

***City of many faces***

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP CLLR MUESEE KAZAPUA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK, AT THE OCCASION OF THE MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2016, KHOMAS REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Pastor Zelda van der Colff of the Gospel Mission Church,**

**Your Worship Cllr Fransina Ndateelela Kahungu, Deputy Mayor of the City of Windhoek,**

**Honourable Councillors,**

**Mr Fillemon Nangolo Hambuda, Acting Chief Executive Office**

**Strategic Executives and Officials of the City of Windhoek,**

**Esteemed Windhoek residents,**

**Members of the media,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**Good evening,**

I am delighted to once again welcome you as we converge here for our 9th ordinary Council meeting for this year, 2016. In the same vein, I would like to reiterate Council’s commitment to the course of service delivery, particularly to our residents in the underserviced areas of the City. **Hon Cllrs and dear Management,**

As we approach the end of the first quarter of our financial year, it is imperative that we take stock to determine how we fared so far. This should be done via the compilation and analyses of Quarterly Reports, the result which should then be compared with our original projects timeframes, so as to determine the level of success or failure. The outcome must be shared with Council, in order for us to be able to follow progress closely. It is therefore incumbent upon the Heads of Departments to produce such reports for the Council’s deliberations.

**Esteemed Residents,**

As you may recall, during the Council meeting of May this year, I announced the approval of the sale of three hundred and ninety nine (399) erven, which are located in Khomasdal Extension 16, to our residents. At the same Council meeting, I also quantitatively spelt out how those erven, are going to be sold to different social groups; being 100 plots for the Youth, 140 plots for the residents on the waiting list, 80 for Council employees, and 79 plots, which Council has reserved for its own pilot housing project, whereby the City will not be selling the erven, but will be building houses itself and sell to the general public.

Against this background, I am pleased to inform you that the erven for the Youth and Council employees groups have been advertised for sale yesterday, 28 September, and the application process will start tomorrow, the 30th of September 2016. The sale of erven for applicants on the waiting list is being processed and will be announced at a later stage. Council is also busy finalizing its own pilot housing project for roll-out.

 Furthermore, I am also delighted to announce that tomorrow, 30 September 2016, Council will advertise the sale of 102 single residential plots in Academia Extension 1 Phase 4.

On a similar note, last month the City also advertised the sale of 96 erven in Otjomuise Extension 5, which applications closed on 29 August 2016. Council is now busy with the verification process, after which the names of the successful applicants will be announced.

**Honourable Councillors,**

On the external relations front, the City of Windhoek continues to enjoy fraternal relations with sister local authorities, both at national and international levels. At national level, these relations are forged in the spirit of nation building; through signed memorandum of cooperation, valid for a period of 5 years. This year many of the agreements came to an end.

As a result, last week I led a delegation to the sister town of Rundu to renew our Memorandum of Cooperation. Through the new Memorandum of Co-operation, our two Councils agreed to continue co-operating on mutually agreed projects related to:

* **Water and Waste Management**
* **HR Management & Staff Development**
* **Promotion Local Economic Development**
* **Tourism Promotion**
* **Finance and Administration**
* **Infrastructure Development and Land Delivery, and**
* **Public Transport**

On a lighter note, I am pleased to inform you that to mark the signing ceremony, my delegation and I, participated in an impromptu clean-up campaign in Rundu, which I initiated. The clean-up campaign was deliberately staged to reflect our collective commitment to solid waste management and clean city initiative as one of the areas of cooperation.

**Hon Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Poverty continues to strike hard particularly on the less fortunate members of our society. This continues to be worsened by the ever-widening income inequality gap between the haves and the have-nots. As elected leaders, we are obliged to come up with ways to mitigate the situation. One of these initiatives is the Mayoral Relief Fund approved by Council, which main aim is to assist in the eradication of poverty.

To this end, ladies and gentlemen, Council in June this year approved the establishment of this very important Fund. As outlined in the policy guideline, the fund will be used to support social welfare cases and vulnerable members of our society within the boundaries of the City. Of importance to mention is that the Fund will largely depend on the contributions by good Samaritans and development partners.To this end, the Office of the Mayor is busy organizing an inaugural fundraising gala dinner, at which I will count on the contribution of the Windhoek’s corporate, public and civil sectors, and the general public. The Inaugural Fundraising Gala Dinner is set for 03 November 2016, at the Sam Nujoma Stadium. Invitations are being processed.

While awaiting the launch of the fund, the City continues to support various social cases through the Mayoral outreach program and within the limits of resources at its disposal. A typical but sad example would be the case of Riranda Murangi, the eight-year-old child who stole the hearts of the City with her special condition of a disease known as brittle bone disease. Council responded by donating a solar energy lighting system and a specially designed portable toilet facility with dispensary.

On a similar note, Council last Monday, 25 September, donated 100 solar energy lights to the campaign led by Namibia National Students Organisation (NANSO), which is aimed at assisting Grade 10 and 12 learners who live in areas without electricity, as they prepare for their final examinations.

Situations of this nature are many in the City, and this is beyond control of us as humans, but as Namibians we want to be there for each other. It is also important to mention that part of the donated solar lights were a donation received from the sister city of Nanjing, China. We therefore continue to embrace our international relations sister city links around the world, as we continue to contribute to the achievement of the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

With these remarks, Hon Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

**I thank you!**