Front of Namibia	Hendrik Gaobaeb
United Namibians Party	Sakaria Amos Likuwa

Table 9: Political parties and presidential candidates duly nominated

No.	Name of Political Party	Number of nominated candidates
1	Action Democratic Movement (ADM)	95
2	Affirmative Repositioning (AR)	93
3	All People's Party (APP)	50
4	Body of Christ (BCP)	51
5	Christian Democratic Voice Party (CDV)	36
6	Congress of Democrats (CoD)	48
7	Independent Patriots for Change (IPC)	96
8	Landless Peoples Movement (LPM)	68
9	Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters (NEFF)	88
10	National Democratic Party of Namibia (NDP)	96
11	National Empowerment Fighting Corruption (NEFC)	41
12	National Patriotic Front of Namibia (NPF)	38
13	National Unity Democratic Organisation of Namibia (NUDO)	96
14	Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)	96
15	Rally for Democracy and Progress (RDP)	67
16	Republican Party of Namibia (RP)	69
17	SWANU of Namibia (SWANU)	69
18	SWAPO Party of Namibia (SWAPO Party)	96
19	United Democratic Front of Namibia (UDF)	86
20	United Namibians Party (UNP)	96
21	United People's Movement (UPM)	96

Table 10: List of political parties for National Assembly election

Full names of candidate	Political party/Independent candidate
KHUMUB Fransiskus	Landless Peoples' Movement (LPM)
KHUMUB Moses	SWAPO Party of Namibia (SWAPO Party)

Table 11: Duly nominated candidates for Guinas Constituency by-election

b) Voting process

The PNA elections took place on November 27, 2024, across all 14 regions and 121 constituencies in Namibia. Special voting for the PNA elections occurred on 13 November 2024, in accordance with section 64(2) of the Electoral Act.

Voting was conducted by secret ballot at polling stations open from 07:00 to 21:00. Due to long queues and some polling stations running out of ballot papers, the Commission extended the voting period by two days to ensure all eligible voters could cast their ballots.

Long lines and delays were particularly noted in urban areas, attributed to communication issues regarding the expected number of voters for special voting. In response, the Commission deployed additional resources to maintain the voting process without disruption. Overall, the election day remained peaceful despite these challenges.

c) Polls closing procedures and counting of votes

In terms of section 104 of the Electoral Act, Presiding Officer at a polling station must immediately after the close of the poll in an election and in the presence of persons entitled in terms of Section 94(1) to attend at polling station take charge of all ballot boxes at the polling station and seal.

The counting of the results was done in terms of section 105 of the Act after the close of the poll. The results were uploaded and transmitted to the collation centre, after that they were posted at the polling stations and political party agents were provided with the results of the poll before moving to the collation centre where all results from all polling stations were collated and transmitted to CERC for consolidation and final announcement by the Chairperson of the Commission.

d) Conduct of by-elections

The Commission is obliged in terms of Section 10 (3) of the Regional Act, (Act. No 22 of 1992), to conduct a by-election in a constituency where a vacancy occurs. Such a by-election must be held within 90 days after a vacancy has occurred.

During the period under review one by-election was conducted following the vacancy occurred in Guinas Constituency of the Oshikoto Region. The vacancy for Guinas Constituency occurred as a result of the death of sitting councillor on 21 October 2024.

The SRV for the by-election was conducted as from 10 – 12 November 2024. A total number of 178 eligible voters were registered. This includes 169 new applicants and 9 duplicates.



2024 PNA voting process

Logistics Management

Elections are operationally complex and require meticulous planning to be successful. As an institution responsible for managing elections, careful consideration of the feasibility of all aspects of election operations, particularly in terms of electoral material needs assessment and how it may affect the execution of any electoral activity must be considered. Commission utilises depots (containers) countrywide that serves as storage facilities for non-sensitive electoral materials. During the preparation for the conduct of the GRV and PNA Elections the logistics section undertook a stock-taking exercise in terms of the Treasury Instructions and Electoral Roadmap 2024 at all regional depots (containers). This exercise was aimed at assisting the Division: Elections Administration to compile a detailed election equipment needs assessment.

Some of the activities carried out during the period under review are but not limited to:

- a) Revamping and painting of the steel ballot papers
- b) Repair broken tables and chairs
- c) Servicing of generators
- d) Clean up our main warehouse at government garage and removal of redundant equipment and materials
- e) Counting of tents and equipment to determine the need for GRV and PNA elections
- f) Delivering of written-off stock to government store for auction

a) Elections materials and distribution

The distribution of election materials is a complex process that requires careful planning to avoid execution failures. The logistics team worked diligently to deliver non-sensitive electoral materials on time, first packaging them according to regional needs.

For the PNA elections, 35 polling stations were set up at Namibia's Foreign Missions, and an additional 33 polling stations were established for special voting across 14 regions, with a total of 4,699 polling stations for national elections. Collaboration with service providers, including NAMPOST Courier, DHL, and the NAMPOL, was essential to ensure smooth distribution to all regional electoral officers and foreign missions.

Diplomatic bags containing election materials were dispatched starting on November 3, 2024, prioritizing countries deemed security risks. By 07 November 2024, all bags were dispatched to the diplomatic missions, arriving on 08 November 2024 in preparation for the elections on November 14 2024. Special voting materials were also dispatched on 07 November 2024 using NAMPOST trucks.

All electoral materials, both sensitive and non-sensitive, were delivered to the regions from 15 to 20 November 2024, with NAMPOST under NAMPOL escorts.

The distribution to polling teams occurred over two days: 25 November for remote areas and 26 November for urban and nearby locations.

b) Production and printing of ballot papers

The bid for printing ballot papers initially went through an Open International Bid (OIB) but was later canceled due to timing issues. The Commission opted for a Request for Quotation (RFQ), which was awarded to a South African company. All participating political parties were invited to observe the printing process in South Africa at the Commission's expense.

A total of 1,500,000 ballot papers were printed for the Presidential and National Assembly elections, along with sample ballot papers for political campaigns and voter education. After printing, the ballot papers were carefully recorded and packaged, with all political parties noting the serial numbers. They were then flown to Windhoek and, following their arrival at Hosea Kutako International Airport, were escorted by NAMPOL to the Commission's warehouse for storage and subsequent dispatch to regional depots.



Regional distributional depots

DIVISION: CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION

The Division Voter and Civic Education is responsible for general voter and civic education. As provided for in the Electoral Act, Civic and Voter Education ensures the readiness, willingness and ability of voters to participate in electoral activities. This was to ensure increase voter registration and turnout on election day is part of the Commission's responsibility to conduct and oversee free and regular elections.

During the period under review, the Commission initiated voter education-oriented engagements from all segments of the population to ensure effective execution of democratic elections. This included a diverse Namibian public such as marginalised communities and persons with disabilities. Voter and civic education involved a continuous discussion about the fundamental principles of democracy and the role of citizen engagement, with a wide emphasis on the Constitution, human rights, and democratic values.

Voter education efforts specifically focused on election details such as the official date and hours; the nature of the election along with its timetable; where to register and where polling stations are located; the necessary identification and registration criteria; and the steps involved in the voting process.



STRATEGIC GOALS

- a. To increase civic and democracy education amongst the citizens
- b. To regularly conduct surveys and research on the effectiveness of ECN's initiatives

Activities And Achievements

Increase Civic and Democracy Education Amongst the Citizens

a) CIVIC AND VOTER EDUCATION

In preparation for the 2024 electoral processes, ECN undertook a comprehensive voter and civic education campaign aimed at raising awareness about the significance of electoral participation. The campaign was designed to promote a deeper understanding of the democratic process among the citizenry, emphasising the importance of voter registration, informed voting, and active civic engagement. It particularly sought to encourage eligible Namibians to register and participate fully in the 2024 national elections, while also reinforcing a broader culture of civic responsibility.

The campaign was conducted under the overarching theme, 'Enhancing Electoral Democracy through Electoral Processes', which encapsulates the Commission's commitment to building a robust and participatory democratic system. This theme served as a guiding principle for all outreach and stakeholder engagement efforts, highlighting the need for transparency, inclusivity, and efficiency in the administration of electoral activities. It underscored the idea that democracy is strengthened not only by holding elections but by ensuring that those elections are accessible, credible, and inclusive.

i) VOTER AND CIVIC EDUCATION ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED FOR THE BY-ELECTION AND PNA ELECTIONS

A key focus on the ECN's strategic goals as outlined in the division's 2024/25 financial year Annual Management Plan was to strengthen voter and civic education by enhancing youth engagement and adopting innovative outreach approaches. Acknowledging the pivotal role of young people in shaping the democratic landscape, the Commission focused on initiatives designed to encourage active participation among first-time voters and individuals aged 18 to 34. The voter and civic education campaign specifically sought to increase youth involvement in the electoral process.

To achieve these, the ECN implemented a range of targeted interventions, including digital media campaigns, community-based outreach programmes, and the strategic use of traditional and social media platforms to reach all Namibians of voting age. These efforts were undertaken in preparation for by-elections, with a projected increase in voter turnout from 44% to 52% during the financial year.

The outreach initiatives were designed to promote civic awareness, strengthen public confidence in the electoral process, and encourage informed participation among young voters. Furthermore, the campaign aimed to achieve full registration of all eligible Namibian citizens during the General Registration of Voters and to raise voter turnout by 10% for the Presidential and National Assembly elections from the 67% achieved in 2019.

The strategy achieved a voter turnout of 47 % for the Guinas constituency by-election, a remarkable 90% registration rate during the GRV, reflecting the effectiveness of the outreach and educational initiatives. Ultimately, voter turnout reached 76.86%

for the Presidential Election and 76% for the National Assembly Elections. These figures represent a significant improvement, an increase of 16.28% and 15.2%, respectively compared to the 2019 Presidential and National Assembly elections.

ii) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND USE OF MEDIA PLATFORMS

Through its division of Voter and Civic Education, the Commission designed and implemented an extensive campaign aimed at empowering the electorate with accurate, accessible, and timely electoral information. These initiatives were driven by the Commission's objective to "increase civic and democracy education amongst the citizens". To maximise reach and impact, the programmes were delivered through a combination of direct community engagement and a robust mass media strategy, ensuring that no segment of the population was left behind.

Comprehensive face-to-face voter education sessions were conducted in all 121 constituencies nationwide. Facilitated by regional voter education officers, these sessions served as crucial platforms for communities to gain clarity on electoral processes and the importance of civic participation. During these engagements, printed educational materials were distributed to reinforce learning and promote continued awareness. In total, 8,430 voter education sessions were held, underscoring the Commission's proactive approach to reaching voters at the grassroots level.

Complementing the community outreach efforts, the ECN adopted a dynamic multi-channel media strategy to expand its reach and promote civic engagement. The Commission partnered with public, private, and community radio and television broadcasters to air voter education content in various local languages, ensuring

inclusivity. A total of 11 NBC radio stations and 21 private and community stations hosted interviews and programmes featuring ECN representatives throughout the campaign period. These strategic collaborations with media houses not only enhanced public understanding of the electoral process but also contributed significantly to increased voter registration and turnout during elections.

iii) YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND PROMOTION OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

To increase participation of young citizens in electoral processes, the Commission introduced the Youth Ambassador Programme, a flagship initiative designed to promote the influence of peer-to-peer education. A total of 70 Youth Ambassadors, five for each of the 14 regions, were recruited and trained to serve as promoters of voter and civic education within their respective communities.

These ambassadors played a pivotal role in bridging the gap between the Commission and the youth demographic, leveraging their social networks and community presence to disseminate accurate electoral information in relatable and accessible ways. Acting as peer educators, they promoted dialogue around democratic participation, voter registration, and the importance of informed decision-making.

Through school visits, community events, and digital engagement, they helped foster a culture of active citizenship and inclusivity, ensuring that the voices of young Namibians are both heard and represented in the nation's democratic development.

This initiative, together with other voter and civic education efforts, significantly contributed to the registration of 609,596 young people aged 18 to 34, representing 42% of all registered voters.

iv) DISABILITY MAINSTREAMING AND THE INCREASE OF THE PARTICIPATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN ELECTORAL PROCESSES

Another key strategic outcome of the Commission was the

promotion of inclusive participation, with a strong emphasis on ensuring equitable access to special focus groups including persons with disabilities (PWDs) and other marginalised communities. Recognising the importance of universal participation in strengthening democracy, the Commission undertook deliberate efforts to integrate inclusivity across its voter education initiatives.

As part of this commitment, the Commission developed a comprehensive Disability Access and Inclusion Plan for the 2024/25 Financial Year. This plan outlined strategic measures to ensure access to electoral processes and information and to create an enabling environment where every eligible citizen could exercise their democratic rights.

To enhance accessibility, the Commission prioritised the production of electoral information materials in multiple accessible formats, including large print, Braille, Sign Language, and audio-visual content. These adaptations were designed to ensure that persons with visual, hearing, and other disabilities, as well as those from marginalised communities had equal access to essential electoral information, thereby promoting informed participation and inclusivity throughout the electoral process.

v) TRAINING OF VOTER EDUCATION OFFICERS

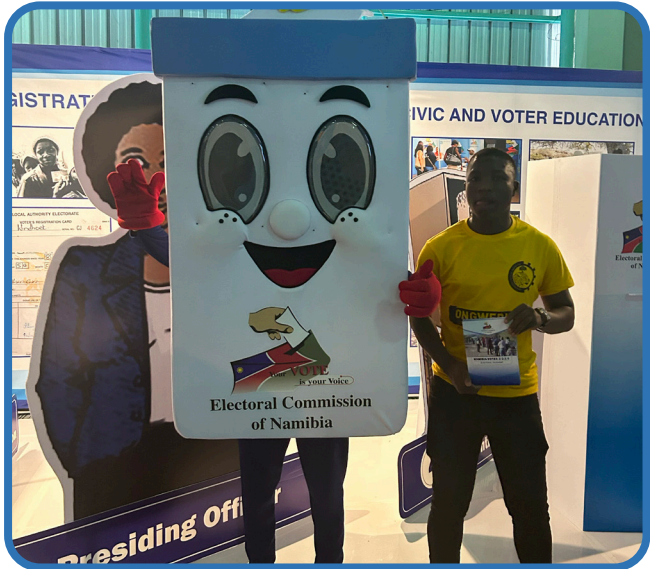
In preparation for upcoming electoral activities, the Commission conducted refresher training sessions for all Voter Education Officers (VEOs) across the country. The objective of these sessions was to enhance the officers' knowledge of electoral processes, ensure uniform understanding of key procedures, and strengthen their capacity to effectively deliver accurate and consistent voter education messages to the public.

The training programme covered a broad range of topics, including the Electoral Act, voter registration requirements and voting procedures. Special emphasis was placed on ethical conduct, impartiality, and professionalism to ensure that officers uphold the institutional values of the Commission.

Challenges

Despite the notable achievements in advancing voter and civic education, several operational challenges were encountered during the financial year.

- i. One of the key constraints was the limited number of Voter Education Officers (VEOs) in proportion to the vast geographical size of certain regions.
- ii. The shortage of vehicles further constrained the effective implementation of voter education programmes. In some instances, officers were unable to reach distant communities in a timely and consistent manner, reducing the frequency and scope of voter education sessions.
- iii. Access challenges were also experienced in some regions, where farm owners denied entry to voter education teams, thereby limiting engagement with farmworkers and other eligible voters residing in those localities.



Voter education activities

DIVISION: INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

The Information and Communication Technology (ICT) division is responsible for the implementation, maintenance and technical support for all technological functions within the Commission. These include all computer hardware and software, servers and network infrastructures as well as election management application solutions. The division provides extensive technical support, on both Corporate and the Electoral processes.



STRATEGIC GOALS

To place Namibia's electoral democracy on the cutting edge of secure digital innovation

Activities and Achievements

The division ensured the provision of exceptional support services in a professional and dedicated manner during the conducted of the following key electoral activities in line with the 2024 Electoral Calendar during the Pre-Election and Election phase.

a) ICT INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY

To ensure the Commission's infrastructure is secure from unauthorised access, data loss and compromise guided by our internally conducted ICT assessment findings and the identified risks, the ICT division have effectively managed and mitigated ICT-related risks.

These has included:

- i. The acquisition and deployment of new ICT infrastructure to ensure data security and to meet the commission's data processing needs.
- ii. Establish and review Services level and maintenance agreements
- iii. Replacement of obsolete equipment
- iv. Infrastructure improvement on the Datacentre such as the acquisition and commissioning of uninterrupted power supply system to ensure business continuity.
- v. Implemented procedures to safeguard our physical hardware/ infrastructure such as biometric security and compliance to register log for all access to restricted areas.
- vi. Reviewing of our ICT policies.

IMVR SYSTEMS REVIEW AND UPDATE

The enhancement of voter registration system has been successfully completed and successfully deployed in the 2024 General Registration of Voters, Nomination of Candidates for the 2024 PNA election and verification of voters during the November 2025 elections and subsequent by-elections.

Some of the key features of the enhanced IMVRS include:

- i) The migration from a laptop-based technology to a tablet-based technology.
- ii) Instant voter statistical reports per registration or polling station, including demographics of People with Disabilities.
- iii) Enhanced security features including but not limited to – remote management which offers the capabilities to remotely lock, wipe or locate devices in case they are lost or theft.

The ongoing review process resulted:

- i) In the acquisition of additional IMVRKs and related equipment,
- ii) System improvements such as real time voter data uploads, and system optimizations
- iii) Introduction of guidelines to effectively use the system
- iv) Improvement/ adjustments of our IMVRS maintenance plan to respond to the system needs.

The below activities were all conducted using the newly upgraded Integrated Mobile Voters Registration System (IMVRS). During these electoral processes the following applications relating to the "Integrated Solution," solution was tested and implemented, namely voters' registration, voter identification and verification, nominations of candidates and political parties and election results management modules. The IMRVS leverages on modern technology to make voter registration more responsive and efficient, marking a significant milestone in our efforts to modernize and improve our electoral processes. The system incorporates advanced security and verification measures to ensure the integrity of the electoral processes, and it is managed by internal staff members with minimal external support.

GRV FROM 03 JUNE 2024 – 01 AUGUST 2024

In Preparation for GRV, the ICT division team prepared a total of 1, 244 Integrated Mobile Voter Registration (IMVRKs) Ks, 140 tablets and 1, 244 printers (including 622 spare printers) used for voter registration nationwide. This process involved initial preparation of the tablets, testing of IMVRK devices, mock registration, technical training of end-users, technical support during GRV, and data uploading to the ECN central database.

i) **Mock Registration**

Mock registration was conducted in two phases to identify technical issues related to both software and hardware of the IMVRS and to stress test the system in different environments

ii) **2024 GRV overview**

The introduction of the new Integrated Mobile Voter Registration System (IMVRS) significantly enhanced the General Registration of Voters (GRV) process and reduced the overall time required to capture an applicant's details. Voters records were also instantly uploaded to the ECN central servers which reduced the loss of data in the field.

iii) **Voter Register data upload**

The data upload process was conducted every Sunday nationwide via network data upload and USB data extraction.

NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES FROM 26 SEPTEMBER 2024 UNTIL 16 OCTOBER 2024

Nomination of Candidates, 26 September 2024 until 16 October 2024. During the period from 26 September to 16 October 2024, both political parties and independent candidates could submit their nominations to the ECN via the online Political Party Candidate Management Portal (PPCM) <https://ppcm.ecn.na>.

The division also established a helpdesk to assist any political party or candidates with any technical related query.

The Political Party and Candidate Management (PPCM) system consists of the back-end component, which is managed internally to verify all nominations. All nominations were successfully conducted using the PPCM application.

GUINAS CONSTITUENCY BY-ELECTION 17 JANUARY 2025

The use of IMVRK system remains very effective. No major challenges were experienced during the Guinas Constituency by-election.

PNA ELECTIONS 13 AND 27 NOVEMBER 2024

A total of 4,030 verification tablets were prepared for special voting and for the 27 November election. Voter verification tablets were used to verify voters at polling stations and to upload results from polling stations to collation centres.

Overall, the successful implementation and use of the system during these electoral activities also presented few technical challenges such as:

- i. Heating up of tablets at midday, due to prolonged usage of verifications and registrations especially for teams operating under venues with poor ventilation and when environment condition are hot/ high temperatures.
- ii. Human errors from operators, that can be attributed to operator confidence to operate the kits also contributed to the challenges experienced.
- iii. Measures such as spare-tablet provisions and guidelines to remedy the challenges have thus far been introduced.

ICT Policy Development and Implementation

The division is developing a comprehensive ICT governance framework to strategically guide the use, management, and growth of technology within the Commission. This includes key policies on cybersecurity, digital strategy, and disaster recovery. The process is expected to conclude by the fourth quarter of the 2025/2026 financial year.

Internal Customer Satisfaction

The ICT division is dedicated to meeting the needs of all Commission users and stakeholders. Internal customer satisfaction assessment will be finalised in Q4 of the 2025/2026 fiscal year. Feedback from internal clients is highly valued and plays a crucial role in improving services and maintaining satisfaction.

Skills And Talent Management

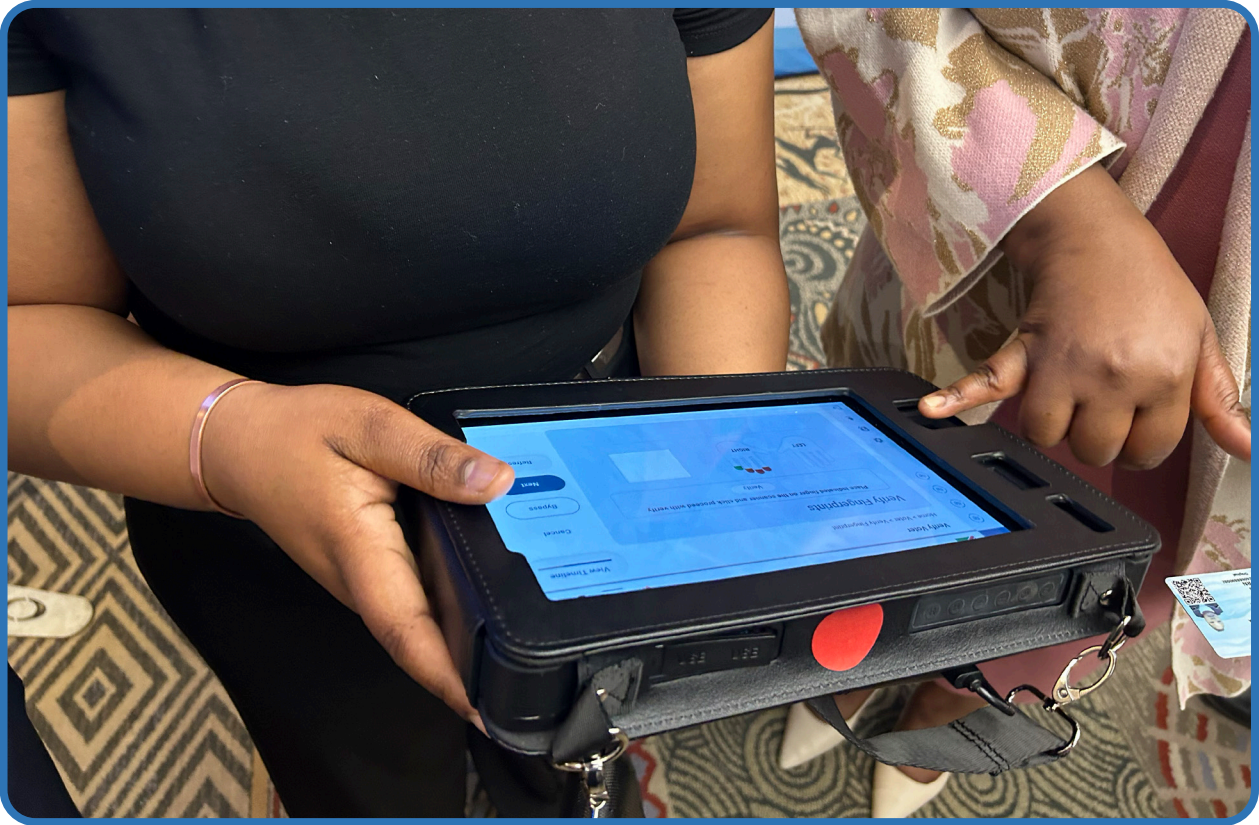
To ensure the division's success, the division is focused on staffing key positions that will address skill gaps identified in our assessment. In the 2025/2026 financial year, two critical roles; Chief Analyst Programmer (Grade 6) and Analyst Programmer (Grade 8) will be filled. These positions will be essential for defining, developing, testing, analysing, and maintaining software applications that support the Commission's electoral and corporate objectives, as well as conducting research, documentation, and modifications of software specifications.

Corporate Support/R Regional Offices Connectivity

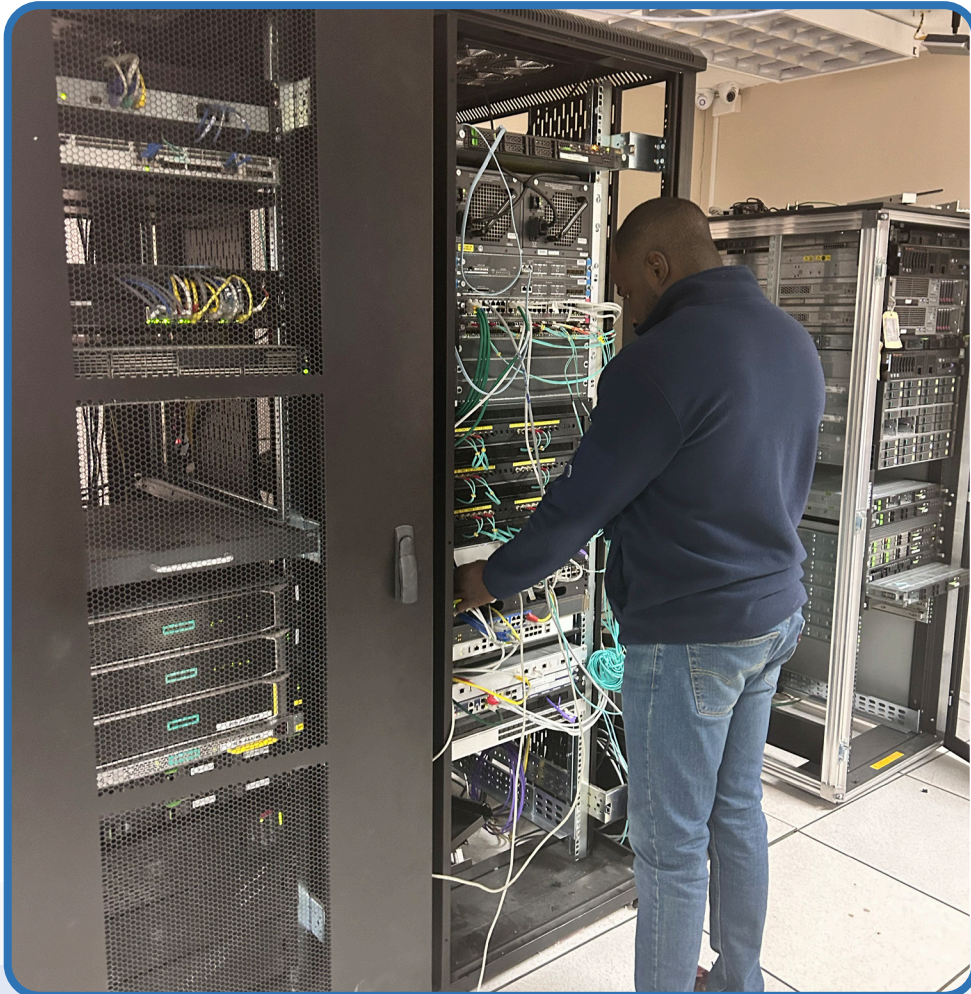
The ICT division plays a crucial role in supporting both the electoral processes and the daily operations of the Commission. In the 2024/2025 financial year, the division focused on routine maintenance of ICT infrastructure, including servers and networks, while also offering daily user support.

Progress has been made in replacing outdated infrastructure, including network systems, servers, data security solutions, and end-user devices, to better meet the Commission's growing internet and network demands. Ongoing efforts aim to replace malfunctioning equipment and optimize the overall ICT infrastructure, with substantial advancements anticipated in the 2025/2026 financial year.

To enhance connectivity for electoral operations across various regions, the division is actively improving internet access at ECN sites. By collaborating with network service providers, a mobile connectivity solution has been adopted, which utilizes national mobile carrier infrastructures to ensure connectivity, even in remote areas. This network enables the transmission of voter registration and election data to Commission servers.



IMVRK Voter verification tablet



ECN ITC servers

DIVISION: GENERAL SERVICES

The General Services Division is responsible for rendering administrative and support services to the Commission and its main operations amongst others, include policy coordination, budgeting, bookkeeping, human resource management, procurement, transport services and auxiliary services. The division is comprised of the Sub-division Finance, Sub-section Auxiliary Services and Sub-section Human Resources (HR).



STRATEGIC GOALS

- To enhance the administration of the Commission to improve and streamline its budgeting, procurement, logistics and asset management processes.
- To enhance administration of the Commission through strengthening institutional capacity

Activities and Achievements

Budget and Financial Management

The Finance section is responsible for the provision of administrative support services that includes budgeting, bookkeeping, facilitation, coordination, implementation of the budget, and budget discipline.

The Commission was allocated an amount of **four hundred and ninety-seven million nine hundred and eighty-three thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$497,983,000)**. During the year under review the Commission received additional funds to the tune of **Two hundred million Namibian Dollar (N\$200,000,000)** Which brought the total allocation to **six hundred and ninety-seven million nine hundred and eighty-three thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$697,983,000)**. The additional budget of N\$200,000,000 allocated last year was intended to cover outstanding expenses related to the elections. Specifically, it was used to settle payments for the hired private vehicles and increment on allowances for election officials who declined the standard daily rate, resulting in higher-than-expected expenditures.

In summary, the supplementary budget was primarily designed to address unforeseen operational costs and compensation adjustments triggered by the administration of the 2024 PNA elections activities. There was no budget suspension during the aforementioned financial year.

The total operation budget of **four hundred and twenty-one million nine hundred and thirty thousand Namibia Dollars (N\$421,930,000)** represents an increase of **two hundred and seventy-six million and fifty-three thousand Namibia Dollar (N\$276,053,000)** which translate to 65%. The execution rate for the 2024/2025 was 99.55% which showed an increase of 4.84% compared to the 94.71% execution rate for 2023/24 financial year.

The Commission has also received a positive audit review in the form of an Unqualified Audit Opinion from the findings of the audit conducted by the Office of the Auditor General during the year under review.

2024/2025 BUDGET ANALYSIS				
Division	Original Budget	Additional Budget	Virementation	Total Budget
Election administration	282,336,00	200,000,00	16,629,099	498,965,099
Votter and Civic Education and Information Dissemination	65,461,000	-	-2,247,749	63,213,251
Support Services	90,186,000	-	-14,381,350	75,804,650
Total	437,983,000	200,000,000	-	647,813,000

Table 12: The budget analysis for the 2024/25 financial year

Human Resource Management (Hrm) & Training

The section is responsible the recruitment, wellbeing and staff development of ECN employees, among others mainstreaming of HIV/AIDS, gender and wellness into core processes including disability activities, and ensure compliance to Affirmative Action requirements, Public Service Staff Rules compliance, PSM Circulars implementation, and compliance to other HRM legislative framework.

In the reporting period, our human resources programmes focused on entrenching a high-performance organisational culture underpinned by a common set of values that are understood and championed by all employees. The Commission emphasised its organisational values to ensure that these strengthen the desired organisational culture, drive organisational effectiveness, and support the achievement of the Commission's strategy. The Commission's human capital includes its permanent and temporary staff, their development and the culture we foster. The employees drive the overall organisational performance.

a) PERMANENT WORKFORCE PROFILE

At the end of this reporting period, the total permanent workforce for the Commission stood at 187 permanent employees (5.9% Management and 94.1% staff below management).

Demographics

Male: 93 (49.7%)
 Female: 94 (50.3%)
 PWDs: 8 (6 male and 2 female)

b) ELECTION OFFICIALS

Since the 2019 National Elections, ECN has adopted a standard practice of recruiting unemployed Namibian citizens to serve as registration and election officials, in accordance with the provisions of the EOP of which the majority is the youth. This approach aligns with the commitment to empowering qualified Namibians, especially the youth, while contributing towards addressing efforts national unemployment rate.

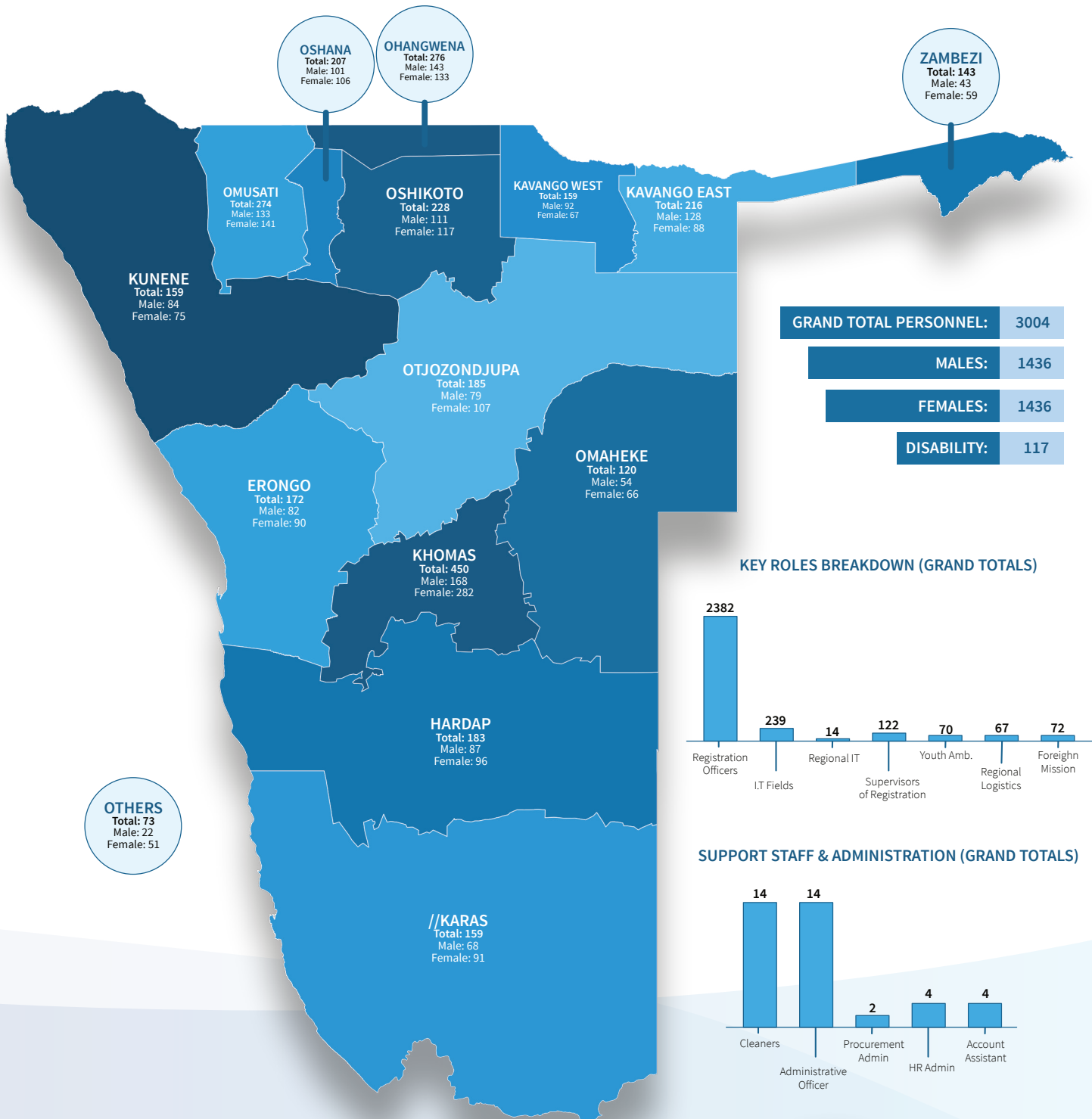
The vacancies for election officials for both the GRV and polling were advertised in the print and social media on 28 March 2024 and closed on 28 April 2024 through the media. ECN received a total number of 82 976 applications.

Following a vigorous selection process a total of 3 005 officials were recruited for GRV and 19 784 for the conduct of the poll.

Demographics

Male 10 373 (45.5%)
 Female 12 416 (54.5%)
 PWDs 414 (1.8%)
 Total employment: 22 789

Break down Recruitment of election officials



Region	Registration Officers	IT Field	Regional IT	Supervisors of Registration	Youth Amb.	Regional Logistics	Foreign Mission	Cleaners	Administrative Officer	Procurement Admin	HR Admin	Account Assistant	Total Per Region	Disability	Males	Female
Zambezi	108	16	1	8	5	3		1	1				143	5	84	59
Kavango East	184	12	1	6	5	6		1	1				216	8	128	88
Kavango West	124	16	1	8	5	3		1	1				159	6	92	67
Ohangwena	228	22	1	12	5	6		1	1				276	12	143	133
Oshana	164	21	1	11	5	3		1	1				207	9	101	106
Omusati	224	24	1	12	5	6		1	1				274	11	133	141
Oshikoto	184	22	1	11	5	3		1	1				228	7	111	117
Kunene	124	14	1	7	5	6		1	1				159	8	84	75
Erongo	140	14	1	7	5	3		1	1				172	6	82	90
Otjozondjupa	148	16	1	7	5	6		1	1				185	9	79	107
Omaheke	88	14	1	7	5	3		1	1				120	7	54	66
Khomas	392	20	1	10	5	10		1	1	2	4	4	450	18	168	282
//Karas	124	14	1	7	5	6		1	1				159	5	68	91
Hardap	150	14	1	8	5	3		1	1				183	6	87	96
Others				1			72						73		22	51
Grand Total	2382	239	14	122	70	67	72	14	14	2	4	4	3004	117	1436	1569

Table 13: Recruitment of election officials

c) PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT

Performance agreements from the level of management to supervisors and staff below supervisors' level were signed during the period under review. Performance reviews were also conducted.

d) EMPLOYEE RELATIONS

The Commission maintains a recognition agreement with the Namibia Public Workers Union. In total XXXX of our workforce are union members. The Commission considers it crucial for employees to be able to air concerns and grievances in a mutually respectful and beneficial manner. In addition, the Commission maintains an open-door policy with the recognised union to enhance working relations.

e) STAFF MOVEMENTS AND EMPLOYEE TURNOVER

The Commission recorded eight new appointments and seven terminations in the reported period. Subsequently the employee turnover stood at only 3.6%.

f) AFFIRMATIVE ACTION (AA)

As a crucial element of taking care of our people, an Affirmative Action committee has been established in order to educate the entire organisation about Affirmative Action (AA) and Employment Equity (EE) and also to address employee concerns in the regard. The committee comprises of members representing employees. The committee attends all AA and EE meetings held before the submission of the AA Report. The Commission complies with the requirements of the Affirmative Action (Employment) Act, No.29 of 1998. The Affirmative Action Plan/ Report was submitted to the Employment Equity Commission and the Commission was awarded a compliance certificate.

g) WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

The Commission's human capital is a key asset and the skills and experience in our workforce are essential contributors to achieve our

strategic goals through efficient operational improvements. To ensure wellness of our workforce, three wellness activities were conducted for all staff members.

Training and Development

Strengthening our Capacity

We recognise that the future prosperity of the organisation depends largely on the competency and motivation of our employees. We therefore invest in and encourage a culture of continued development and advancement of learning and training within the Commission. We are committed to creating and maintaining an environment which provides equal opportunities for all employees, with special consideration given to previously disadvantaged groups. We refreshed our talent approach and embarked on several talent management initiatives during the year.

Building capacity through the skilling and reskilling of our employees is imperative for building a high culture of performance and learning. Training and Development programmes included qualifying and non-qualifying professional and practical courses, conferences, seminars and short courses. All our qualified and non-qualified training/studies are conducted through recognised institutions.

A) Qualifying And Non-Qualifying Skills Training

A total number of 32 staff members underwent training in both qualifying and non-qualifying skills. This broad-based training approach likely aimed to enhance the overall skill set of the workforce, enabling them to effectively carry out their duties and contribute to the Commission's mandate.



Elections House wellness activity



Training of election officials

Short Course Name	Number of Staff members	Tertiary Name	Course Duration
Risk management	18	UNAM	1 Week
Learning and development forum	1	OPM	1Week
Consultative Human Resource workshop	1	OPM	1 Weeks
Annual conference for Accountant General	3	AAAG, Arusha Tanzania	5 Days
Total	23		

Table 14: Non-qualifying training

Course Name	Number of Staff members	Tertiary Name	Course Duration
Bachelor of Education in Organisational Learning and Development	7	UNAM	3 Years
Graduate Diploma in Public, Policy and Management	1	IUM	3 Years
Diploma in Business Administration	1	Lingua College	2 Years
Total	9		

Table 15: Qualifying Training

Assests and Infrustructure Management

The assets, infrastructure and transport of the Commission are managed through the Auxiliary Services and Support Services sub-division. The division is further responsible for Procurement Management and Capital Project, and maintenance of the assets.

A) Stock Taking and Stock Control

The annual stock taking was conducted both at head office and Commissions's regional offices as well as regional depos and a report was prepared and submitted.

B) Procurement Management

The Procurement processes were conducted in adherence to the legal framework. A Procurement Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was developed and implemented. Continuous improvements were made to enhance procurement efficiency and compliance. The payments of all goods and services were done on time except for the invoices for the hiring of generators and some election related activities which were left behind due to non-submission of required statutory documents.

i) Procurement of election materials

Procurement of electoral materials is essential for successful elections, guided by needs assessments from regional logistics officers to balance supply with demand. Effective timelines and compliance with Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) are crucial for a smooth procurement process. Various methods were employed to source both sensitive and non-sensitive materials from a range of suppliers, using regional assessments to inform purchases.

During the review period, the Commission faced delays in starting procurement due to budgetary constraints, relying on a midterm budget. Despite these challenges, most materials for the PNA elections were delivered on time. Items like generators, tents, and furniture were sourced from the public via an expression of interest, while sensitive materials were specifically allocated to each polling team.

However, the procurement process for 2024, particularly for support materials like stationery and forms, did not adhere to the initial plan. Delays in the availability of funds impacted the process. Nonetheless, the Commission made the best of the resources available.

c) Asset and Infrastructure Management.

The institutional assets were effectively managed and safeguarded. Additionally, the ECN buildings were properly maintained to ensure functionality and safety.

d) Transport Management

During the reporting period, the Commission had a total number of 151 vehicles on its asset register. Out of this number, 151, 34 vehicles were procured for voter education and Regional Electoral Officers during the year under review. The fleet is serviced by Government Garage.

To ensure efficiency in the management of its fleet, the Commission developed and approved the institutional Transport Policy.



IMVRK, fuel containers, chairs, generators and tables



ECN Fleet

ANNEXURE ONE

Audited Financial Statement 2023/2024

REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA



TO THE HONOURABLE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

I have the honour to submit herewith my report on the accounts of the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the financial year ended 31 March 2024 in terms of Article 127(2) of the Namibian Constitution. The report is transmitted to the Honourable Minister of Finance in terms of Section 27(1) of the State Finance Act, 1991, (Act 31 of 1991) to be laid upon the Table of the National Assembly in terms of Section 27(4) of the Act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Junias Etuna Kandjeke'.

JUNIAS ETUNA KANDJEKE
AUDITOR-GENERAL

WINDHOEK, FEBRUARY 2025

DEFINITIONS

Treasury:	Financial authority in public service. (The department of Government that has control over the collection, management and disbursement of public revenue).
Vote:	Represents an Office/Ministry/Agency.
Appropriation Act:	Estimate of expenditure and revenue for a particular financial year presented to the National Assembly, the Act passed by Parliament.
Appropriation Account:	Government Income and Expenditure statement, showing on receipt side the estimated budgeted amounts and on expenditure side the actual expenditure amounts and the difference thereof.
Standard sub-division:	Government Balance account, showing balances incurred on each account/activity.
Suspension:	Reduction on budget (Treasury may from time to time withhold or suspend any amount in an estimate of expenditure).
Virement:	Moving of budgeted funds from one account to another account within the same budget of the same office/ministry/agency. The utilization of a saving under one main division/sub division of a vote to defray an excess under another existing division of the same vote.
Unauthorised Expenditure:	Expenditure that exceeds the amount appropriated (budgeted) for a vote, main division or subdivision.
Under expenditure:	Saving on the budget.
Miscellaneous Revenue:	All revenue collected and not having a specified revenue code.
Commitments:	Funds reserved to acquire goods or services from a supplier.
Suspense accounts:	Is an account opened in the books of Government that records movement of transactions of a temporarily nature, for example salary deductions of housing instalments.
S&T Advance Suspense Account:	A suspense account reflecting the outstanding subsistence and travel advances.
Rejection Account:	A suspense account reflecting names and balances of all persons/companies that owe the money to the State.
Budget:	Is an estimation of the revenue and expenses over a specified future period of time?
Subsistence Advance:	Payment given in advance to an employee to reimburse accommodation, meal and incidental expenses, while on an official assignment.
Performance Information:	Measurement of an individual, group, organization, system or component which is collected, analysed and reported. (Includes Strategic plans, annual plans, performance agreements and personal development plans).performance agreements and personal development plans)
Key performance indicator (KPI):	A measurable value used to monitor and demonstrates how effectively an organization is achieving key business objectives
International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAI):	Professional standards and best practice guidelines for public sector auditors, officially authorised and endorsed by the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI).

<p>Types of Audit Opinions:</p>	<p>Unqualified Opinion. In an unqualified report, the auditors conclude that the financial statements of your O/M/A's present fairly its affairs in all material aspects.</p> <p>Qualified Opinion. An auditor's report is qualified when there is either a limitation of scope in the auditor's work, or when there is a disagreement with management regarding application, acceptability or adequacy of accounting policies.</p> <p>Disclaimer Opinion. Auditors do not express an opinion on the financial position of a firm because they have not completed an examination of its accounts or the examination is not broad enough in scope to enable them to form an opinion.</p> <p>Adverse Opinion. The Financial statements of an O/M/A's do not fairly present its actual financial position and the required information was either not disclosed, or (if disclosed) was inadequately disclosed or was inaccurate.</p>
<p>Materiality:</p>	<p>Materiality is the threshold above which misstatements, including omissions either individually or in the aggregate, could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users made on the basis of the financial statements.</p>
<p>OMAs:</p>	<p>Office/Ministries/Agencies</p>

**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE ACCOUNTS OF
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. SECTION A: FINANCIAL AUDIT

1.1 UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION

I have audited the financial statements of the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the financial year ended 31 March 2024 provided by the Accounting Officer as attached in Annexure A. These financial statements comprise the Appropriation account, Standard subdivisions, Departmental revenue, notes to the financial statements and general information for the year then ended.

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Electoral Commission of Namibia as at 31 March 2024 are prepared in all material respects in accordance with Section 12 and 13 of the State Finance Act, 1991(Act 31 of 1991) and relevant legislation.

1.2 BASIS OF UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION

I conducted the audit in accordance with International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of the audit report. I am independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics for Supreme Audit Institutions together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to the audit of the financial statements in Namibia and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the Code of Ethics.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

1.3 KEY AUDIT MATTERS

Key audit matters are those matters that in my professional judgment were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of the audit of the financial statements as a whole and in forming the audit opinion thereon and I do not provide a separate audit opinion on these matters. I have nothing to report in this regard.

1.4 EMPHASIS OF MATTERS

Attention is drawn to the management on the following matters that relate to my responsibility in the audit of the financial statements, as disclosed by the Electoral Commission of Namibia in the financial statements. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters:

**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL ON THE ACCOUNTS OF
THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA
FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

1. SECTION A: FINANCIAL AUDIT

1.1 UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION

I have audited the financial statements of the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the financial year ended 31 March 2024 provided by the Accounting Officer as attached in Annexure A. These financial statements comprise the Appropriation account, Standard subdivisions, Departmental revenue, notes to the financial statements and general information for the year then ended.

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Electoral Commission of Namibia as at 31 March 2024 are prepared in all material respects in accordance with Section 12 and 13 of the State Finance Act, 1991 (Act 31 of 1991) and relevant legislation.

1.2 BASIS OF UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION

I conducted the audit in accordance with International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of the audit report. I am independent of the entity in accordance with the Code of Ethics for Supreme Audit Institutions together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to the audit of the financial statements in Namibia and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the Code of Ethics.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

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Key audit matters are those matters that in my professional judgment were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of the audit of the financial statements as a whole and in forming the audit opinion thereon and I do not provide a separate audit opinion on these matters. I have nothing to report in this regard.

1.4 EMPHASIS OF MATTERS

Attention is drawn to the management on the following matters that relate to my responsibility in the audit of the financial statements, as disclosed by the Electoral Commission of Namibia in the financial statements. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters:

1.6 OTHER INFORMATION

The Management is responsible for the other information. My audit opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. In connection with the audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and in doing so consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

2. AUDIT OF PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

I have audited the performance information of the Electoral Commission of Namibia for the financial year ended 31 March 2024.

2.1 DESCRIPTION OF THE SUBJECT MATTER INFORMATION AND AUDIT SCOPE

A Performance Management System (PMS) is as a systematic process for achievement and improvement in obtaining results from an organization and its staff members by managing performance within an agreed framework consisting of objectives outputs key performance indicators (KPIs) and timeliness.

The primary function of the PMS is to enable Offices Ministries and Agencies (OMAs) to achieve success in National Development Plans (NDP) and provide improvements in service delivery to the public.

The scoping of the key performance indicators were performed by looking at the high-level statements, which are indicated in the Mandate of the Electoral Commission of Namibia and the 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. Key performance indicators selected based on what would be significant to the intended users and their usefulness in assessing the entity's achievements in terms of its service performance objectives.

The audit was performed on the KPIs of the projects for the strategic objectives listed below:

No	Strategic objective	Project	Key performance indicator(s)
1.	Place Namibia's electoral democracy on the cutting edge of secure digital innovation.	Systems review and update	% of Election Results Management System Reviewed.
2.	Enhance the administration of the Commission to improve and streamline its budgeting, procurement, logistics and asset management processes.	Effective Administration	% of budget effectively managed.

2.2 AUDIT OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Key Performance Indicator (KPI) audit is to provide assurance on whether the reported performance information measured against key performance indicators is useful, reliable and evidence-based. Key performance indicators also provide the basis for the Commission to inform the Parliament, the public and other stakeholders on its strategic priorities, programs, and projects.

An additional objective of this audit is also to provide reasonable assurance to Parliament, members of the general public and other relevant stakeholders whether the reported actual performance has actually occurred and are based on the selected criteria.

2.3 AUDIT CRITERIA

In this audit, the performance information against the following selected criteria was tested:

- Compliance with legislative requirements
- Usefulness;
- Reliability;
- Existence;
- Timeliness;
- Presentation;
- Measurability;
- Relevance;
- Consistency;
- Validity;
- Accuracy; and
- Completeness.

2.4 SUMMARY OF METHODS APPLIED

The auditors reviewed the annual plan and the directorate's quarterly review reports to confirm whether the Strategic Plan objectives, targets and key performance indicators (KPIs) have been correctly cascaded to the Annual plan and the selected key performance indicators (KPIs) for the financial year under review are reported in the Directorate/Divisions quarterly reports.

2.5 KEY AUDIT FINDINGS

INDICATOR/FINDINGS
% of Election Results Management System Reviewed The quarterly target of Quarter 4 in the Annual plan was 90% and the actual was 35%. The variance is thus 55%.
% of budget effectively managed The quarterly target of Quarter 4 in the Annual plan was 99% and the actual was 97%. The variance is thus 2%.

2.6 CONCLUSION ON THE SUBJECT MATTER

The audit revealed that the targets of quarter 4 were not achieved. In addition, for the strategic objective of “Enhancing the administration of the Commission to improve and streamline its budgeting, procurement, logistics and asset management processes”, targets were achieved in respect of the Election results management system received, the Commission is commended for the satisfactory outcome in some areas of the Key Performance Indicators.

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT AND THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE FOR THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Section 12 and 13 of the State Finance Act 1991 (Act 31 of 1991) and legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements management is responsible for assessing the entity’s ability to continue as a going concern disclosing as applicable matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the entity or to cease operations or has no realistic alternative but to do so. Those charged with governance are responsible of overseeing the entity’s financial reporting process.

The management is also responsible for ensuring adherence to the Appropriation Act, 2023 (Act 1 of 2023) Appropriation Amendment Act, 2023 (Act 16 of 2023), State Finance Act, 1991 (Act 31 of 1991), Public Procurement Act, 2015 (Act 15 of 2015), Treasury Instructions and Public Procurement Regulations and to ensure that effective and efficient internal controls are implemented to enable compliance to the law that governs the performance information.

4. AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error and to issue a auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if individually or in the aggregate they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

My powers and duties towards auditing and reporting on the financial statements and compliance to the subject matter are outlined under Section 25 (1) (c) Section 26 (1) and Section 27 (3) of the State Finance Act 1991 (Act 31 of 1991).

As part of an audit in accordance with the International Standards for Supreme Audit Institutions, I exercise professional skepticism throughout the audit I also;

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error as fraud may involve collusion forgery intentional omissions misrepresentations or the override of internal controls.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies uses and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Evaluate the overall presentation structure and content of the financial statements including the disclosures and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- I communicate with those charged with governance regarding among other matters the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.
- I also provide those charged with governance with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence and where applicable related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when in extremely rare circumstances I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

5. REPORT ON OTHER LEGAL AND REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

The accounts were timeously submitted by the Accounting Officer in terms of Section 13 of the State Finance Act 1991.

5.1 Underexpenditure

Treasury Instruction DC 0202 states that *“when drawing up draft estimates, Accounting Officers and their Financial Advisers shall take note of and guard against the following: (a) more funds than can reasonably be spent shall not be requested”*.

The Commission realised underexpenditure on the entire Vote and all three (3) main divisions.

5.2 Unauthorised expenditure

The audit found that the following unauthorized expenditure occurred during the financial year under review and is hereby reported as such in terms of Section 27 (6) (a) of the State Finance Act, 1991 (Act 31 of 1991):

One (1) subdivision under main division 02 was exceeded with a total amount of N\$ 15 107.79 which is unauthorized in terms of Section 6 (a) (ii) of the Act.

6. GENERAL INFORMATION

The financial statements notes to the financial statements and general information provided by the Accounting Officer are attached as Annexure A.

7. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The co-operation and assistance by the management and staff of the Electoral Commission of Namibia is highly appreciated.

WINDHOEK, FEBRUARY 2025



JUNIAS ETUNA KANDJEKE
AUDITOR-GENERAL

1. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1.1 Appropriation account

		2023/2024			2022/2023	
Service		Authorized expenditure	Actual expenditure	Variations		Actual expenditure
				Under-expenditure/ (Excess)	Percentage	
	N\$	N\$	N\$	N\$	%	N\$
01. Administration:						
Original budget	61 333 000					
Plus: Virement	13 148 048	74 481 048	71 009 367.45	3 471 680.55	4.66	38 161 478.02
02. Planning, Registration and Voting:						
Original budget	308 820 000					
Less: Virement	(7 292 376)	301 527 624	249 920 498.99	51 607 125.01	17.12	35 473 347.64
03. Voter Education:						
Original budget	51 777 000					
Less: Virement	(5 855 672)	45 921 328	42 750 620.19	3 170 707.81	6.90	22 578 331.78
Total		421 930 000	363 680 486.63	58 249 513.37	13.81	96 213 157.44

ANNEXURE A (continued)

Subdivision	2023/2024			2022/2023
	Authorized expenditure	Actual expenditure	Under-expenditure/ (Excess)	Actual expenditure
	N\$	N\$	N\$	N\$
Operational:				
Current expenditure: Personnel				
001. Remuneration	45 105 980	43 863 398.91	1 242 581.09	37 775 962.69
002. Employer's contribution to GIPF	4 577 000	4 549 750.63	27 249.37	3 739 370.60
003. Other conditions of service	799 320	799 206.40	113.60	2 469 655.77
005. Employers contribution to the social security	168 650	166 299.98	2 350.02	157 163.43
Total	50 650 950	49 378 655.92	1 272 294.08	44 142 152.49
Current expenditure: Goods and other services				
021. Travel and subsistence allowance	9 111 400	8 181 951.79	929 448.21	2 726 480.04
022. Materials and supplies	9 014 200	8 125 265.28	888 934.72	1 505 968.94
023. Transport	17 188 409	16 540 097.59	648 311.41	173 533.60
024. Utilities	9 073 000	8 610 490.01	462 509.99	6 244 225.70
025. Maintenance expenses	5 811 400	5 198 365.37	613 034.63	509 598.69
026. Property rental and related charges	16 255 160	15 849 092.27	406 067.73	3 209 364.46
027. Other services and expenses	157 906 536	139 847 712.04	18 058 823.96	14 797 283.10
Total	224 360 105	202 352 974.35	22 007 130.65	29 166 454.53
Current expenditure: Membership fees and subscriptions				
041. International	500 122	500 111.65	10.35	434 624.59
Total	500 122	500 111.65	10.35	434 624.59
Total : Current expenditure	275 511 177	252 231 741.92	23 279 435.08	73 743 231.61
Capital expenditure: Acquisition of assets				
101. Furniture and office equipment	2 980 366	2 977 131.85	3 234.15	678 269.95
103. Operational equipment, machinery and plants	143 438 457	108 471 612.86	34 966 844.14	21 791 655.88
Total	146 418 823	111 448 744.71	34 970 078.29	22 469 925.83
Total: Operational expenditure	421 930 000	363 680 486.63	58 249 513.37	96 213 157.44
GRAND TOTAL	421 930 000	363 680 486.63	58 249 513.37	96 213 157.44

1.3 Departmental revenue

Revenue for the financial year is as follows:

Revenue head	2023/2024			2022/2023
	Estimate	Actual revenue	More/(Less) than estimated	Actual revenue
	N\$	N\$	N\$	N\$
Miscellaneous	2 000	(944.21)	(2 944.21)	-
Deposit made by Political Parties	52 500	85 000.00	32 500.00	72 500
Sale of Bidding Documents	-	11 100.00	11 100.00	-
Total	54 500	95 155.79	40 655.79	72 500

1.4 Notes to the financial statements

1.4.1 Appropriation account: Explanations of variations exceeding 2% between authorized and actual expenditure

Underexpenditure

Main division 01: Administration (N\$ 3 471 680.55 - 4.66%)

The postponement of the General Registration of Voters (GRV) led to the deferment of several activities that had been planned under the Administration. The Commission anticipated that regular and frequent meetings in preparation for the General Registration of Voters (GRV) exercise. This equally resulted in deferment of management and staff members travels to the regions to monitor the GRV exercise during 2023/2024 reporting period, contributing to the underexpenditure.

Regular coordination and planning meetings at the national and regional levels to ensure readiness for the GRV as well as consultative engagements with stakeholders, including community leaders and regional offices have also been affected resulting in underspending. Overtime was budgeted for the Chairperson's designated driver and drivers for the Commissioners, who receives monthly overtime for daily travels within Windhoek and outside as well as other staff members. Due to the postponement of the GRV exercise, the Chairperson and Commissioners did not undertake the anticipated regional travels, leading to lower overtime claims and subsequent underexpenditure resulting in significant underexpenditure in the respective budget allocations.

Main division 02: Planning, Registration and Voting (N\$ 51 607 125.01 – 17.2%)

This main division is fundamentally charged with the planning, coordination and palling of the conduct of elections. The under-expenditure under this main division is primarily attributed to the postponement of the GRV as the funds allocated for the payment of registration officials could not be utilized as initially planned resulting in significant underspending.

The ECN had planned an order for voter registration kits, with plans to make payment during the year under review. However, the supplier informed the ECN that the delivery could only take place in the new financial year due to delays attributed to supply chain. In response, the Commission sought and received Treasury Authorisation to make an advance payment to the supplier. While the payment was submitted to Treasury for payments, it was rejected as the bank of Namibia demanded a Proforma Invoice and this was never communicated upon discovery for rectification. The understanding of ECN was that an invoice was to be submitted, as with the previous Bank guarantee issued in 2023. This was brought to the attention of ECN only after the closure of the financial year and this was indeed beyond control of the Commission.

In addition, delays occurred in completing the transaction within the cut-off period for payments at the end of the financial year leading to the supplier not being paid in the year under review. This has resulted in transactions to the total of N\$ 33 373 093.85 not being paid to the supplier. Other essential election materials, could not be procured in the financial year under review as the final number of eligible voters remained uncertain pending the completion of the Preliminary Census Report.

Additionally, the ECN is tasked with registering all Namibian citizens both within the country and those living abroad. For the diaspora registration, the ECN relies on staff from the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation (MIRCO) at all Namibian diplomatic missions. These staff members were scheduled to travel to Namibia for training, but due to postponement of GRV, flight tickets could not be secured and processed during the period under review which further resulted in under expenditure. Consequently, these factors resulted in a significant under-expenditure under this programme during the 2023/2024 financial year.

Main division 03: Voter Education (N\$ 3 170 707.81 – 6.90%)

The ECN had planned to conduct an extensive voter and civil education campaign as part of preparations for the GRV. This campaign was to utilize multiple communication channels, including radio, television, and print media, with the aim of ensuring that all eligible Namibian citizens were fully informed about the voter registration process.

The campaign included the production of informational adverts, detailing the registration dates, venues, operating hours, and the documentation required for registration. However, due to the delay in the commencement of the GRV, most of the critical activities including the production of voter education messages and dissemination thereof could not commence as initially planned as the ECN was unable to produce and distribute these essential information materials before the confirmation of the registration dates pending the finalization of the Electoral Amendment Bill.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION

2.1 Miscellaneous revenue

The Accounting Officer reported miscellaneous revenue amounting to N\$ 944.21.

2.2 Bank accounts

The Accounting Officer reported that the Commission operated a bank account at a commercial bank for various programmes during the financial year under review with a closing balance of N\$ 97 579 977.50 as at 31 March 2024.

2.3 Permanent Commissions and Committees

The Accounting Officer reported expenditure in respect of commissions and committees amounting to N\$ 2 149 204.17 for the ECN Board members.

2.4 Outstanding subsistence advances

The Accounting Officer reported outstanding commitments amounting to N\$ 11 802 111.83 as at 31 March 2024.

2.5 Bursary and study assistance

The Accounting Officer reported study assistance for six (6) staff members amounting to N\$ 79 283.00 for the financial year under review.

2.6 Debt to Government

The Accounting Officer reported an outstanding balance of N\$ 902.83 as at 31 March 2024 in respect of debt to Government.

2.7 Annual stocktaking

The Accounting Officer reported that stocktaking was conducted at two (2) stock points during the financial year under review. Values of stock, surpluses, deficiencies, worn and obsolete are reported as follows:

Description	Amount
	N\$
Value of stock	132 765 261
Surpluses	-
Shortage/deficiencies	
Worn and Obsolete	

2.8 Stores and depots

The Accounting Officer reported stock at two (2) stores for the financial year under review as follows:

Description	Amount
	N\$
Stock on hand as at 01 April 2023	60 610 659.56
Received during the year	154 461 379.63
Issued during the year	(153 397 244.03)
Written off during the year	(49 995.00)
Stock on hand as at 31 March 2024	61 624 800.16

2.9 Vehicles on hand (Own fleet)

The Accounting Officer reported vehicles on hand as at 31 March 2024 as follows:

Details	Sedans	Pick-ups and combies	Heavy vehicles (Lorries Tractors Buses & Graders)	Motors bikes	Others(S/Ws SUVs Trailers)	Value
						N\$
Balance as at 01 April 2023	11	68	-	-	39	5 568 117
Written off	-	(1)	-	-	-	(98 000)
Balance 31 March 2024	11	67	-	-	39	5 470 117

2.10 Accidents-Cost of damages

The Accounting Officer reported cost of damages for the financial year under review as follows:

Details	Number	Estimate/Actual amount
		N\$
Vehicles still to be repaired as at 01 April 2023	7	508 021.31
Accidents reported during the year	5	123 000.00
Vehicles written off during the year	(1)	98 000.00
Vehicles still to be repaired at 31 March 2024	11	287 021.31

2.11 Wellness

The Accounting Officer reported expenditure amounting to N\$ 202 522.90, in respect of wellness activities during the financial year under review.

2.12 Immovable assets

The Accounting Officer reported the following immovable assets as at 31 March 2024:

Nature of asset	No. of assets	Value
		N\$
Offices	2	80 000 000.00
Plots	11	2 667 139.33

2.13 Suspense accounts

The following four (4) suspense accounts had balances at 31 March 2024, two (2) with debit balances and two (2) with credit balances:

Description	Balance as at 31 March 2024 Debit / (Credit)
	N\$
S & T advance suspense account	211 009.64
Rejection account	(3 793.56)
Bills payable	5 309 969.07
Pension Funds GIPF	(21 852.24)

WINDHOEK, 30 AUGUST 2024

PETRUS SHAAMA
ACCOUNTING OFFICER



Electoral Commission of Namibia

