

**Keynote Address by His Worship Cllr M. Kazapua, Mayor of the City of Windhoek, at the Occasion of the official inauguration ceremony of the City of Windhoek Junior Council for the period 2017/2018**

**Date: 24 April 2017**

**Time: 14h30**

**Venue: Khomasdal Community Hall**

**Director of Ceremonies, Mr. James Kalundu;**

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

**Hon City Councillors present here;**

**Mr. Mandela Kapere, Executive Chairperson of the National Youth Council;**

**Mr. Robert Nandaa Kahimise, Chief Executive Officer of the City Of Windhoek;**

**Management and Officials from different departments of the City;**

**Your Worship, the Outgoing Junior Mayor, Cllr. Dawie Fourie and your Junior Councilors of 2016/2017;**

**Your Worship, the Junior Mayor-elect, Michael Petrus and your fellow Junior Councilors-elect of 2017/2018;**

**Former Junior Councilors Present;**

**Coordinating Principals, Teachers and Parents;**

**Distinguished invited guests;**

**Members of the Media;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**Good Afternoon**!

It gives me a great pleasure, to officiate at this event, which is one of the very important events in the annual calendar of the City of Windhoek.

Allow me to quote an extract from one of the greatest son of the African soil, a politician, a humanitarian and a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, Nelson Mandela who once said**: *“It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership.”*** I have purposely decided to take this quote because as young leaders, you must begin to realize that serving as Junior Councillors should not be about prestige and titles, but it should be about advancing the interest of those who you serve.

You are servants of the people and you must have servant hearts. By having servant hearts it calls for setting an example by being ready to help whenever and wherever possible. Being a leader also stresses beyond having a servant heart as you should have broad shoulders that can handle tears, laughter, introspection and more. By virtue of being a Junior Councillor, you are a youth leader who must carry the weight of what is going on in the lives of your peers. You have a daunting task, because everyone will now look upon you as their role models.

**Director of the Programme, Ladies and Gentlemen!**

As a Government, we are busy building the Namibian House. We are therefore pleased to acknowledge the inclusion of Youth Development as one of the major focus area in the Harambee Prosperity Plan. The City Council recognizes the important role the youth play in the development of the country; hence, we have made sure that empowering the youth is one of our strategic objectives. This strategic objective compels us, as the City leaders, to initiate developmental programmes aimed at introducing the youth into the mainstream economy of our city. Our main aim is to ensure that youth become active participants in the economy.

Apart from these programmes, there are other Youth Development Programmes which are aimed at preparing the young ones to face the challenges of adolescence and adulthood. They are designed in such a way, to assist the youth to achieve their full potentials. These programmes are holistic in nature, covering the physical, social, psychological, cognitive and moral, religious and ethical development. On the other hand, youth empowerment is the process where children and young people are encouraged to take charge of their lives. They do this by addressing their situation and then take action in order to improve their access to resources and transform their consciousness thorough their beliefs, values and attitudes.

**Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

The City of Windhoek takes pride in the significant contributions of the Junior Council since its inception 18 years ago. We also take cognisance, with appreciation, of the ever-growing number of participating schools as well as the expansion of the local and international developmental stakeholder relations.

It is therefore of vital importance that we continue with this programme, because so far, it has yielded positive results, which should be duplicated to the generations to come.

As we all know, we living in the times of accelerating technological advancements, which requires us to develop a culture of reading, if we are to keep abreast with new technological developments. I was therefore happy when I was informed that the Junior Council’s core project for 2017/18 is on promotion of the reading culture in schools and homes. The soon to be inaugurated Greenwell Community library of the City of Windhoek has already adopted the motto “We learn to read and read to learn” which sums up the focus for the said period. The aim of the project is to strengthen and supplement government efforts on the development of the culture of reading in Namibia. Reading is the starting step of many things, which build a more solid stairs for you to climb to achieving big things out there.

**Director of ceremonies,**

We live in a global village with ever expanding networking boundaries and opportunities towards the building of a safe, clean, healthy, and wealthy world. This paves the way for the Junior Council to strategically reach out to such platforms through fostered developmental relationships, which is partnerships Council is determined to nurture to ensure that Junior Council becomes the voice of youth development and empowerment not only in Windhoek or Namibia but the world at large.

Jack Canfield said “don’t worry about failures, worry about the chances you miss when you don’t even try”. In light of this powerful statement, I would like to motivate and encourage you all to look for, see and grab opportunities for not only personal gain, but most importantly to change the lives of other young people meaningfully.

**Director of ceremonies**,

Allow me to call everyone present here to please join me in congratulating the incoming Junior Councilors for 2017/2018 for having been entrusted to occupy these leadership roles and responsibilities. It is my sincere wish that you will have a great, enriching and life-changing experience, whilst shaping and positively influencing those of others. Count on our dedicated support within the City of Windhoek.

As for the outgoing councilors, you have done us proud; you have taken the City of Windhoek, your respective schools and the youth in general miles to the fore and for that your contributions will forever be appreciated. We wish you all the best!!!

In conclusion, let us all unite and work towards the enhancement of the quality of life for all our people.

**I THANK YOU.**