

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY HISWORSHIP CLLR MUESEE KAZAPUA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK, AT THE OCCASION OF THE 8TH ORDINARY MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING FOR 2018**

**DATE: 5 SEPTEMBER 2018**

**TIME: 18H00**

**VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Your Worship Cllr Teckla Auwanga, Deputy Mayor of the City of Windhoek;**

**Honourable (insert name), Acting Chairperson of the Management Committee;**

**Honourable Councillors;**

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

**Mr. O’brien Hekandjo, Acting Chief Executive Officer;**

**Strategic Executives and other Officials of the City of Windhoek;**

**Esteemed Windhoek Residents;**

**Members of the Media;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good evening!**

It is an honour and privilege for me to address this August House and to warmly welcome you all to our meeting. As a tradition, I will focus my statement on current affairs that prevailed since our last ordinary Council meeting of July 2018.

**Hon Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Before I deliver my statement, I would like to request for this August House to rise for a minute of silence, as we pay tribute to the late Cheryl Avihe Ujaha, whose dear life was cut short when her mutilated body was found on that fateful morning of the 28 August 2018 in a river bed in Khomasdal, after she had gone missing for two days.

**ATTENTION!**

(MINUTE OF SILENCE)

**Please be seated**.

The residents of Windhoek and indeed the rest of the Namibian nation continue to mourn with shock the loss of Cheryl. May her dear soul rest in everlasting peace!

I would therefore like to use this opportunity to, on behalf of Council, condemn the killing of the innocent young girl. To us, any loss of life, ladies and gentlemen, is way too much for our nation particularly if that life is lost through senseless killings.

We need to agree to live in harmony and promote peace and love in our community and society. I call on the Windhoek residents to create responsive neighbourhoods that provide protection for women and children, who are usually the victims of such barbaric attacks.

Two months ago, I declared in this August house my support to end violence as part of the #Break Free Anti-Violence Campaign initiated by Her Excellency Madam Geingos, First Lady of the Republic of Namibia, and all Honourable Councillors including some residents signed the pledge forms. The purpose of that pledge was to show to the residents that we are serious in the fight against violence against Women and Children. It is therefore disheartening to see that violent acts still continue at an alarming pace. Let me there urge parents to be vigilant and take care of the little ones, as they have become soft targets for these barbaric acts.

In order to show our resolve against these inhumane acts, the community together with Government have organised a March, which will take place on Friday, 7 September 2018, starting at 09h00. I believe the officials have distributed the public announcement to the residents. Kindly do spread the message.

**Hon Councillors, dear residents,**

This Council meeting is also taking place a few days after Windhoek residents joined the rest of the country in commemorating the Heroes Day held in Nkurenkuru, the administrative seat of Kavango West Region, last week Sunday, 26 August. This was the day when several decades ago, brave Namibians made the choice to join the struggle for the liberation of our beloved country. It was the time when our forbearers were forced to make a choice, as to whether to submit to apartheid and segregation or to fight for the dignity of all Namibians, even if it means paying with their lives.

Through their sacrifices, we attained our hard won independence, which we were also reminded to jealously hold on to. They fought for a just society, where all citizens should enjoy equal opportunities and have access to basic services.

In this connection, we are called to duty, to ensure that our fallen heroes and heroines did not shed their blood in vein. As matter of fact, we can only do that through providing adequate municipal services to our people.

**Hon Councillors, dear residents**

On the provision of housing, the current backlog in low cost housing points to the fact that the current market is not able to provide solutions for low-ultra and ultra-ultra-low cost housing. In order to mitigate this disparity, Council need to urgently look at alternative solutions to address the backlog.

**Esteemed Residents**, as per our definition, the Ultra-Low income earners are those residents who earn between N$ 3000.00 to N$ 5000.00 of salaries per month. The Ultra-Ultra Low income earners are those residents who earn N$ 3000.00 and below monthly. Whereas, the Low income earners are those residents who earn between N$ 5000.00 to N$ 15 000.00 per month.

Against this backdrop, Council this evening will therefore deliberate on proposals which are aimed at addressing the housing needs of these three income categories. These proposals look at employing sustainable, yet innovative solutions for affordable housing provision.

I would therefore like to assure our low earning residents that Council has not forgotten about their plight. We are, day and night, engaging our brains in search for a lasting solution to their housing problems.

On a different note, **Honourable Councillors, Dear Residents**

Council continue to change the image of the City by renaming streets and places to people who have contributed in different ways; be it political, spiritual or in any form to the betterment of the Namibian nation, Africa or the world at large. It is therefore against this background that on the 28th of this month, Council will hold a Mass Street Renaming Ceremony, for the many applications which were approved by Council. This gesture by Council, is aimed at paying homage to the contributions and sacrifices made by those whom we are going to honour.

Let me therefore use this opportunity to invite our residents to attend this very important ceremony, as we will witness the renaming of streets after our people. The Ceremony will take place in front of the Office of the Mayor, at 10 o’clock, which will be followed by the unveiling of street plaques at the respective streets.

With these remarks, **Hon Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen**,

**I thank you!**