



Republic of Namibia

Electoral Commission Website
<http://www.ecn.na>

Parliamentary Structure
Bicameral

Election System
Presidential: Plurality System
Parliament: List PR
Regional Council: FPTP
Local Authority: List PR

Female Political Participation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Metafile

Administrative Divisions

At the local level Namibia is divided into two administrative divisions which consists of 14 regions and 121 constituencies. Councillors are elected in each constituency to sit on the regional council within which the constituency is located. 121 councillors are elected to sit on their respective regional councils. Regional councils are responsible for administration and development of their areas. Namibia also has 57 local authorities which are responsible for managing and maintaining their jurisdictions.

Election System

The Presidential Election makes use of the Plurality system which stipulates that for any candidate to win, the candidate has to obtain more than 50% of the votes cast. National government is elected by way of the list Proportional Representation (PR) system. A First Past the Post (FPTP) election system for regional elections and a list PR system is used for local authority elections.

Women's Representation & Quota Information

Namibia has legislated candidate quotas for female representation in sub-national government as well as voluntary political party quotas (Quota Project, 2014). According to the Local Authorities Act, Article 6(4), in the election of any local authority council with 10 or less members, party lists must include at least 3 female persons; in the case of a municipal council or town council consisting of 11 or more members, party lists must include the names of at least 5 female persons. Legal sanctions for non-compliance are not imposed (Quota Project, 2014). The South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) has a voluntary quota of 50% for women in local elections on electoral lists. The quota is implemented via a zebra-system, which entails that all party candidate lists must alternate between men and women.

Seats & Trends in Seat Numbers

Namibia has a bicameral parliamentary structure. Women held 19 of the 78 seats (24.36%) in the National Assembly and 7 of the 26 (26.92%) seats on the National Council following the November 2009 general elections. At the local level, women held 199 of the 491 (40.53%) available positions in local government following the November 2015 local elections.

References

- Namibia. 2014. [Online]. Available: <http://www.quotaproject.org/country/namibia.html>. [2016, December 16].
- Republic of Namibia. 1992. *Local Authorities Act, 23 of 1992*.
- Types of Elections Held in Namibia*. 2016. [Online]. Available: <http://www.ecn.na/web/ecn/elections.html>. [2016, December 13].