



## Namibia 2024 Election Key highlights and Recommendations

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### 1. Introduction

The Namibia General Elections were held to elect a new president and members of the National Assembly. Originally scheduled for November 27, 2024, the elections were extended to 29 and 30 November in approximately 36 polling stations<sup>1</sup> due to logistical and technical issues, including malfunctioning voter identification tablets and a shortage of ballot papers. These November 2024 elections marked the seventh consecutive elections since Namibia gained independence from apartheid South Africa in 1990.

The Presidential and National Assembly elections were primarily governed by the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia and the Electoral Act 5 of 2024. The President is elected through direct, universal, and equal suffrage, requiring more than 50% of the valid votes cast. On December 3, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of the ruling South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) was declared the winner, making her Namibia's first female president.

**Presidential election votes count** (*ECN Declaration of results-3 December 2024*)

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<sup>1</sup> [Namibia extends voting again in close elections](#)

Candidate	Political party	Vote count
Amupanda Job Shipululo	Affirmative Repositioning	19 676
Amuthenu Vaino	Congress of Democrats	1 213
Gaobaeb Hendrik	United Democratic Front of Namibia	12 604
Itula Panduleni Filemon Bango	Independent Patriots for Change	284 106
Kaaronda Evilastus	SWANU of Namibia	7 991
Kavekatora Kamboto Ratoveni Mike	Rally for Democracy and Progress	2 974
Kumbwa Ambrosius	All People's Party	5 197
Likuwa Sakaria Amos	United Namibians Party	2 013
Mudge Henry Ferdinand	Republican Party of Namibia	8 988
Mukwilongo Jan Epafras Mulinasho	Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters	3 978
Nandi-Ndaitwah Ndemupelila	Netumbo SWAPO Party of Namibia	638 560
Shuumbwa Erastus	Action Democratic Movement	2 069
Swartbooi Bernadus	Landless People's Movement	51 160
Thomas Festus	Body of Christ Party	3 641
Venaani Mc Henry Mike Kanjonokere	Popular Democratic Movement	55 412

The November final voters' register indicated that 1, 449, 569 registered to vote in the election. This represented an approximate 90% of the 1, 615, 910 eligible voters identified in the Namibia 2023 census. In terms of contestants, fifteen (15) candidates vied for presidential post. A total of 14, 552 votes were rejected, representing 1.3%. A total of 1, 099, 582 valid votes were

counted for the presidential election, in which the SWAPO candidate was declared a winner. At National Assembly level, twenty-one (21) political parties contested the election. A total of 1, 108, 583 votes were cast and 1, 092 685 votes were valid.

### National Assembly distribution of votes and seats *(ECN Declaration of Results-3 December 2024)*

NO	Political party	Total votes	Seats
1.	Action Democratic Movement	2 286	0
2.	Affirmative Repositioning	72 227	6
3.	All People's Party	7 219	1
4.	Body of Christ	5 763	1
5.	Christian Democratic Voice Party	1 452	0
6.	Congress of Democrats	1 800	0
7.	Independent Patriots for Change	220 809	20
8.	Landless People's Movement	56 971	5
9.	Namibia Economic Freedom Fighters	11 743	1
10.	National Democratic Party of Namibia	6 647	1
11.	National Empowerment Fighting Corruption	3 216	0
12.	National Patriotic Front of Namibia	1 315	0
13.	National Unity Democratic Organization of Namibia	10 687	1
14.	Popular Democratic Movement	59 839	5
15.	Rally for Democracy and Progress	3 308	0
16.	Republican Party of Namibia	10 942	1
17.	SWANU of Namibia	11 484	1
18.	SWAPO Party of Namibia	583 300	51
19.	United Democratic Front of Namibia	16 828	2
20.	United Namibians Party	2 706	0
21.	United People's Movement	2 143	0

## 2. Key highlights and recommendations from the EOMs.

## **2.1 Amendment and Enactment of Laws**

The Government should consider reforming its electoral system as the current system where the country is perceived as one constituency, allowing voters to vote in any constituency irrespective of where they are registered creates logistical and administrative challenges such as shortage of ballot papers in some polling stations. **(SEOM)**

To review electoral law to introduce polling station-based voting to reduce the logistical challenges experienced by the Commission, including enhancing proper planning. **(ECF-SADC)**

There is a need to consider improving the electoral system by establishing a polling station-based registration and voting system. This would enhance the ability of the ECN to predict the possible turnout at each polling station and thus provide adequate sensitive and non-sensitive polling materials for each polling station. **(ZESN & ESN-SA EOM)**

Enactment of data protection law to guide ECN Policy framework on cyber security, access to information and data protection. **(ECF-SADC)**

Consider enacting a legislation that provides for when the results should be announced; **(AUEOM)**

Undertake comprehensive electoral reforms to address gaps in campaign finance regulation, transparency, and accountability as stipulated under Section 141 of the Electoral Act. **(ACG-EOM)**

## **2.2 Voter Registration and Education**

Review and revise the operational processes of voter registration and polling to address challenges identified, such as shortages of voting materials and malfunctioning Electronic Voter Verification Machine (EVVMs), in line with the Electoral Act No. 5 of 2014, Section 9(1)(b), which mandates the ECN to ensure smooth and credible electoral operations. **(ACG-EOM)**

Implement extensive voter education campaigns as per Section 49(2) of the Electoral Act, focusing on polling and counting procedures, proper documentation for voting, and the role of EVVMs to reduce errors and frustrations on election day. **(ACG-EOM)**

Introduce a system to register voters to specific polling stations and publicly display the voters' roll in advance, as per Section 26 of the Electoral Act, to streamline voting and improve accountability. **(ACG-EOM)**

## **2.3 Transparency of Electoral Processes**

To rebuild stakeholder confidence, the Electoral Commission of Namibia (ECN) should conduct a post-election stakeholder review to address concerns raised during the

electoral process. Recommendations from this review should be implemented to prevent recurrence. Furthermore, capacity-building workshops and periodic stakeholder engagement sessions can enhance mutual understanding and trust in the ECN's processes. **(SEOM)**

Consider drawing up a rotation plan for party and candidates' agents deployed at polling stations to enhance credibility and transparency of the election day processes. **(AUEOM)**

## **2.4 Election Administration**

The ECN should establish clear guidelines for engaging stakeholders, ensuring timely and transparent communication, particularly when making significant decisions such as changing counting venues or extending voting periods. Regular briefings or consultations with all stakeholders, including political parties, civil society organisations, and observers, should be institutionalised to maintain trust and credibility. **(SEOM)**

The ECN should adopt a robust ballot paper management strategy to prevent shortages. This includes accurate voter registration data, contingency plans for unexpected surges, and periodic audits of ballot paper distribution. In cases of shortages, all stakeholders must be promptly informed and consulted to maintain transparency and accountability. **(SEOM)**

The ECN should create a formal crisis management framework to address emergencies, such as ballot shortages or extending voting days. This framework should outline procedures for stakeholder consultation, decision-making timelines, and communication strategies to ensure all affected parties are informed and involved. **(SEOM)**

Limit the number of voters per polling station by considering the use of a polling station segmented voters register; Provide sufficient polling booths in each polling station to speed up voting; Limit the locating of polling stations to public facilities. Polling stations should also be in places with access to basic amenities such as places of convenience and water. **(AUEOM)**

Consider increasing the number of polling stations to help reduce long queue lengths outside polling stations. Consider segmenting the voting population into numbers that enable the prediction of quantities of polling materials and human resource person hours required to efficiently execute the voting exercise. **(AUEOM)**

Whenever an extension of polling becomes necessary, it should be communicated in a timely and effective manner. **(AUEOM)**

Review electoral logistics and operations strategy to ensure the timely deployment of materials and adequate training of staff to ensure uniform application of polling procedures. **(AUEOM)**

There is a need to improve the timely and adequate distribution of election materials to polling stations. There is a need to devise a strategy to manage unpredictable voting numbers since the country is treated as one constituency during polling day. **(ECF-SADC)**

There is a need for consistency in the administration of some of the election processes at polling stations such as the number of polling booths to use at the polling stations. **(ECF-SADC)**

The ECN needs to ensure that spare voter verification devices and ultra-violet light detection machines are available to replace those that may malfunction on election day. The ECN needs to re-evaluate the adequacy of polling stations and booths in areas with a high density of voters. **(ZESN-ESN-SA EOM)**

Establish contingency mechanisms to prevent material shortages and voting delays. **(ACG-EOM)**

## ***2.5 Promotion of Media Freedom***

The need for ECN to have strategies to mitigate misinformation and disinformation and building partnerships with the mainstream media and social media platforms. **(ECF-SADC)**

There is a need for political parties and their candidates to fully utilise available media platforms to canvass for votes and to educate voters on the issues that their parties and candidates stand for. **(ZESN-ESN EOM)**

## ***2.6 Results Management***

Consider enacting a legislation that provides for when the results should be announced; **(AUEOM)**

The need to enact legislation that specifically outline the reasonable time frame for results announcement and not leave the matter at the discretion of ECN **(ECF-SADC)**

Amend the Electoral Act to provide for the special votes to be counted and tallied together with votes cast on the election day; **(AUEOM)**

## ***2.7 Election Dispute Resolution***

The need to enact legislation regarding the management of the court cases for concluding election related cases. **(ECF-SADC)**

Channel any arising electoral disputes through legally instituted mechanisms. **(AUEOM)**

Utilize inter-party liaison committees for proactive conflict resolution and dialogue as stipulated in the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2021). **(ACG-EOM)**

## **2.8 Inclusion**

Political parties to adopt women-friendly policies and practises in efforts to break down barriers that make it difficult for women to contest internal party elections and national elections. **(AUEOM)**

Commit to enhancing women's representation by actively promoting female candidates and leaders, in line with the Constitution of Namibia, Article 95(a), which encourages the promotion of gender equality. **(ACG-EOM)**

To provide accessible facilities to facilitate voting by persons with disabilities. **(ECF-SADC)**

Improve accessibility at polling stations for persons with disabilities and elderly voters, aligning with Namibia's commitment to inclusive electoral participation as per Article 10 of the Constitution of Namibia on equality and non-discrimination. **(ACG-EOM)**

## **3. Conclusion**

Overall, the Missions found that the elections in Namibia were held in a generally peaceful environment and adhered to the country's legal framework. Many EOMs praised the Namibian people for their resilience and commendable conduct during the electoral period. The contesting political parties were also acknowledged for their role, particularly their spirit of tolerance during the election period. However, it is important to note that the Namibia elections recorded several challenges, primarily related to election administration and gaps in the legal framework regarding results management, election dispute resolution mechanisms, electoral system, extension of voting day, stakeholder engagement and polling station-based voter registration. EOMs highlighted logistical issues that led to the voting period extension from November 27 to 29 and 30 November. In response to the identified gaps, the EOMs provided recommendations across various areas, outlining a clear path for enhancing the conduct of elections in Namibia.