



ENHANCING POLITICAL PARTY CAPACITY FOR ELECTION MONITORING IN THE NOVEMBER 2024 ELECTIONS IN NAMIBIA

Cross-Party Training of Trainers Workshops on Poll watching

CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Elections are an essential feature of any democracy. Elections give voice to the political will of the people. The right to participate in government directly or through freely chosen representatives is also enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 21.1) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (article 25). While elections are an important feature in any democracy, they also need to be meaningful and credible, and they must represent the free will of the people. Thus, the electoral processes, especially those related to the registration, polling, counting, transmission and determination of results, comprehensively need to protect and safeguard the interests of both the voters and candidates.

This makes monitoring elections an important, if not a strategic undertaking, especially for political parties and candidates. Free, fair and credible elections contribute to electoral integrity. This, therefore, emphasises the need for the contestants (political parties and candidates) to invest in setting up an effective infrastructure and mechanism for election monitoring through recruitment and capacity building of reliable persons to play a role in the monitoring of elections at all levels as well as mobilisation of adequate financial resources for such a critical exercise.

It is against this background that as part of this initiative and building on its regional experiences, DWF will enhance political parties' capacities to meaningfully and constructively participate in the upcoming general elections by facilitating comprehensive cross-party training for election monitoring.

This training will also seek to enhance the political parties' understanding of the legal framework and electoral processes to ensure that their election monitoring is done according to the relevant laws and procedures. The capacity-building support will be provided in the form of Training of Trainers (TOTs) on poll watching that will target 16 Master Trainers per each of the ten political parties participating in the November 2024 elections, totalling 160 Masters.

The Master Trainers will, in turn, be expected to cascade downstream with similar training for their party poll agents and officials who will monitor the elections. DWF will facilitate these trainings in a series of four (4) cohorts that will target four participants per party per cohort. As elections will be held on 27 November 2024, DWF plans to undertake this series of training from 8 to 17 October 2024.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Given that party agents are the eyes and ears of the parties contesting the elections, their training is recognised as pivotal in ensuring a credible and widely accepted election outcome, hence safeguarding electoral integrity. The Training workshops will target political party's "Master Trainers" for poll watching. These are the representatives of the respective parties.

Parties will nominate and plan to use them to train other party poll agents and monitors. The knowledge and skills gained through the Training of Trainers (TOTs) workshops are expected to assist the Master Trainers in cascading similar training downstream within their respective political parties.

Specifically, the Political Party Election Monitoring Training of Trainers shall aim to achieve the following:

1.

To orient and train the nominated party master trainers on poll-watching

2.

Drawing on lessons from DWFs practical experiences in conducting similar capacity-building initiatives in Malawi, Zambia and Angola to provide practical examples and tips for setting up an adequate political party election monitoring infrastructure and system

3.

Increase the master trainers' awareness and understanding of the electoral processes that the poll agents will need to familiarise themselves with to enable them (poll agents/monitors) to effectively play their roles in safeguarding the interests of their respective political parties.

4.

To impart knowledge and enhance the level of understanding of the participants on key thematic areas, including the following

- Understanding the importance of election monitoring in enhancing the credibility of elections
- Understanding the legal framework of Namibia with regard to poll watching and the role of political parties in this context
- Qualities of a poll agent, their roles and responsibilities
- -Dos and don'ts in election monitoring
- Polling station and tally centres procedures and processes
- Procedures for logging complaints
- Poll agent's deployment strategies and communication plans

The Training of Trainers will be cross-party, and target registered political parties contesting in the upcoming elections.

The programme aims to train sixteen (16) master trainers from each party, who will be responsible for cascading the knowledge to their respective party agents. Each party is, therefore, expected to send four (4) Master trainers to each cohort.

The master trainers will also be responsible for coordinating the next steps in implementing the party agent training within their respective parties.

CROSS-PARTY TRAINING OF TRAINERS WORKSHOPS ON POLL WATCHING

TIME	TOPIC	FACILITATOR
SESSION 1: OPENING		
08:30-09:00	Participants Registration	DWF
09:00 – 09:50	Introductions, programme overview and house rules	Ms Fannie Nthakomwa, DWF Deputy Regional Director and Deputy Chief of Party: Political Parties and Elections Support
	Setting the context and objectives	Dr Augustine Magolowondo, DWF Regional Director and Chief of Party: Political Parties and Elections Support
09:50 -10:15	Health Break	
SESSION TWO: UNPACKING ELECTION MONITORING		
10:15-12:45	Understanding the role of the electoral management body in the electoral process- the Case of the Electoral Commission of Namibia	ECN/ Ms Rosevitha Ndumbu, Independent Elections Expert
	Understanding the context, key terms and the polling process in Namibia	Ms Rakkel Andreas Kayoko, Independent Elections Expert
	Understanding Political party's election monitoring	Ms Fannie Nthakomwa
12:45-13:45	Lunch Break	
POLL MONITORING IN PRACTICE		
13:45-15:00	Preparation for polling and opening of polling station	Dr Augustine Magolowondo
15:00-16:00	Monitoring the voting process	Mr. Augusto Santana: DWF Country Director for Angola and Hub Lead for Namibia and Lesotho
16:00-16:15	Health Break	
16:15 – 17:30	Closing the polls	Ms Rakkel Andreas Kayoko

CROSS-PARTY TRAINING OF TRAINERS WORKSHOPS ON POLL WATCHING

TIME	TOPIC	FACILITATOR
POLL MONITORING IN PRACTICE CONTINUES		
08:30 - 09:00	Recap	Mr. Augusto Santana
09:00 – 11:00	Vote Counting: Procedures at Polling Station	Ms Fannie Nthakomwa, DWF Deputy Regional Director and Deputy Chief of Party: Political Parties and Elections Support
	Health break	
	Vote Counting: Practical Exercises	All participants
11:00 – 12:30	Tallying and Transmission of Results	Mr Augusto Santana
12:30 -13:30	Lunch Break	
13:30 – 14:30	Complaints Handling and Reporting Mechanism/Conflict Management	Ms Rosevitha Ndumbu
	Strategic Considerations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment and deployment • Coordination and communication • Intra-Party Planning and Coordination 	Ms Fannie Nthakomwa
16:15-16:30	Health Break	
16:30-16:45	Wrap-up and next steps	Ms Fannie Nthakomwa

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION