FRIDAY, 28 APRIL 2017

MEDIA BRIEFING

I am delighted to welcome you this morning to our usual platform where we share information about the development of the City of Windhoek; and thank you very much for the continuous support.

1. ILLEGAL ELECTRICITY CONNECTION

We are starting rather on a sad note of a fatal incident of electrocution that claimed a life of a young boy yesterday in Havana area. The City has been on record on several occasions, urging our members of the public to desist from illegal electricity connection. This practice is rife in our informal settlements, and the unfortunate fatal incident that claimed a young boys’ life in Havana yesterday is regrettable. We are well aware of the dire need of electricity, but illegally connections have far reaching consequences such as this. This is 6th fatal accident recorded in the City over last 5 years period. One life lost is one too many, and we cannot continue losing lives as a result of illegal electricity connection and thus it should stop. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family of the late Theofelus Andreas and we wish them consolation from the Almighty during this difficult period.
The City of Windhoek Council at a special council meeting held on 24 April 2017, approved the allocation of the sale of the one hundred (100) unimproved single residential erven to the youth (age category 16-35 years old) and eighty (80) unimproved single residential single erven to staff members in Khomasdal Extension 16. The sale of plots by the City of Windhoek in Khomasdal Extension 16 is a project which was approved in terms of Council Resolution 129/07/2016.

We acknowledge the public discontent with regards to the protracted process in concluding this sale, some went as far as alleging that “the City of Windhoek has robbed the residents and is purposefully prolonging the process in an attempt to corruptly allocate the ervens”. Fortunately this is not the case, and it is worth noting that the delay in concluding this transaction is attributed to the extension of the submission of the Offer to Purchase which was extended to the 31 October 2016, as opposed to the initial due date of 21 October 2016. This was due to enormous demand by the members of the public who could not submit their offer by the due date. As a result, this subsequently led to the extension of the validity period of the Offer to Purchase until the 24 April 2017.

The public was informed accordingly about this intervention through the notice in the media in this regards on the 22 March 2017. This background is necessary in order to put this matter into perspective as to why Council only resolved this sale now.

**Offers**

In total, the two tenders (PLA 03/2016 for the youth and PLA 04/2016 for the staff) attracted 4421 offers, and only 1573 offers met the Offer to Purchase requirements and were subjected to further scrutiny.

The 100 unimproved single residential erven to the youth (age category 16-35) erf sizes ranges between ± 325 m² and ±770 m² in extent, and the upset prices between N$84 567.31 and N$191 944.74. The 80 unimproved single residential erven to staff members erf sizes ranges between ±322 m² and...
±762 m² in extent, and the upset prices between N$83 967.54 and N$190 389.13.

**Development of Property Sales System**

Another positive outcome of this process was the development of the Property Sales System as per Council Resolution 129/07/2016, which directed for the development of a system that will be used in adjudicating the sales of property in the future.

The system was developed and having been used in this sale under discussion, the Property Sales System has proven to be an excellent and reliable tool which is unique to the City’s property sale function. This system reduces direct human handling to the minimum in order safeguard against human error when processing the allocation of land to the successful offeror as per set alienation methods such as; Private Treaty, Tender, and or Offer to Purchase. Therefore, as from now on the data processing of land sales alienation will be adjudicated by means of this system henceforth.

**Notification to the offerors**

The successful offerors will be notified through the local daily newspapers. It should also be well noted that, this approval has been granted pending other verifications such as search at the Deed Office that will be carried out to determine if the offerors owns properties in Windhoek, as this was one of the requirements for this sale, that it was strictly for the **FIRST TIME BUYERS ONLY**.

3. **APPROVAL FOR THE DONATION OF SECOND HAND WASTE REMOVAL TRUCK TO OKAKARARA TOWN COUNCIL**

Council at its 4th ordinary meeting held yesterday, 27 April 2017, approved a donation of a second-hand Waste Removal Truck to Okakarara Town Council.

The City of Windhoek is the leading local authority in the provision of solid waste management services in Namibia, and sister local authorities heavily depended on us for guidance and technical support as they seek to adopt and emulate best practices in waste management.
The City of Windhoek has Co-operation and Twinning Agreements to support smaller local authorities in the provision of technical support, operational training, assistance with equipment and community education amongst others. This co-operation is meant to assist smaller town councils to enhance their solid waste management functions as a critical basic municipal service.

It is against that background that Council has a Co-operation Agreement signed with Okakarara Town Council on 22 August 2016. The donated vehicle will be transported to Okakarara, accompanied by a technical team to ensure proper handover and training on how to use the vehicle effectively.

The donations is therefore subject to Ministerial approval by the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development in terms of section 30(i)(z)(ii) of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act 23 of 1992) and in line with partnership agreement between the sister municipalities signed last year.

4. PUBLIC HOLIDAY SAFETY TIPS

There is a general concern about the escalating occurrences of housebreak-ins. Public holidays are enjoyable moments, however, are also accident-prone, and a time where we generally see more crime being committed as more residents drive out of town leaving their properties unoccupied.

We would like to urge our residents to be more careful and vigilant not to leave their properties unoccupied, particularly if they are going travel out of town during the public holiday. Alternatively, they must ensure that their properties have proper security measures in place, and it is also important to ask their neighbours or local Neighbourhood Watch groups to keep an eye on their properties.

Furthermore, residents can also notify our City Police office to keep an eye on their properties while they are out of town. City Police may not guarantee 24 hours security on people’s properties, however, with this information the police will be able to plan and direct their patrols accordingly, by keeping an eye on unoccupied properties, and consequently deter crime.
The public is therefore urged to comply with the Traffic Regulations, Municipal By-Laws, as well as to report all criminal activities to the law enforcement. It is through the support and cooperation of the community that the City Police continues to ensure that Windhoek becomes a safer city. City Police remain reachable on 302 302 and / or 4444 (sms line).

5. REDUCE ELECTRICITY USAGE THIS WINTER

Winter is soon approaching and the City of Windhoek has noticed over the years with concern the overwhelming power usage during the winter season. People prefers to remain indoor in winter, and invite friends and family over for a cup of coffee or tea, which is good for family and friendship bonds, but eventually have an unintended bearing on increased electricity usage. We are urging our resident to be prudent in their electricity usage this winter, in order to ensure sustainable usage of electricity.

There is no notable power crisis in the City currently, however energy usage like all other resources are dwindling and also costly and should therefore be used efficiently and sustainably. The procuring of electrify and its redistribution thereof to the City’s residents, remains amongst the major budgetary cost on the City’s budget books. In other words, electricity is purchased at a much higher rate in winter than in summer, due to the increased demand. Thus we urge the resident to find creative means during this season in finding alternative solutions that will aid in decreasing excessive electricity usage.

6. UPDATE ON WATER COLOUR

The public is hereby informed that the experience water discolouration in some part of the City is due to the increased iron and manganese levels as result of recent inflow into the dams and use of water from the City’s aquifer.

Although water production has reduced, reservoirs and the water reticulation network are already saturated with elevated levels of these elements and it
may take some time before the system is flushed clean. Our national water supplier NamWater also indicated that this problem was resolved from their side and we expect water discoloration to reduce to normal.

We would like to reassure the public that there are no health risks associated with the water as disinfection levels are maintained. Some less used network systems may be more affected as precipitation of iron and manganese will happen in the system. Apart from the aesthetic (discoloration) challenges experience in some parts of our City, the microbiological quality of our water remains intact, and we will continue to monitor this until the situation has normalised.

Thank you very much for coming once more!

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TIPS TO REDUCE ELECTRICITY USAGE

The following are some of the tips that the resident can make use of in staying warm but yet practising wise methods to save energy:

- **Take advantage of Namibia’s ample natural sunlight**, by opening your curtain windows that are facing the sun during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and close them at night to reduce the chill air from permeating through the windows into the house and by so doing keeping the house warmly insulated.

- **Reduce your water heating needs** as this generally can accounts to more 18% of the energy usage in the house and is the second biggest energy user especially in winter, for example one can opt to wash clothes and or dishes in cold or lukewarm water.

- **Lower the temperature on your geyser** and conserve hot water when you can, also lower the temperature of your geyser if you will be away from home.

- **Replace inefficient lighting**: Replace your old standard incandescent bulbs with new compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFL) or light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs. CFLs and LEDs use about 75 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs, and they last up to 10 times longer.

- **Look for energy-efficient appliances**: When shopping for appliances such as refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, electric heaters, ovens and air conditioners, look for appliances that are energy efficient.

- **Switch off electronics when not in use**: when you are away, switch off those kitchen appliances, microwave, DVDs, TVs, iron, hairdryers and computers to save electricity and eventual save yourself money. It is important to know that most of your household electronics, when plugged in, use up energy even when they are turned off.

Should we instil the above in our habits we will in turn save electricity, save our own electricity bill and save the City’s current huge electricity bill to our bulk supplier.