

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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MEDIA RELEASE

17 August 2023

City of Windhoek refutes unfounded allegations made in the article that appeared in the New Era newspaper on 4 August 2023 titled “City handpicks rookie firm for N\$ 200 million tender”.

It is alleged in the abovementioned New Era article that the City of Windhoek awarded Pulsar Electronic Solution a tender worth \$200 million. The fact of the matter is that the City of Windhoek has not awarded any tender to Pulsar Electronic Solutions, and such claims are unfounded and misleading.

Pulsar Electronic Solutions is a startup innovation company located at the Namibia University of Science and Technology's Fabrication Laboratory (FabLab). The company is led by young Namibian researchers who invented and patented the GRIDx electric pre-paid smart meter, which incorporates a WiFi router designed to enable smart metering and internet connectivity through various wireless options. To test the functionality of their product in a real environment, Pulsar Electronic Solutions approached the City of Windhoek for permission to install smart meters at houses with willing participants. The Council agreed to the testing of twenty smart meters, with the possibility of increasing the testing to one hundred meters if the testing on the first twenty yields positive results.

If the testing of the twenty meters is successful, Pulsar Electronic Solutions has promised to donate the meters to the City of Windhoek free of cost. The City will in turn seek ministerial approval to accept the donation. Being a progressive City that strives to be a sustainable and caring city by 2027, we are alert to the fact that the future is digital and support research in areas that result in improved service delivery to our residents and visitors alike. We have a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Namibia and the Namibia University of Science and Technology, which underscores our commitment to technological advancements. The research undertaken by FabLab is mainly in the areas of technology and engineering areas in which we still have mileage to cover. The City of Windhoek will extend a similar courtesy to any firm with promising and innovative solutions.

The City of Windhoek encourages the anonymous source(s) behind these allegations to forward any substantiating evidence to the Anti-Corruption Commission. We remain dedicated to operating with utmost transparency and integrity as we uphold the principles of good governance in all our dealings.

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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ISSUED BY:

City of Windhoek

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Corporate Communications, Marketing, and Public Participation