

Election Watch X

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I'm going to vote

Is November 28 a public holiday?

Yes, as per the proclamation, Government Gazette number 5609 Notice No 35 of 07 November 2014, the President had proclaimed polling day as a public holiday. Polling will be taking place from 07h00 am – 21h00 pm.

How will I know that the vote I cast will be the vote recorded?

Once the voter has cast their vote by pressing the green button corresponding to candidate or party of choice, a beep sound goes off after they have confirmed their vote by pressing the red register button, the beep sound signals to the voter that their vote has been recorded.

What assurances will I have that my vote will be secret?

The voting is done in accordance with Section 99 of the Electoral Act which emphasises that that voting is by secret ballot.

What measures are in place to prevent 'repeat voting'?

The Voter Verification Devices will allow for polling officials to compare the voters' card with the "Unrecovered Voter Registration Cards List" – a list indicating cards of persons whose names were included in the provisional voters' register but not in the subsequent voters' register. This is to ensure that a voter does not have in their possession two voters' cards and attempts to use both cards. Double voting is further prevented by checking that voters have not voted before through the use of the ultraviolet light to detect any traces of the indelible ink by the ultraviolet light controller.

How does assisted voting work? (Many people may need help to operate the EVMs)

Section 103 of the Electoral Act, act no 5 of 2014 stipulates that a presiding officer or polling officer may assist or instruct a voter in the manner of voting at polling stations. Section 103 2 (c) further indicates that a voter can also be accompanied by any other person of their choice, who can request the presiding officer to assist the voter or vote on their behalf.

Okuhogolola kwomuntu tawathelwa ohakulongo ngiini?

Ekotampango lyoshilongo olya indika kutya omuntu talongele pomahogololo otavulu okuwathela omuhogololi ahogolole. Omuhogololi otavulu wo okuwathelwa komuntu ngu eya naye.

Hoe werk bystand-stemming? (Baie kiesers sal hulp nodig hê met die elektroniese verkiesingsmasjien).

Artikel 103 van die Verkiesings Wet, nr. 5 van 2014, bepaal dat 'n verkiesingsbeamppte mag assisteer by die stemlokale. Artikel 103, 2 (c) verder stipuleer dat 'n kieser mag vergesel word deur 'n persoon van hul keuse, wie die verkiesingsbeamppte kan versoek om die persoon by te staan.



How many voters can one person assist at a polling station?

There is no restriction but the Commission has issued directives to limit the number of voters being assisted by Presiding Officers and members of the public. The ECN's recommendation is that one individual should not be allowed to assist more than 10 people who are unable to vote on their own.

Can party agents assist me if requested?

No, party agents are not allowed to assist voters.

Aakalelipo yokeengundu dhopolotika ota ya vulu ngaa oku wathela omuntu a hogolole?

Aaye. Aakalelipo yoongundu inaya pitikwa oku wathela aantu ya hogolole

Kan party agente 'n kieser bystaan as hy/sy so versoek?

Nee, party agente mag kiesers nie bystaan nie.

How will the tendered vote be accommodated/dealt with?

The ECN has done away with tendered votes. All voters voting outside their constituency will complete a form called Elect 23 (a).

How many people are allowed in a voting booth?

There is one person allowed in the voting booth if the voter does not require assistance and two will be allowed if the voter is getting assisted.

Frequently Asked Questions

This bulletin was compiled to cover Frequently Asked Questions about the 2014 National Assembly and Presidential Elections. It is produced as part of the IPPR's Election Watch project with the assistance and support of the Electoral Commission of Namibia, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung fesmedia Africa, and the European Union.

ABOUT ELECTION WATCH

Election Watch is a bulletin containing electoral analysis and voter education that will appear regularly in the run up to the 2014 National Assembly and Presidential Elections. It is produced as a PDF download and as a printed newspaper insert. Election Watch is a project of the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR). It is produced with the support of the European Union and *The Namibian newspaper*. The content of Election Watch is the sole responsibility of the IPPR.

Comments and feedback should be sent to the IPPR, PO Box 6566, Windhoek, Namibia.

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VOTING WITH ELECTRONIC VOTING MACHINES (EVMs)

How secure are EVMs from being tampered with? How possible is 'ballot stuffing' or 'election rigging' using EVMs?

The EVM is a stand-alone machine consisting of two interconnected components. It cannot be accessed via any other means and it does not transmit any signal or connect to any type of network. The system software that operates the EVM is stored on a chip which is Read only Memory (ROM) which is hardwired on to the planner board or motherboard at manufacturing and is done in a fully automated plant. No one, not even the manufacturer can change or tamper with the system after manufacturing.

After the preparation of the EVMs, they are sealed. A pre poll test is also conducted an hour before the elections to ensure that all buttons are working and that at the end of the pre poll there are zero votes on the machines which eliminates any fears of "stuffing"

Some of the customised features designed and implemented for Namibia are,

- EVMs are capable of conducting dual elections simultaneously
- EVMs have a facility for the voter to change the selection before confirmation of vote
- Real time clock to facilitate voter time stamping, date and time of the commencement and closing of the poll and logging of events.

How many EVMs will be in use? How many for the Presidential election and how many for the National Assembly election?

The ECN will use 2080 ballot units for Presidential Elections and 4160 ballot units for National Assembly elections, the total is 6240. Control Units are 4160 control units for both elections, 2080 each.

Are the EVMs connected to a central server at the elections centre so that real-time monitoring of the elections can take place?

The machines are stand-alone devices and are not connected to a central server. The ECN will use facsimile and email to transmit the results.

How are EVMs powered and how long does the power source last?

The machines are powered by batteries with a lifespan of 52 hrs.

Will there be separate EVMs/voting booths for the Presidential and National Assembly elections?

Yes, there will be separate voting booths for each election.

Will there be a voter verifiable 'paper trail' (paper record) of the votes cast through each EVM?

No, however there is provision for the voter verifiable paper trail in the Electoral Act, This section has not come into force as yet. The section will come into operation when a commencement notice is published by the Minister of Regional and Local Government and Housing and Rural Development.

Otapukakala tuu okambapila takazimo uuna ndahogolola mukehe eshina?

Aaye, ashike ekotampango lyomahogololo olya utha pukale okampapila hakazimo uuna omuntu ahogolola. Ashike shika inashi ya natango miilonga. Shika otashikeya miilonga uuna sha igidhwa kuuministeli gwomapangelo gopa shikandjo.

Sal daar 'n dokument spoor ('paper trail') van stemme wees deur elke elektroniese stemmasjen?

Nee, daar is egter voorsiening vir die dokument spoor in die Verkiesings Wet. Die artikel het nog nie in werking getree nie. Die artikel sal in werking tree sodra kennisgewing daarvan gepubliseer word deur die Minister van Streek en Plaaslike Regering, Behuising en Plattelandse Ontwikkeling.

GOING THROUGH THE STEPS

HOW MANY PROCEDURAL STEPS WILL A VOTER ENCOUNTER INSIDE A POLLING STATION? WHAT ARE THEY?

VOTER VERIFIER:

- Verify that the Voter Registration Card produced belongs to the voter.
- Verify that the identity of the voter is not questionable.
- He /She shall record on the electronic voters register or tick against the name of the voter from the manual voters register as proof that the voter has voted. The voter registration card shall be returned to the voter who shall then be directed to the inker.



ULTRA VIOLET LIGHT CONTROLLER:

Screen the potential voters for any traces of invisible and indelible ink.



INKER:

- Assist the voter to dip his/her finger tips (of both hands) in the invisible ink in the bowl.
- Apply indelible ink to the left thumb of voter, at the tip where the fingernail meets the cuticle or any other applicable finger if the voter has no left thumb.



BALLOTS ISSUER FOR PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION:

- Obtain the signature or thumb print and voter registration card number of each voter.
- Issue a ballot by pressing the ballot button on the control unit ensuring that the red busy light is on before directing the voter to the voting booth.



BALLOT ISSUER FOR NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTION:

- Obtain the signature or thumb print and voter registration card number of each voter
- Issue a ballot by pressing the ballot button on the control unit ensuring that the red busy light is on before directing the voter to the voting booth.



The ECN, political parties & observers

How independent and impartial is the ECN?

The Electoral Commission of Namibia is mandated to direct, supervise and control in a fair and impartial manner for all elections conducted in terms of the Electoral Act. As an institution, the ECN, continuously seeks to improve electoral processes and practices at every opportunity and to willingly learn from each electoral activity undertaken. In line with the latter, during the past year, the ECN adopted measures to improve the electoral process through the law reform process.

The ECN also maintains a strong liaison with various stakeholders like political parties, civil society and faith-based organisations. It is through open and transparent dialogue with such stakeholders that ECN is able to successfully deliver on its mandate effectively and efficiently and continuously enhance the electoral process.

Okomisi yomahogololo (o-ECN) oyili yathikamapo kuyoyene ngiini?

O-ECN oya uthwa nokupewa oshina kugwanithwa ya kwwatele komeho noku tala kutya omahogololo ogeli pashili nopauyuki ngaashi sha uthwa mekotampango lyomahogololo. Onga okomisi, otwa, noha tu tsikile noku humitha komeho omalandulathano getu. O-ECN oyakwatelapo ekwatathano enene pokati kayo, neengundu dhopolitika, omahangano gopashiwana, oshowo omahangano gopauyuki. Okomapiyo gayela nogapatuluka pokati ko ECN nayo omahogololo taga kala ga yela nogo pauyukki.

Hoe onafhanklik en onpartydig is die verkiesingskomitee?

Die verkiesingskomitee van Namibië is bemaagtig om te beheer en kontroleer op 'n regverdige en onpartydige wyse alle verkiesings, kragtens die Verkiesings Wet, nr. 5 van 2004. As 'n instituut, probeer ons voortdurend om die verkiesingsproses te verbeter, by elke geleentheid en leer van elke verkiesingsaktiwiteit wat ons onderneem. Gedurende die afgelope jaar, het die verkiesingskomitee nuwe maatreëls aangeneem om die verkiesingsproses deur middel van wetsontwerp en wetswysiging te verbeter. Die verkiesingskomitee handhaaf 'n sterk verhouding met die verskeie belanghebbendes, byv. politieke partye, burgerlikes en geloofsorganisasies. Dit is deur middel van openbare dialoog met bogenoemde belanghebbendes dat die verkiesingskomitee suksesvol in sy mandaat kon wees en effektief en doeltreffend die verkiesingsproses kan administreer.

What measures have been taken to accommodate observers and/or party agents in polling stations?

The Electoral Act provides for political party agents and observers to be present in polling stations and they have to be accredited accordingly.

Who has access to polling stations as observers and how and who will grant accreditation?

International and local observers who have been accredited have access to polling stations. The Commission invites local and international organizations and persons to apply for accreditation.

How should political party agents/observers conduct themselves in or outside polling stations?

The observers and party agents subscribe to codes of conduct for observers and political parties respectively, in order to promote conditions of free and fair elections.

Who will be allowed into a polling station? And, who will be allowed into a voting booth?

Polling station: observers, party agents, voter(s), ECN officials, accredited media.

Voting booth: voter casting vote and person to assist with voting, on request.

Olye apikwa aye pehala lyoku hogolola?

Olye apitikwa aye mokahogololo-kololo?

Pehala lyoku hogolola ohapukala aakonakoni yomahogololo, aalongi yomahogololo, aahogololi, aakalelipo yoongundu dhopolitika oshowo aa kundaneke.

Mokahogololo- kololo oha mu kala omuhogololi, noshowo omukwatheli wanakuhogolola uuna sha pumbiwa.

Wie word in die kieslokaal toegelaat? En wie word in die stembokkie toegelaat?

Kieslokaal: waarnemers, party agente, kiesers, ECN amptenare, geakkrediteerde media.

Stembokkie: kieser besig om te stem en die persoon om bystand te verleen, indien versoek.

If irregularities are encountered at a polling station, who should be contacted or complaints be directed to?

Complaints are directed to the Presiding Officer, who is required by section 204 (1) to record the incident in the occurrence book. The complaint is then recorded and signed

in the occurrence book by person(s) present in the polling station. Incidents not recorded in this book will be deemed not to have occurred, and the book is held at polling stations and collation centres. Presiding Officer, Returning Officer, counting officer, police officer, polling officer, staff member, or temporary staff member, election agent, counting agent, candidate etc. can record incidents in the occurrence book.

Ngele pwaholoka uupyakadhi nenge omapiyagano pehala lyomahogololo, olye ena oku lopotelwa?

Omaupyakadhi nenge omapiyagano agehe oge na okulopotwa komulongi gomahogololo ngoka takwatele komeho pehala mpoka. Ekota mpango lyomahogololo olya utha elopoto ne ndhindiliko lyomembo lyakehe shoka tashi ka endapo pehala lyomahogololo. Endhindhiliko lyomembo ndika ohali sainwa. Omupolisi, omuyaluli womawi, omunambelewa womahogololo ota ya vulu oku ndhindhilika membo iiningwanima yaholoka po.

As onreëlmagthede by 'n kieslokaal (verkiesingslokaal) plaasvind, wie kan gekontak word of waar kan klagtes gelê word?

Klagtes moet aan die verkiesingsbeampte voorgelê word, wie verplig is deur Artikel 20 (1) om die incident aan te teken in die voorval boek, dan is die klagte aangeteken en onderteken deur die persoon (e) aanwesig in die kieslokaal. Insidente wat nie aangeteken is nie, word beskou dit het nie plaasgevind nie. Die voorval boek word gehou by die kieslokale en kollasie (optel) punte. Verkiesingsbeamptes, telbeamptes, polisie beamptes, personeel of tydelike personeel, verkiesingsagent, tellingsagent, kandidaat, ensv. mag insidente aanteken in die voorval boek.

Will there be a police presence at every polling station and if so, what will be the role of the police?

There will be police officers deployed with each team, the role of the police is to ensure law and order at the polling station and provide security for election material.

Ota pu ka kala ngaa aapolisi pehala lyomahogololo, nangele otapu ka kala, iilonga yawo yoku kalapo oyashike?

Ota pu ka kala aapolisi ya tumwa kehe mongundu. Iilonga yyapolisi okukalekapo oveta nelandulathano pehala lyomahogololo noku tonatela iilongitho yomahogololo.

Sal daar polisie teenwoordig wees by elke stemlokaal, en indien so, wat sal hul rol wees?

Daar sal polisie beamptes ontplooi word met elke span. Die rol van die polisie is om wet en orde te handhaaf by die stemlokale, en om die veiligheid van die verkiesingsmateriaal te verseker.

Given that the election is just one day, how many polling venues will each mobile polling station serve and how long will it be in each (average)?

The mobile stations cater for approximately 2-5 polling points, but this varies in the various constituencies depending on the geographical area.

How will polling stations be in contact with the ECN elections centre and who will they report to?

The counting starts at the polling station after the close of polls. Results are displayed at the polling station and then the teams within a specific constituency travel to the constituency collation centre where results are collated, displayed and then transmitted to the ECN Central Electoral Results Centre in Windhoek.

ELECTION OFFICIALS

1. HOW MANY POLLING STATIONS WILL THERE BE?

MOBILE STATIONS 2711 and FIXED 1255 polling stations TOTAL: 3966 polling stations POLLING TEAMS: 2080

2. HOW MANY ELECTION OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN RECRUITED AND TRAINED?

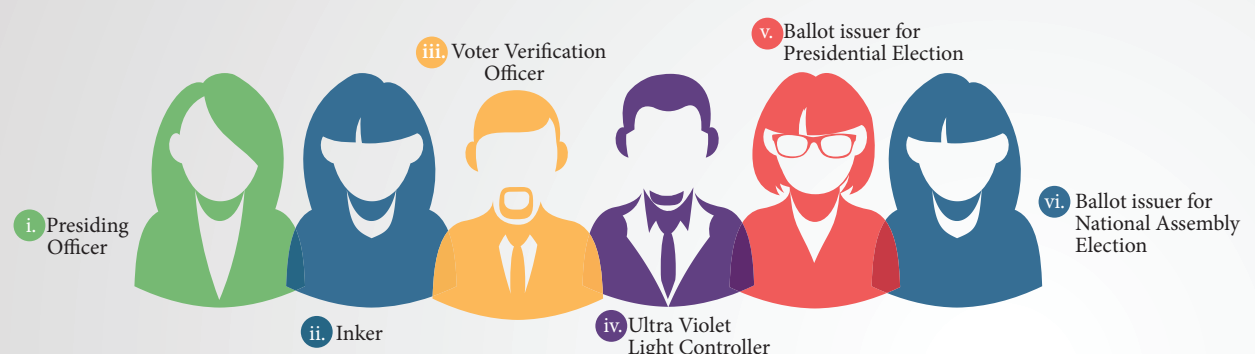
Approximately 13 000 have been recruited in the following categories:



• Training was cascaded and done in various phases.

3. HOW MANY OFFICIALS WILL BE ASSISTING A VOTER INSIDE A POLLING STATION?

The same numbers of officials constitute a polling team for both fixed and mobile stations.



COUNTING THE VOTES AND ANNOUNCING RESULTS

How many vote counting centres will there be?

There are 121 constituency centres.

If EVMs are being transported to vote counting centres, how will the maintenance of the integrity of EVMs be ensured?

The safekeeping of EVMs before, during and after polling is regulated by regulations published in Government Gazette No 5524 on 01 August 2014. According to these regulations, the sealed EVMs must be escorted by Namibian Police. Details of safekeeping are agreed upon by the Namibian Police inspector general and Commission in concurrence with election agents.

How long will it take to count the votes?

Two to three hours taking into consideration the number of voters in line at the time of close of polls and the distance a polling team has to travel to the counting centre.

Otashikwata ethimbo lyi thike peni okuyalula omawi?

Oowili mbali nenge ndatu shiikwatelela komwaalu waantu mba yahogolola, ethimbo ndi aantu yapata, noshowo oshinano shi yena oku hinga/enda okuya kehala lyomayalululo.

Hoe lank gaan dit neem om die stemme te tel?

Twee to drie uur, in ag genome die aantal kiesers in lyn teen sluitingstyd van die verkiesingslokale en die afstand wat deur die verkiesingsbeamptes moet afgelê word na die telling sentrum en enige gekrediteerde persone met toestemming van die direkteur.

What is the role of collation centres?

The collation centre is the place where the voting machine accounts are substantiated. The Returning Officer verifies the correctness of the returns furnished by the Presiding Officer, collates the results for the constituency and compiles a report which will be transmitted to the Chief Electoral Officer.

All results from different polling stations will be collated at the collation centre.

How will results be announced at constituency and national levels?

Constituency Level: The Returning Officer in accordance to the Electoral Act does not announce the results at constituency level but displays these after providing copies to election agents and transmitting the results to the Chief Electoral Officer.

National Level: All the results are received by the Chief Electoral Officer and the Chairperson of the Commission announces the Presidential elections results and the Chief Electoral Officer announces those of the National Assembly election in accordance to section 109 and section 110 respectively.

Iizemo ota yi ka igidhwa ngiini paukwashikandjo osho paukwashigwana?

Paukwashikandjo-hogololo: Omukwateli komeho pomahogololo inapitikwa okwi igidha iizemo poshikandjo hogololo ngashi sha uthwa mekotampango lyomahogololo ashike ohedhi nateke pondje mpoka konima sho agandja eekopi dhiizemo kaakalelipo yomahogololo oshowo komukuluntu kwatelikomeho gomahogololo.

Paukwashigwana: Iizemo ayihe oha yi tumwa komukuluntu gomahogololo ngoka ha uvitha iizemo ayihe kumwe.

Op watter wyse sal die uitslae bekend gemaak word by die kiesafdelings en op nasionale vlak?

Kiesafdeling vlak: die Terugkerende Beampte in ooreenstemming met die Verkiesings Wet, kondig nie die uitslae op kiesafdeling vlak aan nie, maar vertoon dit na afskrifte aan die verkiesingsagente voorsien is en die uitslae na die Hoof Verkiesingsbeampte deurgestuurd is.

Nasionale vlak: Al die uitslae word ontvang deur die Hoof Verkiesingsbeampte, en die Voorsitter van die Kommissie kondig die presidensiële verkiesingsuitslae aan en die Hoof Verkiesingsbeampte kondig die uitslae van die nasionale vergadering verkiesings in ooreenstemming met Artikel 109 en Artikel 110, onderskeidelik aan.

Who will announce results and how frequently will such announcements be made?

The results are announced only after all the results are received by the Chairperson of the Commission for Presidential elections and the Chief Electoral Officer for the National Assembly Elections. However, results will be displayed at polling stations and constituency centres.

Will mobile phones, tablet computers or cameras be allowed in vote counting centres?

No, these devices are not allowed.

Where will the final results be announced?

The Final Results will be announced at the Electoral Commission of Namibia, Headquarters from the Central Election Results Centre.

What mediation measures/mechanisms are in place to deal with elections results disputes?

All matters arising before polling day in an election are adjudicated by an Electoral Tribunal and all appeals thereto addressed to the Electoral Court, but the Electoral Court must dispense with all such appeals

before polling day. The Electoral Court is part of the High Court and has wide powers to adjudicate on a variety of matters, e.g. review decisions of the Commission, decide any matter concerning a contravention of the Electoral Act etc. The Electoral Court must conclusively determine all post-election matters seven days before the swearing in of the office bearers concerned. In any election of the President any challenge relating to the return or outcome of the election is directed to and adjudicated by the Supreme Court of Namibia as a Court of first instance and final recourse.

On what grounds can a recount take place? Who can call for a recount? Who decides if a recount is to take place?

A counting agent (appointed by a registered political party) can request a presiding officer to re-count the ballot papers and votes counted at a polling station. The Electoral Court can also order a re-count.

Oshike hashi eta eyalululo lyomawi? Olye ha utha eyalululo lyomawi?

Omukalelipo gomayalulo, a uthwa kongundu yopapoliyika ota vulu oku pula omukwateli knomeho gomahogololo opo omawi ga yalululwe. Ompangu yomahogolo nayo otayi vulu wo oku pula omawi ga yalululwe

Op watter gronde kan 'n hertelling plaasvind? Wie kan 'n hertelling aanvra? Wie besluit of 'n hertelling mag plaasvind?

'n Tellingsagent (aangewys deur 'n geregistreerde politieke party) kan 'n voorsittende beampte versoek om 'n hertelling van die stemme getel by die verkieslokaal. Die Verkiesingshof kan ook 'n hertelling bevel.

How would a recount take place if EVMs do not have a paper trail?

After an election the control unit is connected to a printer and the number of candidates, the number of votes cast, the number of votes each candidate received etc. is printed out. Furthermore the court

can also order that the data be retrieved in case of a dispute. The whole idea is that with the voting machines it should not be necessary to ask for a re-count since the possibility of human error is removed with the machine doing the counting.

The ECN also has a form it uses for checks and balances/ to reconcile the correctness of the return furnished by the presiding officer at the counting centre, by relating the information to the total number of votes cast at the polling station Elect 27 (a) (every voter is requested to sign this form), versus the total number of votes recorded on the control unit/s used.

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COUNTING THE VOTES

1. HOW MANY VOTE COUNTING CENTRES WILL THERE BE?

There are **121** CONSTITUENCY CENTRES.

2. HOW MANY PEOPLE WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE VOTE COUNT?



3. WHO WILL HAVE ACCESS TO THE/A VOTE COUNTING CENTRE?



4. WHO WILL WITNESS THE COUNTS AT MOBILE POLLING STATIONS?

