



## Electoral Commission of Namibia

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### MEDIA RELEASE

*(for immediate release)*

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### **CONDUCT OF THE KATIMA MULILO URBAN CONSTITUENCY BY ELECTION IN THE ZAMBEZI REGION**

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) is pleased to inform the Namibian public preparations for the Katima Mulilo Urban Constituency by-election are on course. The by-election is scheduled to take place on Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> August 2021. A vacancy occurred in the said Constituency on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2021 after the death of the sitting Councilor, late Hon John Muchila Mukaya.

The groundwork for the by-election commenced with the development of an Election Calendar which outlines electoral activities and timelines that are critical for the preparation and successful execution of various tasks and responsibilities by various stakeholders in order to ensure the delivery of free, fair and credible elections. In this regard, below is a list of the activities and most critical dates:

#### **Provisional Voters Register (PVR) and availability of Final Voters Register.**

Sections 31 of the Electoral Act, Act 5 of 2014 provides for the preparation and publishing of the provisional voters' register. The PVR for the Katima Mulilo Urban constituency was duly prepared and published. The PVR was also displayed for scrutiny and objections against names of persons included therein as per Section 32 of the Electoral Act on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at the constituency office and the community hall within the constituency.

The provisional voter's register was subjected to a rigorous verification process before the final voter's register was published. The final voters' register for the Katima Mulilo Urban constituency stands at a total number of **fourteen thousand, two hundred and forty-one (14 241)** registered voters.

### **Nomination Period**

The period of Submission of Nominations of candidates for the Katima Mulilo Urban constituency commenced on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and was successfully concluded on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The last day of submission of nominations in the case of Independent candidates was 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021, while the last day of submission of nominations of candidates in the case of political parties was 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

Below are the candidates that have been duly nominated:

### **Katima Mulilo Rural Constituency**

<b>Duly Nominated Candidates</b>	<b>Political Party/Independent Candidate</b>
Kubwima Poniso Miller	Independent Candidate (IC)
Malipa Lynette. M	Independent Patriots for Change (IPC)
Matengu Mweti Marklee	Popular Democratic Movement (PDM)
Nkando Gibson Kabuna	Independent Candidate (IC)
Simasiku Chripher. M	National Democratic Party (NDP)
Simasiku Kennedy. S	SWAPO Party of Namibia (SWAPO)

### **Printing of Ballot Papers**

The ECN has invited companies to submit bids for the printing of ballot papers as per the guidelines of the Public Procurement Act. The bid was awarded to Solitaire Press. The verification of the final ballot papers was finalized on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and the printing of the ballot papers was conducted on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

### **Dispatch of sensitive election materials**

All the sensitive materials for the election are to be dispatched on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 from the ECN Head Quarters to Katima Mulilo under Police Escort as per the institutions Standard Operating

Procedures. The materials will be placed for safekeeping at the police station within the constituency until the polling teams are dispatched to their respective venues.

### **Training of Polling Officers, Political Party Agents and Police Officers**

A total number of 160 polling officials have been recruited to make up 20 teams, (15 fixed and 5 mobile teams). The training of polling officials commenced on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2021 and will be finalized on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021. The training for political party agents and police officers took place on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at the Kamunu Village Hall in Katima Mulilo.

### **Deployment of Teams**

The 20 teams will be deployed on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2021 to their respective polling venues and a total of 40 vehicles will be used during this process.

### **Voter and Civic Education**

The ECN is currently busy with voter and civic education activities in the Katima Mulilo Urban constituency to educate the residents on the importance of casting their vote. Face to face voter education sessions are being conducted in compliance with the Covid-19 regulations.

The face to face sessions are supplemented by information on the polling process on the Namibian Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) National radio and the ECN social media platforms and website. The polling timetable will be shared on specific radio stations on different days in the lead up to the by-election.

### **ECN COVID-19 Precautionary Measures**

The polling officials at all the polling stations across the constituency will adhere to strict preventative measures in place to lessen the impact of the COVID-19. The ECN thus encourages all eligible voters to wear their masks, social distance and wash their hands/sanitize during the polling process.

In conclusion, the Commission encourages all voters to go out in numbers to exercise their democratic right and vote. Polling Stations will open at 07h00 and close at 21h00. Go and Vote, your Vote counts.

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