

**The City of Many Faces**

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE BY HIS WORSHIP, CLLR. MUESEE KAZAPUA, MAYOR OF WINDHOEK AT OCCASION OF THE SWITCHING ON OF THE CITY CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

**DATE: 07 DECEMBER 2016**

**VENUE: ZOO PARK**

**TIME: 19H00**

**Director of Ceremonies, Mr. George Esterhuizen,**

**Honourable Councillors of the City of Windhoek,**

**Dear Children and Elder persons Present,**

**Windhoek Residents,**

**Members of the Media,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**Good evening!**

I am greatly honoured, yet humbled to be amidst the larger representation of the community of Windhoek, at a special event that has brought together, children, elderlies and ordinary residents; to our traditional event, the Switching on of the City Christmas Lights.

**Director of Ceremonies,** It is important to that; the celebration of Christmas is when all Namibians, regardless of their economic status or cultural background, can reflect on how fortunate we are to live in a country that has family values, freedom of rights and freedom of speech.

At the same time, the festive season is a time for people to get together with family and friends and a time to care and think about others, especially those who are less fortunate and who find the festive season more painful than cheerful.  It is against this background that the City over the years has been hosting this event, not only to switch on the X-mas Lights, but also give to those members of our communities, who are less fortunate, especially the children and the elderlies.

I am therefore glad that today we are joined by number of children from various OVC and Children Homes; thus creating a sense of a united community that seeks to promote a concerted effort on the improvement of the quality of life of all our people

**Director of Ceremonies**, this is also the time of year when we should reflect on the needs of the lonely and the elderly who at times feel very alone especially for those with no family ties in the City. I like to sincerely appeal to members of the Windhoek community, corporate and individuals to use this season to share with those who are not fortunate. By doing so we will not only celebrate the festive season, but will also contribute to social progression of our society as we strive to live the spirit of Harambee Prosperity Plan, where no Namibia should feel left out.

As part of the Mayoral Outreach Program, the material items that we will donate here today, include food stuff, clothing, toiletries, blankets, school uniforms, school stationaries, foot wear and toys, to the combined tune of N$20 000.00. Emphasis was given to the neediest and welfare groups, around the City, as identified by our Community Development: Social Welfare Section. This gesture of love and charity, will surely light up the Christmas spirit for many of those who are less fortunate in our community. The beneficiary welfare organizations are:

* Ohole Nenkelo Welfare Organization for older persons
* H Victoria Kindergarten and Day care from Babylon
* Future Professor Pre-Primary School, and
* The orphaned Kafunda siblings, who are residing at Maggie’s Sun House, which is a place of safety.

As a Council, we have no intention to derive marketing mileages from this initiative, but rather to demonstrate good corporate citizenship and live the spirit of Harambee. I have no doubt that the next event will be bigger and better, as we invite participation by the large Windhoek corporate citizenship.

**Director of Ceremonies,**

Christmas is also a time of peace and goodwill, when the spiritual and cultural messages stand tall. It is also a good time for us to reflect on the past year. For many in our City, it has been a challenging year particularly the impact of the economic down turn, unemployment, water shortage and lack of shelter.

However, I believe 2017 will see the City move forward and being a place that we will all continue to take pride in, as we celebrate our uniting motto, the ***City of many faces***.”

To those who are traveling out to visit families and friends- may you have a safe and enjoyable journey to your respective destinations. To our esteemed visitors, I sincerely welcome you, to our Windhoek.

In conclusion, allow me on behalf of the Council and Management of the City, to wish you a Christmas that gives contentment, happiness and love, and Prosperous 2017!

I thank you.