

Elections 2009

Express your political choice

PRESIDENT



Election

- Elected by direct, universal and equal vote through a national election every five years
- The winning candidate has to gain more than 50 percent of the votes
- The President is limited to serving two five-year terms

Functions and Powers:

As the Head of the State and Commander-in-Chief of the Army and thus the executive power, the President is expected to

- uphold, protect and defend the Constitution as the Supreme Law of Namibia
- appoint the Prime Minister, Ministers, Deputy-Ministers and the Attorney-General
- appoint on recommendation of the Judicial Service Commission the Chief Justice, the Judge-President of the High Court and other Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Court, the Ombudsman and the Prosecutor-General
- establish and dissolve government departments
- dissolve the National Assembly on advice of the Cabinet if the government is unable to govern effectively
- receive and recognize ambassadors from foreign countries and appoint Namibian ambassadors
- negotiate and sign international agreements

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY



Election

- Consists of 72 members elected through elections held every five years using a Party List and a Proportional Representation System
- Up to six extra members are appointed by the President for their special expertise, status, skill or experience; they do not have voting rights in the National Assembly
- Members are elected by general, direct and secret ballot
- The members of the National Assembly shall be representative of all the people and are expected to be guided only by the objectives of the Constitution, by the public interest and by their conscience

Functions and Powers:

- As the principal legislative authority in and over Namibia the National Assembly has the power to make and repeal laws for the peace, order and good governance of the country in the best interest of the people of Namibia
- The National Assembly is expected to defend the Constitution and laws of Namibia, approve budgets and taxation regimes and agree to international treaties

ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Electoral Commission and Directorate of Elections

- The Electoral Commission was established by an Act of Parliament in 1992 to supervise and conduct all electoral activities in Namibia such as voter registration, registration of parties, nomination of candidates, the organisation and administration of elections and announcement of election results
- The Directorate of Elections is the administrative arm of the Commission and acts as the chief executive



Victor Tonchi
Chairperson of the
Electoral Commission



Moses Ndjarakana
Director of Elections

GOVERNMENT SCHOOL TERMS 2009

1st Term: 14 January - 29 April
2nd Term: 26 May - 25 August
3rd Term: 08 September - 04 December

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2009

01 JANUARY	NEW YEARS DAY
21 MARCH	INDEPENDENCE DAY
10 APRIL	GOOD FRIDAY
12 APRIL	EASTER SUNDAY
13 APRIL	EASTER MONDAY
01 MAY	WORKERS DAY
04 MAY	CASSINGA DAY
21 MAY	ASCENSION DAY
25 MAY	AFRICA DAY
26 AUGUST	HEROES DAY
10 DECEMBER	INT'L HUMAN RIGHTS DAY
25 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS DAY
26 DECEMBER	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

JANUARY						
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NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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IN 2009 THERE WILL BE ELECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND OF THE PRESIDENT OF NAMIBIA

ELECTION FACTS

The President

The Presidential candidate is voted directly. Each Political Party selects a candidate that will run for the Office of the President. You have the right to vote for any candidate of any Political Party to become President.

National Assembly

The Political Parties must register with the Electoral Commission. You as the voter will vote for a Political Party. The Political Party will have a Party List from which the Members will be elected according to his or her position on the list. The nationwide vote is divided amongst the number of seats (72) to get the number of seats that each Political Party will have in the National Assembly.

The Campaign

Each Political Party has a different system of campaigning, but in most instances it is done through radio, television, print media and especially rallies, where the Political Parties set out their values and policies why they want the voters to vote for them. Intimidation and hate speeches are prohibited by law.

Political Parties

The role of Political Parties is important in a democratic society. You as the voter have the right to choose who you vote for. Any individual or group has the right to form a Political Party and has the right to freely campaign. Political Parties have the duty to promote the interests of those who have voted them into power.

Election Observers

Election Observers have to monitor the election process and ensure that no fraudulent activities and rigging take place. They do this by making sure that ballot boxes are empty before any votes are cast and that the ballot boxes are sealed correctly before and after the voting process. The Observers ensure that the counting is in conformity with the electoral laws of Namibia and also the international standards.

Why should I vote?

Every citizen 18 years and older has the right, but also the duty to vote. Voting ensures that you have a say in who is ruling the country and that your concerns are addressed through those you vote into power.

Your Rights

According to the Constitution of Namibia all citizens have the right to form and join political parties and vote secretly for whichever party is favoured. All citizens have the right to assemble freely and express their thoughts and believes without any intimidation or discrimination.

GET REGISTERED!

Why?

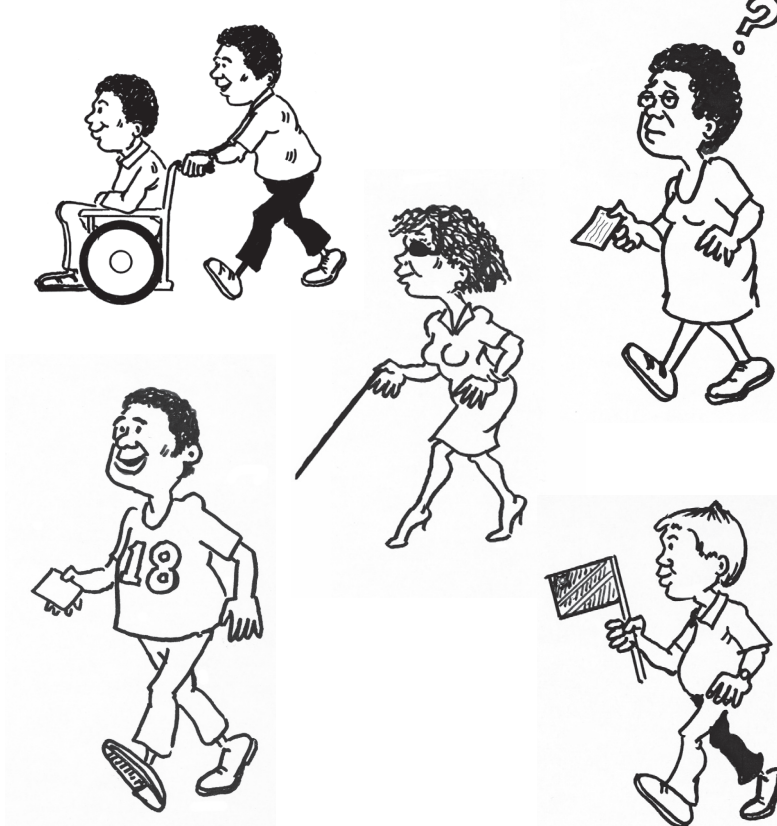
You must have a Voter Registration Card to be able to vote.

Who can register?

All Namibian citizens who have reached the age of 18 years can register. Also illiterate, disabled and blind people can register.

How do you register?

To be able to register, you must be able to prove your identity, age and Namibian citizenship. You can prove this with your driver's license, identity card, passport or birth certificate. If you do not have any of these documents, you can take two people who are prepared to make sworn statements confirming your identity with you to the registration venue. Eligible voters must register in their constituencies.



YOUR VOTE

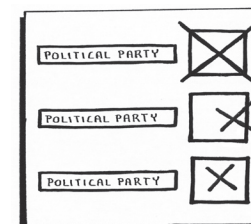
Exercise your right to vote and express your political choice!

Who can vote?

All Namibian citizens who have reached the age of 18 years can vote. Also illiterate, disabled and blind people can vote. You must have a Voter Registration Card.

Why should you vote?

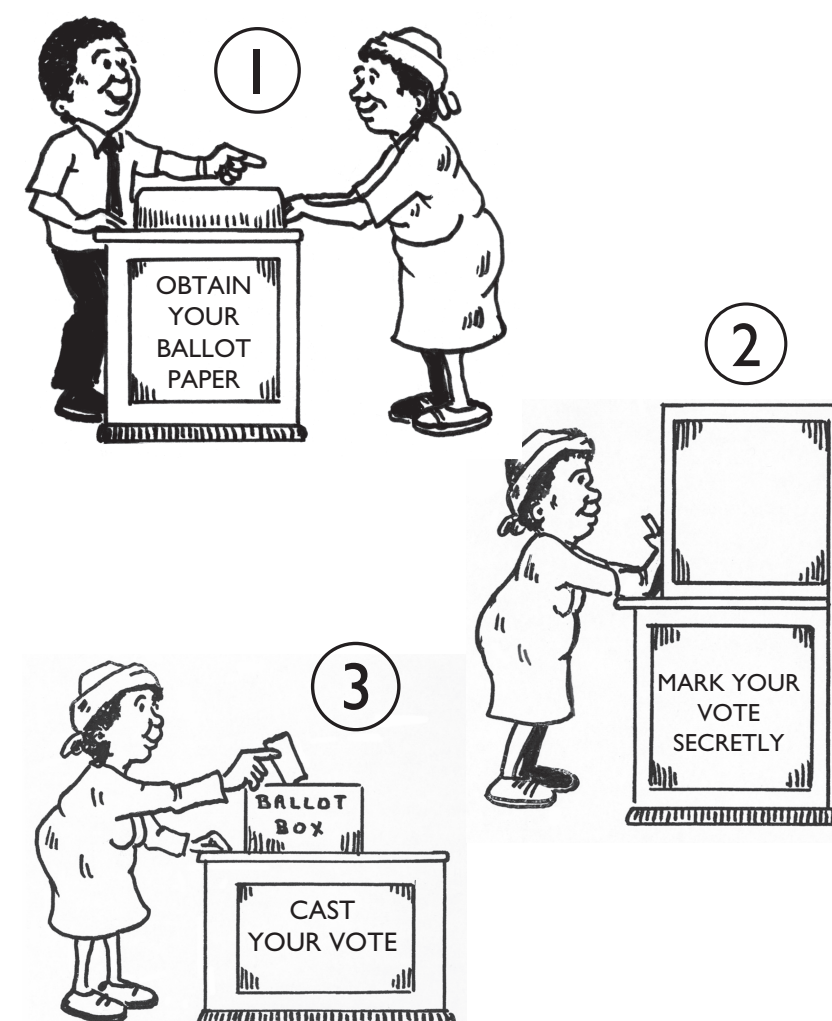
Democracy means rule by people. It means that political authority is derived from people through the popular vote. The government is given the right to rule because the people say it may. Hence democracy means government for and by the people. The government is not above the people, but has to serve them. It is your opportunity to let your voice be heard by choosing the political leader you want.



How do you vote?

An ID document or any official document which contains a photo or a sworn statement by two persons who can adequately identify themselves such as the Voter Registration Card is needed. You can only vote once. In order to ensure everybody has only one vote, your hands will be marked with a liquid which can only be seen under a special light and is completely harmless.

The elections are monitored by official observers from Namibia and from all over the world. They are expected to be independent and must not interfere with the election process. They make sure that there are no problems and help to prevent fraud. Your vote is your secret, it is your personal choice; you may express your political will freely without any intimidation or force. You should be tolerant of each other when supporting different parties. A spoilt paper is a wasted vote, you must mark your voting paper correctly within the box provided!



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YOUR VOTE IS YOUR SECRET!