



STATEMENT

By

Dr Elsie T. Nghikembua

The Chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Namibia

**Third Commission Briefing on the 2024 Presidential and National Assembly
Elections**

29 November 2024

Fellow Commissioners

Mr Peter Shaama (CEO), Management and staff

Esteemed Representative of the Political Parties

Esteemed Members of the Observer Missions

Esteemed Members of the Media

Fellow Namibians

Good evening!

Today the Commission wishes to update the nation on the extension of polling at the polling stations announced yesterday, and the counting and transmission of results to the Central Election Results Centre (CERC) located at the head office of the ECN. In doing so, I will take time to explain the process results management from the polling station level to the Constituency Collation Centre and the subsequent transmission to the CERC. The Commission has decided to explain this process so that all the citizens are capacitated to understand and appreciate the integrity of the results transmission process.

- 1. From the onset, allow me to briefly provide you with an update on the status of the extended voting process.**

As communicated yesterday, the Commission recommended to His Excellency Dr Nangolo Mbumba, the President of the Republic of Namibia to take the required steps to amend Proclamation No. 28 of 26 September 2024 by extending the period for the election of the President and members of the National Assembly referred to in that Proclamation from 21h00 on Wednesday, 27 November 2024 until Saturday, 30 November 2024 at 21h00. I wish, therefore, to reiterate that the extension referred to in this regard is applicable to the polling stations set out in the Schedule to Government Notice No. 305 of 23 October 2024.

As a Commission, we are glad to report that voting continued at the polling stations at 07:00 today, Friday, 29 November 2024 and will continue until tomorrow, Saturday, 30 November 2024. Resources that were deployed on 27 November elections were retrieved and redeployed again for this exercise.

2. I will now deal with the most anticipated business of the day, the counting, collation, and transmission of results.

The Commission has elaborate measures in place to ensure integrity and transparency in the manner in which the votes and results are being handled. Political parties were invited to place their representatives at all levels starting at polling station level where counting of votes is done, to the collation centre at the constituency level and at the Centre Election Results Centre (CERC) where the final election results are announced and declared.

At the polling stations, no ballot box is moved from the fixed polling station where voting took place until the votes have been counted, party agents have signed for the results and the results have been posted at the station. This process ensures accountability and transparency in fostering the integrity of the final results announcement.

At the constituency collation Centre, the parties are also expected to have representatives present when the presiding officers are presenting their polling station results and are compiling constituency returns.

At the CERC the Commission has provided computer-terminals and access to accredited political party representatives to view the collation process including verification of preliminary election results submitted by Returning Officers from established 121 Collation Centres in all Constituencies, collation, validation, and announcement of final election results by the Commission in accordance with relevant provisions of the Electoral Act No.5 of 2014.

The Commission has taken time to enrol party representatives who were accredited to represent their parties at the CERC. The process of verification, collation, and validation of preliminary results at CERC commenced this morning. Accredited political party representatives, the media and observers are free and welcome to attend to the CERC at the time of their choice.

3. Handling of Results for Special Voting

The Commission wishes to reiterate that the vote count from special voting that was conducted on 13 November 2024 at all 35 Namibian Diplomatic Missions across the world and in all 14 regions are handled as follows:

- a) Namibian Diplomatic Missions will be verified and collated by the Returning Officer at the ECN Head Office.
- b) The election results for Special Voting inside the country from all 33 polling stations established across 14 regions of the country will be verified and collated by the Returning Officers concerned at a Collation Centre established within the Constituency in which the poll was conducted, together with the election results for the election day, 27 November 2024.

4. Circulation of altered results

The Commission has noted with great concern the circulation of fake result sheets on social media. While the Commission may not be privy to the intentions of doing so, we are deeply concerned because this has the potential of undermining the integrity of the results which is the exclusive domain of the Commission. The fake result sheets

depict inflated figures for a particular candidate more than the total registered voters for that polling station. We appeal to the public to treat this with contempt.

We urge the public to download the “ECN Mobile app” on Playstore and Appstore or follow the ECN Election Results website portal at www.elections.na for official results transmission.

5. Gratitude for Peaceful Voting

The Commission reiterates its appeal to the Namibians to maintain peace and calm as the Commission continues to manage the results. The peace that prevailed during voting should continue up to the time the Commission is announcing and declaring the final results. For those that are in areas where voting has been extended, I appeal to you to go and vote peacefully, it is your right please exercise it.

Let us continue to uphold the values that define our shared commitment to sound democracy. Together, we are building a brighter future for Namibia.

- 6.** We appeal to the Nation to remain calm whilst the Commission is following due process in verifying and certifying results before announcement. The Commission will subject every result sheet to due processes for verification and certification before announcement through the Election Results Publisher.

Thank you, and may God bless Namibia.