



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
(for immediate release)

**07 October 2024**

**Attention: News Editors  
All Media Houses**

**UPDATE ON THE PROCUREMENT OF THE OF BALLOT PAPERS FOR THE 2024  
PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**

---

1. The Commission is fully dedicated to fostering trust and collaboration with its key stakeholders in the electoral process, and to ensure that they are kept abreast in the build-up to the 2024 Presidential and National Assembly elections. As part of our commitment to ensure transparency, the Commission has been consistently holding consultative meetings with the authorised representatives of registered political parties as members of the Political Parties Liaison Committee (PLC). The Commission at its PLC meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 briefed the political parties on the preparations for the procurement of the ballot papers.
2. Following this meeting, and upon a close analysis of the open international procurement method, it became apparent that there are risks associated with the current timelines that could negatively affect the timely delivery of the ballot papers. This necessitated the Commission to convene a special PLC meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of October 2024. During this meeting, the Commission, through the Secretariat which is charged with the procurement process, briefed PLC members on the potential risks associated with the bid initiated on the 10<sup>th</sup> of September 2024, and shared alternatives to mitigate such risks. Mitigation included the invocation of an alternative procurement method within the prescribed parameters of the Procurement Act. At this meeting, the authorised representatives requested time for additional consultations with their respective principals. This being granted, the meeting reconvened on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October 2024 at which time the Commission gauged the views of the authorised representatives of registered political parties. During this meeting, the Commission found it necessary to adjourn and take time to consider and analyse the divergent views presented by political parties and revert with a decision on the way forward.
3. **At a meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2024, the Commission communicated its decision to proceed with the cancellation of the bid. We deem this to be in the the best interest of electoral democracy and public interest to avert the risk of the late delivery of the ballot papers.**
4. The Commission thus issues this communique, to inform all electoral stakeholders and the general public that the Open International Bidding (OIB) process initiated on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of September 2024 under Procurement Reference NCS/OIB/28-01/2024/25 for the Design, Printing, Supply and Delivery of Ballot Papers, has been cancelled.
5. The decision to cancel the procurement process was arrived at in accordance with **section 54(1)(e) of the Public Procurement Act No.15 of 2015** (as amended), and following consideration of various factors which may negatively affect the timely delivery of the ballot papers for the Presidential and Nation Assembly elections set for the 13<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024 (voting abroad, sea going personnel and members of the security cluster) and the 27<sup>th</sup> day of November 2024 (voting inside the country).

6. **The Commission has, through its internal procurement structures, considered alternative procurement methods in accordance with relevant provisions of the Public Procurement Act to ensure timely delivery of ballot papers.**
7. In its resolve to ensure transparency in the bid process to be initiated, the Commission will continue to consult with the authorised representatives of all registered political parties **at all material stages** relating to the preparations for the elections. During the PLC meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2024, the Commission extended an invitation to the authorised representatives of **all** registered political parties contesting in the upcoming elections to observe the production, printing, binding and packaging of ballot papers. The Commission has in the same vein **resolved to carry costs associated with the said participation, irrespective of where the ballot papers will be produced and printed. This is to ensure that political party representatives have oversight of the entire process associated with the production and delivery of ballot papers.**
8. The Commission wishes to assure the Namibian people that it remains dedicated to upholding the integrity of our electoral processes and to live up to its constitutional mandate and the expectations of the Namibian people.

*//END*

---

**Issued by:**

Peter Shaama  
**Chief Electoral and Referenda Officer**

**Inquiries**

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