

# Church Leaders Declaration on Elections in Namibia

## A. PREAMBLE

1. Having participated in conferences and consultations on the Role and Mandate of Churches in Elections and the Electoral Process in Namibia, and having recognised the unique role of the Church in addressing national issues;
2. Having reflected on the historic role of the Church in the liberation struggle and the CCN Programme, namely: the repatriation, resettlement, and reconstruction (RRR) process of exiles leading up to the election in Namibia in 1989;
3. Having explored how the Church has been engaging itself in civic life;
4. Having acknowledged the positive input of the Church in transformation, nation building and democracy in the country since independence;
5. Having realised the failures of the Church in many instances since independence for not being obedient to God in raising a prophetic voice in search of a just society;
6. Having considered the challenges for free and fair elections in Namibia;
7. We, the Church, in all this, are thankful to God Almighty for His grace and blessings since independence for granting Namibia peace, unity and stability.

## B. POSITION OF THE CHURCH

Therefore, we now encourage all churches and faith-based organisations to unite,

1. to take up the very important role of intercession through mobilising individual and corporate prayers all over the nation to ensure peaceful election processes;
2. to boldly take up the role of being a prophetic voice by speaking out clearly on all issues that relate to the wellbeing of the nation and to offer godly counsel to all elected officials on matters that will aid nation building;
3. to declare our willingness to henceforth work for peaceful, free and fair election processes in the country;

One  
in  
faith  
and  
one  
in  
mission:  
Promoting  
unity,  
tolerance,  
peace  
and  
justice

4. to institute in our respective congregations, an education programme to advance internalisation of the provisions of the Namibian Constitution and the Electoral Act;
5. to publicly advocate for the inclusion of voter education and democracy into the life skills syllabi in schools;
6. to take a strong stand against any violation of the fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in Chapter 3 of the Namibian Constitution, the Electoral Commission of Namibia's Code of Conduct for political parties, and the provisions of the Electoral Act;
7. to denounce derogatory utterances by political leaders, party members, organised civil society groups and members of the public and any actions that threaten peace and the rule of law;
8. to refrain from using and availing churches as a campaign podium for political parties;
9. to avail our respective church facilities as polling stations to the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

## C. APPEAL TO THE CHURCHES

We call upon all churches in all thirteen regions of Namibia to work together in collaboration as Christians and to lay aside personal and denominational differences, thereby exemplifying Christ-like love and tolerance; and to endorse this declaration and the spirit thereof.

## D. APPEAL TO OTHER STAKEHOLDERS

We, the Church in Namibia, appreciate our government, the people of Namibia and other stakeholders in their demonstration of respect for democratic principles over the past 18 years.

However, we seriously appeal to the government of the day, public office bearers, political parties and every other role player included in the current political process to build on and protect the principles enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Namibia so that elections will be fair and just.