1. CITY OF WINDHOEK - UPDATE HEPATITIS E

PROVISION BASIC MUNICIPAL SERVICES TO THE INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

As it is well-known, the major challenge, access to safe water, sanitation, hygiene and waste management facilities seem to be inadequate for the inhabitants of informal settlements. This inadequate access to essential services and amenities result in a number of unacceptable environmental conditions such as open defecation; residents making use of unsafe water from contaminated sources (for drinking, washing, cooking and even washing hands); distance from point of water collection to point of use, poorly maintained infrastructure, accumulation of waste around street corners and in riverbeds, the presence of illegal food vendors selling food in the open to the public amongst other. These conditions are risk factors for the occurrence and spread of any contagious disease, and in this case Hepatitis E.

In order to respond to the aforementioned challenges, N$32 million is required to finance the Emergency Response Plan for Hepatitis E in order to extend the provision of basic municipal services such as water, sanitation, solid waste management, educational campaign mainly in the affected areas. N$17 million of this amount will be spent during this financial year as a response to the outbreak of the Hepatitis E.
Rehabilitation of existing infrastructure

Sanitation: So far, over 330 communal toilets have been identified of which most of them have been repaired and in working condition, while the rest are expected to be completed mid-February 2018. Additional 20 toilets are being procured in this regards. And a kilometre sewer line has been unblocked in Havanna.

Stand pipes: The extension of the main pipeline for portable water has started in Goreangab, and so far, about 5 km of 7 km is completed. 5 new stands pipes were installed, 9 stand pipes repaired, leaks continue to be attended. The extension of the main water pipeline will allow the installation of more stand pipes in these areas that did not have access to portable water in the past. It will also allow residents to walk not more than a kilometre to the nearest portable water point.

Improve environmental hygiene: Cleaning up campaign in the informal settlement, two Mayoral clean-up campaigns were carried out last month led by the Mayor and the Governor, also attended by various corporate entities such as Coca Cola, Rent-a-drum amongst others who donated water containers by Coca Cola, and they pledged to continue donating the water container until the end of the outbreak. While Rent-A-Drum donated recycling bags and removal of waste in these areas.

Increased awareness, knowledge and understanding about Hepatitis E: All these efforts is accompanied by a continuous educational campaign and social mobilisation to educate the residents about the importance of hygiene through various channel amongst others; Constituency Councillors, Community leaders and health extension workers, as well as through the media and distribution of information flyers translated in various vernaculars spoken in these areas.

Food safety: Water sampling to ensure safe portable water is an ongoing exercise, donation of hand washing units and hand sanitizers mainly to the markets, and vendors are requested to encourage their clients to make use of these units in order to keep their hands clean.
VANDALISM

Another challenge observed which is a course for concern is the vandalism of public facilities provided by the City of Windhoek. Inhabitants of informal settlements, and presumably those from other areas of informal settlements make use of services initially meant for use by a limited number of people in terms of the prescribed ratios. This result in constant blockages and high maintenance cost, as well as vandalism due to lack of ownership and sense of responsibility; as it has seemingly proven difficult for community members to maintain facilities that are used by many people most of whom are not from the area.

It is therefore important that, we as residents of Windhoek safe guard the infrastructures provided to us in order to ensure that the already limited resources at the disposal of Council is used economically.

Affected communities are urged to make use of the hotline number to report malfunctioning facilities and services as follows, Tel: 061 290 2402/290 3690, 290 3381

2. NAMING AND RENAMING OF STREETS

At its first Council meeting for 2018 held on the 31 January 2018 Council approved amongst others, the street naming and renaming of the following streets in Windhoek.

- **Zenobia Street** in Klein Windhoek will be renamed after the late **Phillip Ndayooloka Shiimi**.

- Babs Street in Klein Windhoek be renamed in honour of the late **Dr Marcus Mosiah Garvey** as per the Cabinet Decision.

- The late **Moses Katjioungua** and the late **John Garvey Muundjua** will be honoured with naming of street identified as street 1 and 2 branching off from Lazaret Street.
- The public participation exercise will be launched and addressed as per the guidelines and recommendations of the Street and Place Naming/Renaming Committee to the actual renaming of the Street.

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING!

ISSUED BY:
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