



The City of Many Faces

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP CLLR MUESEE KAZAPUA,
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK, AT THE MONTHLY COUNCIL
MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2015, COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 18:00**

**Director of Ceremonies, Mr. Edward Kawesha, A/CEO of the City of
Windhoek,**

Bishop Ndoze Henry Okiya, of the Model Prayer Ministry,

**Your Worship Cllr Hangapo Mwadhina Veico, Deputy Mayor of the City of
Windhoek,**

Alderspersons and Honourable Councillors,

Officials of the City of Windhoek,

Esteemed Windhoek Residents,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening!

Ladies and Gentlemen, before I deliver my statement, I would like to request for the House to rise for a minute of silence in honour of late Cde Society Shozi Mapulanga, the father one our Councillors, Hon. Ellen Musialela, who passed on yesterday, 25 February 2015.

May his soul rest in eternal peace!

I am honoured and privileged to welcome you all to our Council Chambers this evening, for our 2th Ordinary Council meeting for this year. On the onset, allow me to use this opportunity to assure the Windhoek residents that the Council remains poised to creating better conditions for all residents, which would ultimately give raise to the achievement of our vision- that of “*Enhancing the quality of life of all our people*”.

As I announced at our previous Council meeting held on 2nd February 2015, my office organised a Land Delivery Retreat Workshop, which ended yesterday.

In our discussions; we appreciated that the limited access to land in the City as the most profound housing constraint in Windhoek centered on the mismatch between the supply of serviced land and the demand for it. To this end, we took a decision to revisit our current policies and by-laws that are pertinent to land delivery. In specifics, we have resolved to streamline and consolidate our land sale policies and processes.

We have also identified available pockets of land that could be serviced to address the applications backlog on the waiting list; targeting low to middle income groups.

On a positive note though, ladies and Gentlemen, I am pleased to inform you that close to a total of 1000 residential plots will be made available and ready for development in the first half of this year in Khomasdal Ext 16, Otjomuise Ext 4, and Academia Ext1 Phase 2.

Honourable Councillors, Dear residents!

Council took note of rather negative reporting on the proposed implementation of the levy for the services rendered by the City Police.

In this regards, I would like to remind our esteemed residents of the excellent work that our City Police has been doing since its inception.

At the early years of the implementation of the City Police establishment, our esteemed residents were consulted, and there was general agreement on the

introduction of a security levy, to ensure sustainability of the operations of our City Police. In this regard, Council per Council Resolution 27/01/2004, approved introduction of this levy that was yet to be determined. Therefore, it was just a matter of time before it is implemented.

Honourable Councillors, Windhoek residents, it is important to mention that, public safety is a compromise investment with no direct profit. The choice is a safer City, where residents and tourist alike are free to roam; or a City filled with crime and insecurities.

The world over, Municipal Police Services and other security service operations are public costs, carried by those who should be secured. I would therefore like to impress upon our residents to measure the value of the City Police not in monetary terms, as to how much it costs to run it, but rather in terms of its necessity and the quality of service it provides.

Esteemed Residents,

For the Municipal Council to continue rendering services sustainably, it needs continuous payment by those who consume such services. This is because Council renders services on a cost recovery basis. This amongst others; entails buying bulk electricity and water from NamPower and NamWater respectively; and distributing same to each residence, office and business alike in the City.

If our clients do not pay, Council will not be in a position to continuously buy and distribute such services. Of late, the Council has noted with great concern the non-payment of municipal bills, which resulted in Council being owed more than N\$400 million dollars by residents in water, electricity and rates accounts.

This situation is not sustainable and has prompted Council to send out a notice and smses a few days ago, urging our clients, including businesses, Government agencies and individuals to settle their accounts by tomorrow, 27 February 2015.

Failure to this, Council will have no choice, but to suspend or disconnect services to the defaulters. This will be done tomorrow.

I would therefore like to appeal to our residents with outstanding accounts to pay their municipal bills as required.

We are nonetheless mindful of the difficulties experienced by the pensioners and destitute residents; who struggle to pay their bills- and are embarking upon consultations with relevant authorities overseeing our bulk suppliers Nampower and Namwater; so that they can make contribution to the Indigent Policy adopted by Council in 2009, aimed at subsidizing water and electricity to the said section of our communities.

Hon Cllrs and Dear Residents,

As it is a practice in the world, and as per Council Resolution No. **393/11/2010**, Council can award its long serving members with appropriate awards and conferment.

In this regard, I am pleased to inform you that, Council will hold a Conferment Ceremony, to honour its long serving Councillors with 'Aldersperson' title and other awards.

These Councillors include; Alderwoman Elaine Trepper, Alderman Boas Ekanjo, Cllr. Agnes Kafula, Cllr. Gerson Kamatuka, Cllr. Jason Shikongo, and former Cllr. Benestus Kandundu. The date of the ceremony will be announced in due course.

In the same vein, ladies and gentlemen, today's Council meeting is also bidding farewell to one of our long serving Councillors. I am honoured to announce the retirement of my predecessor, Comrade Cllr Agnes Mpingana Kafula, who is on the list of the SWAPO Party members of Parliament-elect. This will be the last ordinary Council meeting that Comrade Kafula is attending.

On behalf of the Hon Councillors, officials and Windhoek residents, may I make use of this opportunity to wholeheartedly extend our appreciation to Cde Kafula, for the great contribution she has made in serving this council in different capacities; and the Local Government in general; as the President of ALAN.

We have no doubt that she will continue to support municipal Government in her would-be capacity; especially the Promulgation of the Local Authority Reforms of 2007, to which drafting she contributed dearly.

On a personal note, I was honoured to work with you Cde. Kafula, I have learned a lot from you; as the Deputy Mayor, sharing responsibilities and ideas, during our term of office.

While wishing you the best of luck in your new assignment, we would like to appeal to you; to please take up the issues related to the Local Authority reforms in Parliament and at other relevant platforms, as lack of progress in this regard, is hampering service provision to our communities.

Lastly, I am pleased to note that on our agenda this evening; Council will consider a submission on the electrification of informal settlements, as part of our agenda to improve the living conditions in the underserved areas.

With this remarks, ladies and gentlemen,

I Thank You