



The Gateway to Endless Opportunities

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP, CLLR
JOSEPH UAPINGENE, MAYOR OF WINDHOEK, ON
THE OCCASION OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL
MEETING OF MAY 2023**

**31 May 2023
17H30
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

Your Worship, Cllr. Magdalena Lombardt, Deputy Mayor

Cllr. Shafiishuna Nujoma, Chairperson of the Management Committee,

All Local Authority Councillors, present

Mr. Faniel Maanda, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Strategic Executives and Officials, present

Ms. Njahi Situmbeko, who delivered the opening prayer

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Afternoon,

I greet you all with a sense of pride and hope today as we commence the Ordinary Council meeting of May 2023.

Among the agenda items, is the 2023/2024 Budget which the Management Committee will table in a closed session later this evening. After months of preparation which

culminated in a budget workshop earlier this month, I am happy that we were able to finalise the budget with the view to recommend it to the line minister, after this evening's discussions. Well done, to all the officials for your commitment and valuable inputs towards finalising the budget. That said, I must emphasise that we still find ourselves in a precarious situation with a need to focus on high impact priorities within the parameters of a constrained budget whilst finalising our financial recovery plan, cost reduction efforts, seeking funding for key projects, and moving towards an unqualified audit. This is the key message reflected in the 2023/2024 budget which will be tabled later this evening.

However, there are also opportunities to unlock critical economic development revenue-generating streams,

expedite the land delivery projects and exit the existing land delivery PPPs, for example.

We need to find innovative ways to manage our finances with a holistic approach that addresses amongst other, organisational issues such as culture, structures, processes, productivity, and consistent, robust leadership.

As leaders of this great institution the onus is on us to steer this ship in one direction and right now, our financial position calls for drastic, bold decisions and deliberate actions within a limited timeframe to arrest the situation we are in. I am confident that we all appreciate the tough decisions that lay ahead of us, and it is up to us to commit.

This brings me to the second reason why I address you with a renewed sense of hope...

Your Worship, the Deputy Mayor and Honourable Councillors, the long-awaited search for a substantive Chief Executive Officer is now concluded and I hereby officially announce with great excitement and gratitude, the appointment of Mr. Moses Matyayi as the new Chief Executive Officer for the Municipal Council of Windhoek, effective 1 August 2023. The appointment of a substantive CEO serves as a critical first step towards ensuring the stability of the organisation and it is my belief that through the planned efforts to ensure a conducive environment for the incumbent CEO, the objectives and mandate of Council would be effectively executed.

I would also like to take this opportunity, by way of a caution to all, that the onboarding process of the new CEO is a very important exercise and sets the tone with which the incumbent CEO experiences his first 90 days and his expectations in office. Therefore, and under no

circumstances, will any attempts to undermine the onboarding process nor attempts to influence or lobby the new CEO, be tolerated. I am aware of such attempts over the last few weeks, and I strongly emphasise, the need to allow for a smooth transition. Together with the Acting CEO and Human Capital and Corporate Services Department, I will ensure that all checks, balances, and onboarding efforts occur, along transparent, ethical means for the good of the organisation and our residents.

In conclusion, I believe that everything happens for a reason and indeed the confirmation of the new CEO coincides with the submission of the 2023/2024 Budget and commencement of the new financial year which is 1 July 2023. I see this as an opportunity to set aside past fractures in leadership with a sense of renewed enthusiasm with a leader at the helm. Let us open our hearts and minds to this gift and work in unison and above

all, as the Book of Thessalonians (5:16-18) teaches us:
Let us *“rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks **in all circumstances**, for this is God’s will for you...”*.

So let us forge ahead and welcome the new CEO with integrity, honesty, and a call to serve and leverage this Municipal Council of Windhoek, as a global contender. The true test resides in all of us as leaders, to usher in a new paradigm and augment the foundations that we have built, in the spirit of progress, efficiency, service delivery and adherence to governance principles.

With these few words, I thank you all.