

# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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## MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 28 July 2023

### **HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 27 JULY 2023**

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS, STATEMENTS, AND COMMUNICATIONS BY THE MAYOR -  
COUNCILLOR JOSEPH UAPINGENE

The mayor of Windhoek, Cllr Joseph Uapingene, would like to extend an invitation to all residents, especially those who love sports, to participate in the Vivo Energy and City of Windhoek Marathon on Saturday, July 29, 2023. All registration fees are donated to the Windhoek Residents Mayoral Trust, which assists our most vulnerable residents. The kick-off time for the 42km run is 6:30, followed by the 21km run at 6:45. The 10km is at 7:00, and the 5km walk or run starts at 7:30, from the City of Windhoek Upper Parking Level of the new building.

### **THE CITY HAS APPROVED THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO TOWNSHIPS FOR LOW-INCOME GROUPS.**

1. NEED, DESIRABILITY AND LAYOUT APPROVAL FOR THE TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT ON FARM 1033 (A PORTION OF FARM 999) TO BE KNOWN AS OTJOMUISE EXTENSION 14

The Municipal Council of Windhoek has approved the layout, the need, and the desirability to establish a township establishment on Farm 1033 (a portion of Farm 999), the township will be known as **Otjomuise Extension 14**. The township is designated for low-income groups and will serve as a relocation site for people from overcrowded informal settlements during the upgrading phase. The site Farm 1033 is located along Matshitshi Street, southwest of the Goreangab Dam and north of Otjomuise Extension 10. The farm is 35.8 hectares in extent comprising 126 erven was created as a result of the subdivision of Farm 999 (a portion of Farm R/508) into Farms 1032, 1033, and the Remainder.

2. NEED, DESIRABILITY AND LAYOUT APPROVAL FOR THE TOWNSHIP ESTABLISHMENT ON THE REMAINDER OF FARM 999 (A PORTION OF FARM 999 OF THE REMAINDER OF FARM 508) TO BE KNOWN AS OTJOMUISE EXTENSION 15

The Municipal Council of Windhoek approved the layout, the need, and the desirability to establish a township establishment on the remainder of Farm 999. The township will be known as **Otjomuise Extension 15**. The township will be earmarked for low-income groups

and equally serve as a relocation site for households from existing overcrowded informal settlements when such settlements are being formalized. The Remainder of Farm 999 is located along Matshitshi Street, southwest of the Goreangab Dam and north of Otjomuise Extension 10. The farm is vacant and is 23.3 hectares in extent and was created as a result of the subdivision of Farm 999 (a portion of Farm R/508) into Farms 1032, 1033 and the Remainder.

Namibia is currently experiencing urbanization and will continue to do so in the foreseeable future as long as urban areas are seen as a symbol of hope from abject poverty. Through Vision 2030, the country set for itself a goal to become a developed country by the year 2030 and further, to have about 70 % of its population urbanised.

In March 2020, the Municipal Council of Windhoek conducted a rapid numbering of informal structures in all the informal settlements. A total of 48 233 informal structures were recorded, 3 394 in the Khomasdal Constituency, 9 052 in the Moses Garoeb Constituency, 21 241 in the Samora Machel Constituency, and 14 546 in the Tobias Hainyeko Constituency. Sample surveys conducted in the four constituencies recorded an average household size of 3.8 persons per household. Using the average size of 3.8 persons per household, the number of people living in Windhoek's informal settlement is estimated at 183 285 inhabitants. Given the above, it is without a shadow of a doubt that the proposed development is highly needed to address informality and guarantee the project beneficiaries' security of tenure and access to basic services.

### 3. RESERVATION OF A SITE ON A PORTION OF FARM 508 FOR GOVERNMENT PURPOSES FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HEALTH CENTRE, PRIMARY SCHOOL, SECONDARY SCHOOL, AND A POLICE STATION - SAMORA MACHEL CONSTITUENCY

The Windhoek Municipal Council approved the reservation of a site on farm 508 for government purposes for the construction of a health centre, primary school, secondary school, and police station for the Samora Machel constituency.

With only one primary school and no other public facilities, the largest informal settlement in Windhoek, which is home to an estimated 80 000 people, is severely lacking in public amenities. The Khomas Directorate of Education, Arts and Culture discovered three unregistered schools operating in the informal area of Goreangab with a population of about eight hundred 800 learners. Parents cited long distances to existing schools as the reasons that made them opt for the nearby unregistered schools. To address the situation, the Directorate requested funds for additional classrooms from their line Ministry to which an allocation of 84 classrooms was made with a construction period of 1 May 2023 to 31 August 2023. From a given total of 84 classrooms, 22 classrooms are reserved for the informal settlements of Goreangab. The predicament faced by the Directorate is that they do not have a site to construct a school and they fear that funds may return to the treasury.

Without a need for further justification, the need for public services in the informal areas of Goreangab is urgent, to avoid a crisis, the land must be availed as a matter of urgency to allow

for the construction of a primary school, secondary school, health centre, and a Police Station whilst a lease or purchase application is being prepared.

#### 4. RENAMING THE PA DE WET BUILDING TO CHIEF AK KANIME BUILDING

Council approved the proposal for the renaming of the PA de Wet Building to Chief AK Kanime, the Founding Chief of the Windhoek City Police. The PA de Wet Building, situated at the corner of Essen and Sishen Street in Windhoek North, serves as the current Windhoek City Police headquarters. The proposal for the renaming of the PA de Wet Building to Chief AK Kanime is in line with the ongoing need to pay tribute and honour to people who contributed to the uplifting of the Municipal Council of Windhoek and the Namibian society at large. The Place and Street Naming/Renaming Policy makes provision to amongst others, recognize persons who have contributed to Windhoek and Namibia and strengthen community identity and noteworthy persons associated with the city or Namibia in general.

Chief Abraham Kanime served in the Namibian Defence Force from 1991-1994, later joining the Police Force in 1995 to 2000, serving as Station Commander and Regional Commander. Kanime joined the City of Windhoek in 2001 and oversaw the establishment of Windhoek Municipal Police (WMPS), leading to its successful implementation and becoming the Founding Chief of the WMPS. Kanime was the Chief of the Windhoek Municipal Police Service (WMPS) from the organization's founding until his retirement at the end of April 2023. He was devoted to promoting public safety and security while serving Windhoek and the Namibian people.

The name PA de Wet could not be successfully traced as to who the person was. However, verbal confirmations and records at the National Archive indicate that PA de Wet was the first Administrator of the Katutura Township during the implementation of the Segregation Policy. The apartheid segregation law forced different racial groups to live and develop separately, which was declared an international crime by the International Convention on the Elimination and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid, adopted by the UN General Assembly in November 1973.

#### 5. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK ELECTRICITY PRICING POLICY

The Windhoek Municipal Council approved the Council's Electricity Pricing Policy. The policy was developed by the Department of Electricity, before approval, the draft policy was submitted to the Electricity Control Board (ECB) for review before proceeding with internal consultation. The electricity pricing policy provides a framework for the development of electricity tariffs, and it will serve as a guide for future tariff reviews in the medium to long term. The purpose of the policy is to give guidance to the Department of Electricity and the general public on how to apply the City's electricity tariff portfolio by outlining numerous previously undocumented rules and requirements. It will help provide clarity on the tariff categories offered by Council and maps the way forward in meeting the needs of both customers and the Council. The goal of the policy, which is in line with the National Electricity Distribution Tariff Study of 2018 and the National Connection Charge Policy, is to offer clients

of the Municipal Council of Windhoek electricity at prices that are transparent and cost-reflective.

Tariffs for the Municipal Council of Windhoek are developed in accordance with guidelines provided by the Electricity Control Board (ECB). NamPower's annual bulk purchase cost pricing signals play a significant role in determining the tariff adjustment. The City is required on an annual basis to submit its tariff approval application to the Electricity Control Board (ECB) in terms of Section 27 of the Electricity Act, 2007 (Act 4 of 2007). Within this framework, Council has the autonomy to develop electricity tariffs and tariff categories that take into account the needs of its electricity consumers.

#### 6. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK ELECTRICAL ASSET MAINTENANCE POLICY

The Windhoek Electrical Asset Maintenance Policy was approved by Council. The Policy is aimed at providing the strategic position and guidelines for maintaining the electrical network of the Municipal Council of Windhoek. The maintenance of the electrical network assets at the correct interval ensures reliability, security of supply, and standard quality of supply to the consumers while ensuring the safety of persons and network equipment. The Municipal Council of Windhoek operates a modern electrical distribution network consisting of various subsystems/substations. Electrical assets in the network undergo different levels of maintenance services or repairs in accordance with the regulatory requirement, manufacturer's guidelines, and Electricity Supply Industry (ESI) best practices. Correct maintenance services are essential to improve network availability and reliability in line with regulatory requirements as well as with Council's Strategic Plan.

There are sets of accepted industry standards and guidelines for maintaining various electrical network assets which form the basis of this Policy. The draft Electrical Asset Maintenance Policy contains the Organisation's general and specific high-level guidelines for maintaining the entire network and its assets to function as one (1) single system of electricity. The Electrical Asset Maintenance Policy enables the Department of Electricity to adopt and implement a strategic position for maintaining the electrical assets to ensure reliability, security of supply, and standard quality of supply to the consumers while ensuring the safety of persons and network equipment.

#### 7. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) BETWEEN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK AND THE e-THEKWINI METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY (DURBAN), SOUTH AFRICA

Council resolved to approve the MOU between the Municipal Council of Windhoek and e-Thekwini Metropolitan Municipality (Durban). The two cities have been exchanging on projects of mutual interest, primarily on environmental management, sanitation, and climate change. Taking cognizance of these many value-adding exchanges between Durban and Windhoek and the impending Windhoek-Bremen and Durban trilateral relationship, as well as the need to strengthen south-south cooperation, the two cities have been in a discussion centred on the formalization of their co-operation. The intention has been on the table since

2019 following a visit to Windhoek by a Durban delegation and various technical consultations.

Building on various exchanges, discussions, and consultations, the two cities by way of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) are expressing the desire to foster and promote the friendly relations existing between the Municipal Council of Windhoek and the e-Thekwini Metropolitan Municipality. The partnership is aimed at continuing the tradition of sharing knowledge and inspiring creativity through enlarging each other's horizons and working together on municipal service solutions. The parties, therefore, seek to cooperate in the following specific areas: **Solid Waste Management; Information Communication Technology and Smart Cities Initiatives; Economic Development, Tourism, Heritage, Arts and Culture; and Environmental Management and Climate Change.**

#### 8. MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK INTEGRATED CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN (CoW-ICCSAP)

The Windhoek Municipal Council approved the City of Windhoek Integrated Climate Change Strategy And Action Plan (CoW-ICCSAP). Climate change is the most serious global challenge of our time. The Municipal Council of Windhoek like many cities in the developing world is already experiencing the impacts of climate change. This is further exacerbated by a high level of urbanization and the proliferation of informal settlements. This has a direct impact on the Municipal Council of Windhoek's ability to provide efficient municipal services and build resilience to climate change. Windhoek is one of the cities that will be most affected by climate change due to its aridity and socio-economic situation. All projections indicate that Windhoek -will be much drier and warmer because of climate change, which in turn, will result in many climate-related impacts.

Such impacts will include a reduction in water availability due to high evaporation rates and changes in rainfall patterns. The impact on water resources will further be worsened by the high rate of urbanization currently experienced in Windhoek and the lack of investments in alternative water sources. Windhoek is also vulnerable because most of its water comes from open dams and underground sources. All these sources will be affected by climate change. It is against this background that the City mandated its Department of Economic Development and Community Services to develop the Municipal Council of Windhoek Integrated Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (CoWICCSAP) to facilitate its response to climate change.

The impact of climate change is felt by every individual, and therefore, the measures outlined in this strategy require a collective effort from the entire city. To make sure that it is a Windhoek-wide strategy and to encourage the level of buy-in and partnerships necessary to transform Windhoek into a low-carbon, climate-resilient city, the strategy has been prepared through extensive engagement with external stakeholders. Through this Strategy and Action Plan, Windhoek is ensuring that it is playing its part in meeting local, national, regional, and international targets. Apart from our obligation to build a climate-resilient city, this strategy is also driven by our ambitions to become a smart and caring City.

**Please take note that the above are only highlights of the council meeting. More details about all the items discussed are available on our website through this link:**

**[https://www.windhoekcc.org.na/coun\\_agenda.php](https://www.windhoekcc.org.na/coun_agenda.php)**

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**ISSUED BY:**

**City of Windhoek**

**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**Corporate Communications, Marketing and Public Participation**

For more information about this statement, please contact our Corporate Communication Section at Tel.: 061 290 3797 /2044, or email: [cowcommunication@windhoekcc.org.na](mailto:cowcommunication@windhoekcc.org.na)