

MEDIA RELEASE

2 October 2023

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CITY OF WINDHOEK ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 28 SEPTEMBER 2023

1. THE CITY WORKING ON A PROPOSAL TO WRITE OFF DEBT

During an ordinary council meeting, Councilor Joseph Uapingene, the Mayor of Windhoek, restated the council's position on the petition submitted by the Katutura Residents Committee. According to Mayor Uapingene, the council believes that RedForce is the viable option for debt collection on behalf of the city. He emphasized that the city charges 20% per annum on arrears, while Redforce charges only 10% on amounts paid. Prior to the appointment of Redforce, clients' accounts were handed over to attorneys for further debt collection, which proved to be expensive and provided no guarantee of financial benefit to the city or the client. In contrast, Redforce only charges 10% of actual payments received by the council, making it a more financially feasible option.

Uapingene also clarified that no pensioners' residential properties accounts are handed over to RedForce, and that no interest is charged on accounts handed over to Redforce for all residents except for the collection fee of 10% of each payment made. The City is currently working on a proposal to write off debt for pensioners and interest for all residents. However, this process must be executed with caution to ensure long-term sustainability.

The City of Windhoek is actively exploring various debt management methods and is bound by legal mandates such as the Prescription Act and interest charges as per the Local Authorities Act. Therefore, the City cannot freeze interest on arrears. Uapingene urged the public to familiarize themselves with the relevant amendments. For pensioners' payment arrangements, the City has decided to charge only a 15% down payment instead of the 33.33% requirement as per the City's Credit Control Policy.

2. COUNCIL APPROVES THE FIVE-YEAR ELECTRIFICATION PLAN FOR WINDHOEK'S INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

The Windhoek municipal council has approved a plan to electrify approximately four thousand households in Windhoek's informal settlements over the next five years (2023 to 2028). The Five Year Electrification Plan intends to expand on the previous plan, which ran from 2017 to 2022. Since 2017, the City of Windhoek has been working to electrify houses in informal settlements, completing 3515 service connections to date in the areas of Otjomuise, Havana, Goreagab, One Nation, Okahandja Park, Ongulumbashe, Babilon and Kilimanjaro. The electrification projects under the 2017-2022 plan were funded by the Ministry of Urban and

Rural Development and NamPower (Pty) Ltd, with a total capital investment of around N\$45 million.

Proposed areas for electrification consideration will be limited to demarcated erven situated within the informal areas indicated in the table below. These informal areas were identified in consultation with the Department of Housing Property Management & Human Settlement in accordance with the Development and Upgrading Policy. The implementation of the 2023-2028 electrification plan is expected to cost between N\$15 million and N\$20 million per annum.

Informal Settlement Areas electrification five year plan (2023-2028).									
	CONSTITUENCY	ERF/PTN	AREA	YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5	ALTERNATIVE
1	WINDHOEK RURAL		Mix Settlement (Mix Ext 1)		V				
		WINDHOEK RURAL	Groot Aub			V	V		
		ERF 3374	Otjomuise		V				
		ERF 3375	Otjomuise		V				
2	KHOMASDAL	ERF 3376	Otjomuise		V				
		ERF 3377	Otjomuise		V				
		ERF 1355	Otjomuise	V					
		ERF 3529	Otjomuise			V			
			Otjomuise EXT 6				V		
			Otjomuise EXT 7					V	
		Area opposite Otjomuise clinic	Otjomuise						V
		PTN 1018	FARM 508		V				
		PTN 1019	FARM 508		V				
3	SAMORA MACHEL	PTN 1012	FARM 508		V	V			
		Goreangab Road relocation	Goreangab	V					
		Erf 1140	Havana	V					
		Erf 1141	Havana	V					
		PTN 1030 A & B	FARM 508		V				
		PTN 1026	FARM 508			V			
4	MOSES //GAROEB	PTN 1027	FARM 508			V			
		ERF 1028	Havana		V				
		ERF 1029	Havana		V				
		ERF 1035	Havana		V				
		ERF 1036	Havana		V				
		ERF 1039	Havana				V		
		ERF 1040	Havana				V		
		ERF 1041	Havana				V		
		ERF 1042	Havana				V		
		ERF 1024	Havana					V	
		ERF 1028	Havana					V	
5	TOBIAS HAINYEKO	Okahandja Park C-D	Okuryangava		V				
		Okatunda PTN - B	Okuryangava		V				
		Okatunda PTN - Y	Okuryangava	V					
		Babilon & Kilimandjaro	Okuryangava		V				
		ERF 3222	Okuryangava	V					
		ERF 3221	Okuryangava		V				
		ERF 3217	Okuryangava		V				
		ERF3271	Okuryangava		V				
		ERF 3197, 3198 & 3204	Okuryangava		V				
		Ongulumbashe	Okuryangava				V		
		One Nation	Okuryangava					V	
		Okandundu	Okuryangava			V			
		ERF 2968 Kapuka							V
		Nauyala	Okuryangava						V

Table 1: Summary of planned areas for electrification in the next 5 years.

Please note that the above are just highlights from the council meeting. For more detailed information on the items discussed, please visit our website through the link below:
https://www.windhoekcc.org.na/coun_agenda.php

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

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