

**COMMONWEALTH OBSERVER GROUP**  
**2019 NAMIBIA PRESIDENTIAL AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS**  
**Statement by Chair**

**Musa Mwenye, Former Attorney General of Zambia**  
**23 November, Windhoek, Namibia**

It is our singular honour and privilege to have been requested by the Commonwealth Secretary-General, The Rt Hon Patricia Scotland QC, to observe the Presidential and National Assembly Elections in Namibia scheduled for 27 November 2019 at the invitation of the Electoral Commission of Namibia.

The Observer Group, which arrived on 22 November and will be in Windhoek until 3 December, is composed of the following members:

- **Mr Musa Mwenye (Chair)**, Former Solicitor General and former Attorney General, Zambia
- Ms Daisy Amdany, Community Advocacy and Awareness Trust, Kenya
- Mr Basil Waite, Former Senator and current Deputy Secretary-General of People's National Party, Jamaica and
- Mr Henry Hogger, Retired Diplomat, United Kingdom

The members of the Group are drawn from various Commonwealth regions with backgrounds ranging from the political, civil society, diplomacy and the legal field. Our presence here affirms the Commonwealth's continuing solidarity with the people of Namibia.

Our mandate is to observe and evaluate the pre-election environment, polling day as well as the post-election period. We will consider various factors in respect of the electoral process as a whole, and report on whether it has been conducted in accordance with national, regional, Commonwealth and international standards to which Namibia has committed itself.

As independent observers, we shall remain objective and impartial in discharging our mandate. The Group's assessment will be its own and not that of the Commonwealth Secretariat or any Commonwealth member country.

Over the next few days, we will receive briefings from relevant stakeholders including election management officials, representatives of political parties, civil society groups, the police, members of the international community and citizen and international observers.

On 25 November, our observers will deploy to selected regions, where we will observe the pre-election environment. Subsequently, we will observe the opening of polls, voting, counting and the management of results from election day until our departure from Namibia. We will issue an *Interim Statement* of our preliminary findings shortly after 27 November. Our final report will be submitted to the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and will then be made available to the public.

#### Note to Editors

For more information or to organise a media interview with the Chair, please contact: [t.kalejaiye@commonwealth.int](mailto:t.kalejaiye@commonwealth.int)