

## **VOTE 28: ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **The mandate of the Vote**

The mandate of the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) in terms of the Electoral Act No. 5 of 2014 is to organise and plan elections, direct, Voter Education, supervise registration of voters and control the conduct of elections and referenda in a free and fair, independent, credible, transparent and impartial manner as well as to strengthen constitutional democracy and to promote election and referenda processes.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE VOTE**

#### **Achievements 2014/15**

The Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) in the fulfilment of its mandate, successfully conducted the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly (PNA) Elections. The 2014 PNA elections was a historical first, not only in Namibia, but for the entire African continent. For the first time in its kind Namibia became the first African country successfully conducted national elections using Electronic Voting Machines (EVM) achieved its objective during the year under review. The Commission successfully conducted the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly Election in a free, fair impartial manner, after successfully conducting the 3<sup>rd</sup> General Registration of Voters followed by supplementary registration of voters by registering

The Financial Year (2014/15) under review the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN), had the best and historically remembered as the year in which the ECN broke new grounds in terms of new technological innovation in the management of elections. In the process, the introduction of new technologies put Namibia on the map, thereby ensuring that Namibia as a country emerged as a trend-setter and trailblazer on the African Continent. For the first time ever, Electronic Voting Machines were used on the African continent successfully during the Namibian Presidential and Parliamentary elections. The following were some of the major electoral activities which were undertaken and successfully concluded during this period:

- Conducted nine (9) elections (in one financial year) – including, the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly Election, Parliamentary election, Special Voting – 52 Namibian

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foreign missions Abroad & Sea-going personnel, Three Regional Constituency elections and three Local Authority elections;

- Completed overhaul and consolidation of the Namibian Electoral Law;
- Introduced biometric voter registration system to improve the voter registration process;
- Introduced electronic balloting by Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) to enhance the polling process.

In prelude to the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly elections, the ECN completed a highly successful General Registration of Voters (GRV) from 15 January to 2 March 2014. The GRV resulted in a record turnout of **93%** for voter registration of the Namibian electorate. This did put Namibia above the **SADC Region average of around 85%**.

Special focus was geared towards conducting voter education during the year when a totally different method of balloting (casting votes) was changed from manual to electronic balloting using electronic voting machines was particularly daunting. The fact that the new Electoral Act was only promulgated two months before the elections only served to complicate the work of the ECN in terms of voter education. Still, the ECN managed to cover no less than **95%** of the electorate. Moreover, the voter turnout of **72%** was recorded and it is indeed a testament to voter education effort which the ECN has put into place to ensure that every voter was exposed to the new technology to be able to cast his/her vote in confidence. What's more, the electronic voting ensured that **a zero rejected or spoiled ballot** was attained.

Finally and overall, the outcome of the Namibian 2014 Presidential and National Assembly won praise from many quarters, including international observer missions, governments, and the people of Namibia. Let us conclude with the following highly accurate opinion as expressed by the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) of Botswana on the outcome of the 2014 Namibian Presidential and National Assembly Elections:

“It is with great pleasure and a high sense of pride that IEC write to congratulate you [ECN] for a job well done following professional conduct and delivery of the 2014 Presidential and Legislative elections. Your taking of the bold step to adopt and adapt electronic electoral solutions to your electoral process has filled us with excitement as one of our own in the region, and became the envy of the African continent.”

### The main objectives of the Vote

- To deliver free, fair and credible elections
- To enhance prudent sound financial management
- To improve coordination and communication technology

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- To improve voter education activities
- To enhance organisational performance
- To ensure highly skilled and competent personnel
- To mainstream gender, disability and ensure compliance with the relevant policies at national level
- To mainstream HIV/AIDS and wellness into the agency programmes
- To ensure responsive electoral legal framework
- To acquire fixed and movable assets (ICT) infrastructure
- To ensure compliance to the Decentralization Policies

### Overall vote actual performance

The actual overall vote performance for the Electoral Commission for the year under review stood at 96%. ECN overall appropriated amount was N\$374,680,000.00 and the expenditures stood at N\$359,315,877.83 with overall vote actual performance of 96% execution rate.

### Overall Vote Actual Performance

Breakdown \ Year	2014/15	
	N\$	
	Estimate	Actual
Operational Budget	369 180 000	360 310 088
Development Budget	5 500 000	869 905
Development Partners	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>374 680 000</b>	<b>361 179 994</b>

### Overview of the of ministerial targets

Name of the Ministerial Targets	2013/14 Actual	2013/14-2015/16 Target	2014/15 Forecast	2014/2015 Actual
<b>Target 01: By-elections carried out within 90 days during MTEF period</b>	within 90 days	within 90days	within 90days	72
<b>Target 02: 85% registered eligible voters</b>	97	85	80	99
<b>Target 03: Covering 96% of eligible voters through information dissemination on electoral processes</b>	95	96	96	96

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### **Target 01: By-elections carried out within 90 days during MTEF period.**

During the financial year under review, the Electoral Commission successfully conducted the Presidential and National Assembly Election with a turnout of voters of 72% (890,738) of 1,241,194 total registered voters in the National Voters' register. In addition, the Electoral Commission also conducted by-elections for, Endola and Windhoek West Constituencies as well as Bukalo, Otjinene as new local Authorities within 90 days with average turnout of 55%. In both elections the Electoral Commission successfully employed the use of Electronic Voting machines (EVMs).

#### **Targeting:**

Though the forecasted target for the year under review was 90% the Electoral Commission achieved a target turnout of 72% and 55% during Presidential and National Assembly By-Elections conducted during 2014/2015 financial year which was to the satisfaction of the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

#### **Effectiveness:**

The holding of Presidential and National Assembly and By-Elections successfully bore the intended outputs of having the current President of the country as well as the Members of Parliament being sworn-in without any court case challenge. In addition, the holding of by-elections and new Local Authority Elections resulted in having newly elected Regional Councillors and Local Authority Councillors being sworn-in without any court case challenge.

#### **Efficiency:**

Though the prescribed period of conducting any election within 90 days appears to put the entire preparation process under extreme pressure, particularly on conducting by-elections, the ECN managed to comply with timeline of 90 days as prescribed by law in all elections.

#### **Impacts:**

The election of third national leadership during Presidential and National Assembly Elections empowered democratic voices of the electorate. The elected Regional Councillors during by-elections in reference made created platforms for the electorate to continue receiving public services in their respective Constituencies, whereas the election of Local Authority Councillors in the newly established Local Authorities created opportunities for the electorate to be legitimate participants in the in the establishment and development of their town/village councils and recipients of public services in their respective towns/villages.

### **Target 02: Register 90% of eligible voters during the MTEF period before elections.**

#### **Targeting:**

The Supplementary Registration of Voters (SRV) conducted for Presidential and National

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Assembly Elections represented 98,7% (118,383) of 120,000 eligible voters targeted in respect of turning 18 years, lost voter cards or changed residential addresses. In addition, the total voters of 1,161 383 registered during the General Registration of Voters (2013/2014) increased to 1,241,194 voters representing 657,751 female registered voters and 583,443 male registered voters in the National Voters' Register Furthermore, SRV for By-Elections for Ohangwena, Erongo, Kunene, Kunene Constituency and Kunene and Kunene Local Authority represented an average of 94% of eligible voters who turned 18 years, lost their voters cards or changed residential addresses respectively.

### **Effectiveness:**

The primary purpose of conducting SRV for any elections is to register all eligible voters who turned 18 years, lost/damaged their voter cards or changed residential addresses and this was achieved in respect of SRV for Presidential and National Assembly Elections representing 98,7% of the targeted 120, 000 eligible voters resulting in electorate to have a key (voter card) to exercise their democratic rights. Equally, the SRV for the by-elections managed to have 1150 eligible voters obtained their voter cards resulting in exercising their democratic rights during polls conducted in their respective Constituencies and new Local Authorities representing an average of 92% of the targeted 1250 eligible voters.

### **Efficiency:**

Though the prescribed period of conducting any registration of voters in order to comply with provision of holding elections within 90 days appears to put the entire administrative and logistical arrangements under extreme pressure, particularly on conducting by-elections, the ECN managed to comply with timeline of conducting respective Supplementary Registrations of Voters, production and display of provisional Voters' Registers for possible objections without any objections registered with any magistrates for wrongly inclusion of voters in respective Voters' Registers, as well as the production of respective Final Voters' Registers.

### **Impacts:**

The planned Supplementary Registration of Voters in reference afforded the targeted respective eligible voters who missed the opportunity to register in the preceding registration process to register and eventually to exercise their democratic rights in electing the leaders of their choice being nationally, regionally or locally elected leaders using their voters' cards.

### **Target 03: Covering 97% of eligible voters through information dissemination on electoral processes.**

The Electoral Commission has designed programs which targets youth. Therefore, they were engaged in the process using social media platforms and stimulated their love of fun through music at road shows across the country. This was one of the tool used to educate them of the

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electoral processes and activities. The results shows that out of 1,241,194 registered voters 508,459 were the youth, hence approximately 90% of the youth actively took part in the affairs of the electoral activates.

### **Effectiveness:**

#### **Voter education, publication, production and publicity**

Voter education materials (fliers, posters, brochures, TV and radio adverts) were produced and have reached 96% of all eligible voters. Some have reached eligible voters through voter education sessions and some have reached the voters through other mediums such as radio and TV. Other methods used were to distribute these voter education materials through trade fairs, road shows and distribution at malls. Thus the methods used for voter education, publication, production and publicity were effective.

#### **Conduct Regional Voter education**

Regional voter education is conducted through voter education sessions in all 14 regions. 96% of eligible voters were reached and educated through these voter education sessions that are guided by a monthly activity programme for each region.

#### **Research, monitoring and Evaluation**

An entrance and exit poll survey was conducted during the Ohangwena and Bukalo simulation activities of the EVM. The aim was to find out whether the eligible voters have confidence and acceptance of the EVM. This research was effective in assisting ECN with the roll out of the EVM. The Monitoring and Evaluation of voter education activities was not effective as the division did not carry out enough monitoring due to lack of time.

#### **Regional Voter education and capacity building**

Voter education officers along with stakeholders were trained on the EVM, Voter education booklet, and Voter education facilitation guide. According to the evaluation forms from the workshops, the trainings were found to be effective and this also reflected in the way that Voter education officers were able to confidently conduct voter education sessions and train the eligible voters on the EVM.

### **Efficiency:**

#### **Voter education, publication, production and publicity**

The division has realised that there has been more than enough voter education materials produced as there were plenty left over. However, the mediums used were efficient.

#### **Conduct Regional Voter education**

Due to the mass resignation of voter education officers due to the nature of their contractual employment, there were not enough man power. In fact, the division had to reinforce voter

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education officers by making use of additional staff and resources from the Ministry of Information Communication Technology and the Ministry of Works and Transport. The Number of sessions and vehicles also had to be increased in order to reach the target. Although in the end the target was reached, it would not have been possible with fewer resources.

### **Research, monitoring and Evaluation**

The research was efficient. The output was reached with just enough resources and input. The division found an opportunity in the simulation process to conduct their research on the EVM. The monitoring and evaluation was inefficient, although plotting of voter education sessions were done as way to monitor and evaluate the voter education activities. A few monitoring and evaluation trips were also conducted however they were not efficient.

### **Regional Voter education and capacity building**

The division has ensured that enough trainings are conducted to ensure that the voter education officers. Workshops such as the refresher workshops were to ensure that knowledge is imparted on the voter education officers. Workshops such as the post mortem were to discuss and share challenges and successes of voter education during the electoral processes.

### **Impacts:**

#### **Voter education, publication, production and publicity**

Voter education materials and campaigns were very helpful especially for eligible voters who did not get time to attend the sessions. Information materials produced in all vernaculars were distributed through voter education and the attendees could take them back to their households and explain to those who were absent. TV and radio adverts, as well as trade fairs and road shows also reached people who cannot make it to voter education sessions.

#### **Conduct Regional Voter education**

The confidence and easy usage of the EVM at the polling station was an indication that the voter education officers educated the eligible voters well on the EVM. The turnout of the voters at elections is also an indication that they have been informed on the dates, venues and time.

### **Research, monitoring and Evaluation**

The entrance and exit poll survey has impacted the planning of the division by using some of the information from the survey to tackle issues with the EVM through voter education. The little monitoring and evaluation that has been conducted has assisted with taking into consideration some of the complaints from the communities and leaders and tackling them.

### **Regional Voter education and capacity building**

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The training workshops have led to a much more confident and knowledgeable voter education work force. Voter education officers have also gotten a chance to network, know each other and share experiences and solutions on how to handle challenges while conducting voter education.

### Program-activities description

Provide the information in the table below and description of the Programme (2014/15).

#### Programme and Activity

*P-Code	Programme Name	*A-Code	Activity Name	*MD in Charge	2014/15		
					Estimate	Actual	Execution rate(%)
01	Voter Education and Information Dissemination	01-01	Voter Education	MD03	52 411 569	50 771 408	96.87
<b>Sub-Total</b>					<b>52 411 569</b>	<b>50 771 408</b>	<b>96.87</b>
02	Planning, Registration and Voting	02-01	Administration of elections	MD02	227 573 577	223 289 422	98.12
<b>Sub-Total</b>					<b>227 573 577</b>	<b>223 289 422</b>	<b>98.12</b>
03	Supervision and Support Services	03-01	Cordination and Support Services	MD01	94 694 854	87 119 164	92.00
<b>Sub-Total</b>					<b>94 694 854</b>	<b>87 119 164</b>	<b>92.00</b>
<b>Vote-Total</b>					<b>374 680 000</b>	<b>361 179 994</b>	<b>96.40</b>

### Programme 01: Voter Education and Information Dissemination

#### Programme objective.

- To conduct voter education and disseminate voter information;
- To promote democratic culture and good governance so as to ensure credible election processes;
- Raising public awareness on elections, democracy building and political tolerance during elections; and
- Mainstreaming special focus groups in electoral processes.

#### Main Activities

- Voter Education, Publication, production and publicity.
- Conduct Regional Voter education.

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- Research, monitoring and Evaluation.
- Regional Voter Education and capacity building.
- Ensure the electorate are well informed on electoral processes (in all constituencies).
- Timely production of information materials.

### **Main Outputs Achieved:**

#### **Conduct voter education**

##### **Achievements**

- 96% of all eligible voters reached and educated on voter education in all constituencies through voter education sessions.
- Successful introduction and roll-out of the Electronic Voting Machines voter education campaigns.
- Adequate capacity building/training for voter education officers.

##### **Challenges**

- Late handing out of the EVMs to the voter education officers to conduct voter education.
- Insufficient vehicles, boats and helicopters to reach all eligible voters.
- Denial of access of voter education officers into some areas, especially farms.
- Mass resignation of voter education officers leading to inadequate human resources to carry out voter education.
- Lack of time to conduct proper monitoring of voter education activities.
- Lack of cooperation from some stakeholders.
- Environmental challenges (e.g. rain and bad roads).

#### **Timely production of information materials**

##### **Achievements**

- Adequate voter education materials produced e.g. fliers, billboards, posters, and newsletter.
- Countrywide dissemination of information materials.

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### **Challenges**

- Late announcement of dates in order to produce voter education materials on time.
- Delays from suppliers in the production of information materials.

### **Ensure electorates are informed on electoral processes**

#### **Achievements**

- Successful voter education workshops with the stakeholders in terms of information giving/sharing and also to introduce them to the legal framework under which elections are conducted.
- Successful public outreach campaigns for supplementary registration, by-elections, and Presidential and National Assembly elections using various outreach methods such as roadshows, trade fairs, radio talk shows and mainstreaming programmes for People with Disabilities.
- Successful conducted voter education to ensure understanding of the use of the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) by the public before the actual elections.
- Improved communication / rapport with stakeholders.

### **Challenges**

- Lack of attendance from some stakeholders at workshops.

## **Programme 02: Administration of Elections**

### **Programme Objectives:**

- To hold regular elections as mandated in the Electoral Act, (Act 5 of 2014).
- To ensure good governance and enhancing democracy through conducting transparent, free, fair and credible elections.
- To ensure that the voter registration system in place produces a credible Voters' Registers.

### **Main Activities**

- Registration of Voters
- Holding of Elections
- Update of Voters Register
- Computerisation, Management and Maintenance of ECN Logistics
- Research and Consultants
- Legal Challenges
- EVM's and MVRK's

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### **Main Outputs Achieved:**

#### **Registration of Voters**

##### **Achievements**

- Successful conducted the Supplementary Registration of Voters for the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly Elections;
- Successfully conducted the Supplementary Registration of Voters for the four (4) by-elections, namely Swakopmund; Onyaanya; Otjiwarongo and Otavi constituencies respectively;
- Successfully clarified boundaries for the newly proclaimed local authorities of Tsandi, Oniipa, Okongo and Divundu.

##### **Challenges**

- Insufficient number of government vehicles acquired from government garage resulted in hiring private owned vehicles;
- Lack of adequate training facilities for the registration officials;
- Exorbitant fees charged by services provide to ECN when using their facilities as registration venues.

#### **Holding of Elections**

##### **Achievements**

- Successfully held of the Presidential and National Assembly with about 75% turn up of voters;
- Successfully used and embraced the use of EVMs for the first time on the continent during the Presidential and national Assembly Elections;
- Successfully conducted the Swakopmund and Otjiwarongo constituencies' by-elections within 90 days as prescribed by Law, however Onyaanya and Otavi constituencies, Councillors were duly elected as there was only one political party nominated candidates in both instances.

##### **Challenges**

- Insufficient number of government vehicles acquired from government garage resulted in hiring private owned vehicles;
- Lack of adequate training facilities for the registration officials;
- Exorbitant fees charged by services provide to ECN when using their facilities as polling stations;
- Experienced long queues resulted in some polling stations only closed after midnight;

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- Experienced some technical problems with the voter verified devices (VVDs).

### **Updating of National Voters Register**

#### **Achievements**

- Successfully removed 100% of collected registered deceased persons from the Ministry of Home Affairs and Immigration from the National Voters register;
- Managed to print the final voters register used for polling;

#### **Challenges**

- It is very costly exercise to maintain credible voter register;
- Tendering procedures for the printing of voters register is cumbersome due to sophisticated specifications;
- Printing of voters register is very costly exercise and logistical problems due to lack of capacity to print in-house.

### **Programme 03: Supervision and Support Services**

#### **Programme objectives:**

- To ensure proper financial Management, optimal utilization of the allocated resources and other administrative issues;
- To ensure that resources are adequate and properly managed efficiently to enable the ECN fulfilling its mandate;
- To provide the required ICT equipment to enable the ECN to perform its obligation efficiently; and
- To strengthen the employer – employee relationship.

#### **Main Activities**

- Minor Renovations and Maintenance of the ECN Head Office
- Training and Development, Gender and Capacity Building
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Equipment and systems
- General Administrative Costs
- Construction of Regional Offices
- International Fees and Subscriptions
- Wellness Promotion, Prevention and HIV/AIDS mitigations.

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### **Main Outputs Achieved:**

#### **Coordination and Support Services**

- A conducive, safe and secured working environment.
- Enhanced gender mainstreaming in the institutional activities.
- An IT environment that provides tools necessary for optima staff performance.
- A dedicated connectivity between head office and electoral network.
- Relevant regulations, policies & Act are complied with.
- Decentralized functions.
- Increased awareness of HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses at the workplace.
- Health conscious staff member.
- Recruitment of elections officials
- Long-term and short term capacity building of staff.
- Managing of media and stakeholder engagement.

#### **Achievements**

- Successful implementation of the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM)
- The use of ICT in the electoral process had a direct impact to Non challenged elections due to the use of EVM and other technologies
- The use of ICT further had an impact on the registration of voters and an voters register close to accurate due to biometric system
- Successful management of Central Election Results Centre an events management of the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly Elections.
- Completion and submission of the Post-Election Report for the Presidential and National Assembly Elections.
- Stakeholder Management and arranging major consultations through the holding of the Electoral Symposium prior to the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly Elections.
- Capturing of historical footage for the implementation of the Electronic Voting machines for simulation exercises in the Ohangwena, Bukalo and Otjinene constituencies.
- Enactment of the Electoral Act, Act No 05 of 2014.
- Recruitment of Election officials for supplementary registration as well as Presidential and National Assembly elections.
- Information session on wellness and HIV prevention as well as distribution of condoms during the training of officials.
- Effective capacity building procedures in place

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### **Challenges**

- Insufficient funds for Central Election Results Centre, made it challenging for the execution of the planned activities related to the results centre. This caused the delay in the announcement of the results.
- The late proclamation of key dates affected the media and stakeholder management as the ECN had to rush against certain statutory deadlines.
- The IT sub-division could not replace the aging server and client computer hardware due to funds that was re-allocated to election related activities which took priority, caused by many unforeseen by-elections and proclamation of new Local Authorities.
- Training on the EVM was not sufficient for the returning offices due to the delay in proclamation of the key dates and the late enactment of the Electoral Act No. 5 of 2014
- Planned wellness session could not be conducted due to the electoral activities demand
- Staff members could not attend training as per training plan due to unexpected by-elections and other urgent electoral duties.

### **EXPENDITURE FROM CONTINGENCY 2014/15**

None.

### **EXPENDITURE BY STANDARD ITEMS**

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### 4.OVERALL BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO THE VOTE

Breakdown	Year	2014/15	
		Estimate	Actual
Personnel Expenditure		19,431,807	17,367,979
Goods and Other Services		276,451,712	269,690,406
Subsidies and Other Current Transfers		272,100	260,502
Acquisition of Capital Assets(Operational)		73,024,381	72,991,202
Capital Transfers (Operational)		0	0
<b>Operational Budget</b>		<b>369,180,000</b>	<b>360,310,088</b>
Operational Capital		0	0
Acquisition of Capital Assets (Development)		5,500,000	869,905
Capital Transfers (Development)		0	0
<b>Development Budget</b>		<b>5,500,000</b>	<b>869,905</b>
Total State Revenue Fund Appropriation		374,680,000	361,179,994

#### Explanations on variances

During the financial year under review, the Electoral Commission successfully conducted the Presidential and National Assembly Election with a 75% turn up voters. Subsequently, the Electoral Commission also conducted by-elections for Swakopmund, Ohangwena, Bukalo, Otjinene and Otjiwarongo Constituencies within 90 days as prescribed by law. In both elections the Electoral Commission successfully embraced the use of Electronic Voting machines (EVMs).

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### NON-TAX REVENUE

Revenue Source	Year	2014/15		
	Estimate	Actual	Variance %	
Deposits made by Political Parties	71 000	175 500		2
Miscellaneous	1 000	66 631		67
<b>Total</b>	<b>72 000</b>	<b>242 131</b>		<b>69</b>

#### Explanations :

##### Deposits made by political parties

During the year under review the Commission collected N\$175,500 as deposits made by Political Parties to participate in the 2014 Presidential and National Assembly (PNA) Elections as well as for the candidates who participated in the by-elections for Swakopmund, and Otjiwarongo Constituencies respectively.

##### Miscellaneous

The total revenue amount of N\$66,630.53 recorded under this revenue code represents the salary reversals processed after the closure of 2013/2014 financial year for one of the officials left the Electoral Commission.

### HUMAN RESOURCES CAPACITY

No of Staff	2014/15
Approved	46
Funded	46

### SUMMARY OF MOVABLE ASSETS

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### **Reasons for the stock levels**

The obsolete and redundant stock reported above have been utilised beyond their lifespan, and they are due for disposal after obtaining Treasury authorisation of which they will be surrendered for public auction and they are to be written off from the Electoral Commission's stock books.

### **Vehicles**

**The Electoral Commission do not run its own fleet. The fleet is managed by the Republic of Namibia Government Garage.**

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