



**ENHANCING POLITICAL PARTIES UNDERSTANDING OF
THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK
FOR THE PROMOTION OF ELECTORAL INTEGRITY**

14 – 15 MAY 2024

TRAVEL LODGE, GABORONE, BOTSWANA



INTRODUCTION

As Botswana goes to the polls in October 2024, it is eminent that the electoral contestants themselves, political parties and candidates inclusive, need to have a good understanding of the electoral processes for them to meaningfully engage and contribute to the holding of free and fair elections. Elections are a very important feature in any democracy, as they give a voice to the political will of the people. The right to take part in government directly or through freely chosen representatives is also enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Right (article 21.1) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (article 25).

While there are several stakeholders that play an important role in contributing to successful, peaceful and credible elections, it is indisputable that political parties and candidates have a vital role. For them, elections are a period during which they will have the opportunity to not only reaffirm their interest to contest but also to demonstrate the extent to which they represent and reflect the needs and aspirations of the electorate. Thus, to parties and candidates, elections are the climax of competition between and among the electoral contestants in their efforts to win votes. For the citizenry in general, elections are a moment of taking note of the commitments and promises that are being made. In other words, elections are the foundation of the social contract between the parties and candidates on the one hand and the electorate on the other. Such an important democratic exercise demands an environment that fosters inclusivity for all stakeholders and contenders.

Better informed and well capacitated political parties also tend to be well-positioned to constructively engage with other stakeholders in ensuring a successful electoral process. Having political parties that have a good appreciation of the relevant laws and regulations pertaining to elections and electoral process is instrumental in ensuring that such key stakeholders are not only compliant in their engagement with and in the electoral process, but they also become champions in ensuring that the electoral process takes place within and is compliant with the given legal frameworks. Essentially, well-informed and empowered political entities play a pivotal role in upholding electoral integrity, thereby advancing the democratization of their nation.





WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

Democracy Works Foundation (DWF) is implementing the USAID funded Political Parties for Resilient and Inclusive Democracies in Southern Africa (PoPRID) programme, which seeks to support a trend towards to support a trend toward representative multiparty systems with political parties that are responsive to citizens while providing targeted assistance to promote electoral integrity. It is within the framework of this project that DWF is organizing a cross party engagement which seeks to achieve the following objectives:

A) To develop a shared understanding of the political parties' program, its focus and interventions in Botswana.

B) To provide a platform to discuss key issues of importance to political parties, as they prepare for the upcoming elections.

C) To share knowledge on the electoral legal framework and on strategic planning for poll watching, for political parties' meaningful participation in the electoral process.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The cross-party workshop will target all registered political parties in Botswana that have also been part of the previous political parties' programme.

Participation is strictly by invitation.



ABOUT POLITICAL PARTIES FOR RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE DEMOCRACY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

A regional programme that seeks to contribute to the deepening of democratic governance in southern Africa

PROGRAMME DURATION

November 2023-November 2028

CONTEXT

Political Parties for Resilient and Inclusive Democracy in Southern Africa is a five-year regional programme that DWF is implementing with the support of USAID (Southern Africa). The programme presently covers Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia and South Africa.

The programme recognises that inclusive, issues-based democratic political parties are critical to a successful democratic system. This is because political parties provide the main channel for articulating issues of public concern, linking the public to their government. Thus, political parties that understand the needs of citizens are better positioned to advocate for and develop responsive policy positions on issues of public concern.

Furthermore, the programme also acknowledges the centrality of elections to democratic governance. Considering that political parties are the only stakeholders that participate in elections with the sole purpose of winning or retaining power (making political parties the key electoral stakeholders), the programme further recognises the importance for political parties to understand better how they can meaningfully and constructively participate in elections as well as advance electoral reforms that contribute to effective democratic governance and electoral integrity. Against this background, the overall goal of Political Parties for Resilient and Inclusive Democracy in Southern Africa is to support a trend toward representative multiparty systems with political parties that are responsive to citizens while providing targeted assistance to promote electoral integrity. Through this programme,

DWF therefore seeks to promote representative multiparty systems with democratic and responsive political parties and electoral integrity in selected countries in Southern Africa.

The programme is consolidating the gains and successes of a similar regional programme- the Southern Africa Political Parties and Dialogue (SAPP&D) Programme, that DWF concluded in July 2023 and which covered Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia.

OUR IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

Building on the experiences of our predecessor programme (the Southern Africa Political Parties and Dialogue Programme), we will continue with our three-pronged approach to working with and supporting political parties in the region.

Our implementation strategy will, therefore, comprise a cross-party regional approach, a cross-party country-specific approach and a bilateral (party by party) approach.

A cross-party approach (both at regional and country levels) will promote inter-party dialogue and build consensus on and find solutions to developmental and governance issues of common concern, facilitate opportunities for building a healthy, vibrant and competitive political party environment while at the same time promoting peer learning, mutual understanding and allowing for less fractious competition and the kind of political contestation that engenders societal trust in political parties.

To respond to party-specific challenges, we will complement the regional and country-level cross-party approaches with a bilateral approach, whereby DWF will directly engage with individual political parties to assist them to reflect on and address their respective unique challenges for them to evolve into better functioning democratic institutions that can effectively contribute to the deepening of democratic governance and development.

Underlying this three-pronged strategy is our commitment as DWF to working inclusively by working with both governing and opposition parties, building trust, maintaining strict non-partisanship, and ensuring transparency in the programmes we are implementing.

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information about POPRID Southern Africa

Dr. Augustine Magolowondo, DWF Regional Director and Chief of Party- POPRID

M +265 999 377 030

E amagolowondo@democracyworksfoundation.org





ABOUT DEMOCRACY WORKS FOUNDATION

Democracy Works Foundation (DWF) is a Southern African non-profit organisation focused on democracy development in the region.

With headquarters in South Africa, DWF works through its country offices to provide tools to develop resilient democracies. Resilient democracy is inclusive, equitable and sustainable consensus democracy. DWF strengthens resilient democracies through 5 programmatic areas of work: monitoring democracy, strengthening institutions and systems, training democrats and leaders, strengthening democratic culture, and working on governance and climate change.

DWF operates in the following countries in the Southern Africa region: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia.

WEBSITE

www.democracyworksfoundation.org

SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

@DemocracyWF

Facebook. X (Twitter). LinkedIn. YouTube

SOCIAL MEDIA HASHTAGS

#PoliticalParties

#DWFBotswana

#DemocracyWorks



AGENDA

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY
Session 1: Introduction of the Regional Programme		
Moderated by: Ms Tadala Chumachiyenda		
08:30-09:00	Walk in registration	DWF
09:00-09:30	Welcome remarks and introductions	Ms. Tadala Chumachiyenda, DWF Regional Coordinator
09:30-10:15	The Regional Political Parties Programme Part 1: Context, Rationale and Implementation Strategy	Dr. Augustine Magolowondo, DWF Regional Director
10:15-10:30	Questions for clarification	Ms. Tadala Chumachiyenda
10:30-11:00	HEALTH BREAK	DWF
11:00-11:45	The Regional Political Parties Programme Part 2: Unpacking Objectives (Context and Indicative interventions)	Ms. Fannie Nthakomwa
11:45-12:00	Plenary discussion	Ms. Tadala Chumachiyenda
12:00-12:30	Breakaway session- Reflection on the Programme Objectives and indicative interventions in groups	
12:30 – 13:00	Report back	
13:00-14:00	LUNCH BREAK	DWF
Session 2: Unpacking the Context of the October 2024 Elections in Botswana		
Moderated by: Dr David Mandiyanike		
14:00-14:25	The role of political parties in promoting electoral integrity	Dr. Augustine Magolowondo
14:25 -14:35	Plenary discussion	Dr. David Mandiyanike, DWF Associate, University of Botswana
14:35 – 15:15	On the road towards the October 2024 Elections: Understanding the Botswana Electoral Process and its legal framework from the perspective of the IEC	Mr. Malefho Gopolang, IEC Botswana- Manager, Policy Development and Voter Education
15:15 – 15:30	Questions for clarification	Dr. David Mandiyanike
15:30-15: 45	HEALTH BREAK	DWF
15:45 -16:45	Breakaway session: A critical reflection on Botswana’s electoral process and legal framework: Identifying areas of improvement and the roles that political parties and other electoral stakeholders can play towards electoral integrity	Ms. Fannie Nthakomwa
16:45	END OF ONE	

DAY TWO

TIME	ACTIVITY	RESPONSIBILITY
09:00-10:00	Recap and report back from breakaway session	Ms. Fannie Nthakomwa
10:00 – 10:15	Reflection on the feedback from breakaway session by DWF and IEC	
10:15-10:30	HEALTH BREAK	DWF
Session 3: The Role of Political parties and EMBs in promoting socially inclusive electoral processes Moderated by: Ms Tadala Chumachiyenda		
10:30 – 12:30	<p>Panel discussion: Challenges, Opportunities, and best practices on what political parties and EMBs can do to promote inclusive electoral processes.</p> <p>Panelists</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Maureen Shonge – Regional Policy Specialist, Women’s Political Participation, UN Women • Dr. David Mandiyanike – DWF Associate Lecturer, University of Botswana. • Ms. Mabetha Manteboheleng – Executive Director, Gender Links • Ms Hilda Modisane – Executive Secretary, SADC Electoral Commissioners Forum 	Ms. Tadala Chumachiyenda
12:30-13:30	LUNCH BREAK	DWF
Session 4: Political Parties Election Monitoring and its role in promoting electoral integrity. Moderated by: Dr David Mandiyanike		
13:30 – 13:50	Unpacking how election monitoring contributes to electoral integrity	Dr. Augustine Magolowondo
13:50 – 14:00	Plenary discussion	Dr. David Mandiyanike
14:00 – 14:45	Strategic planning for poll watching: Insights and experiences from the Region	Ms. Fannie Nthakomwa
14:45 – 15:15	Plenary Discussion	Dr. David Mandiyanike
15:15 – 15:45	Reflections and Concluding Remarks	Dr. Augustine Magolowondo
15:45	END OF WORKSHOP AND REFRESHMENTS	DWF

Democracy Works Foundation would like to extend our warmest gratitude for your continued support and collaboration in building thriving, resilient, and consensus-based democracies in Southern Africa.

