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MEDIA RELEASE

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 29 FEBRUARY 2024

At the first ordinary Council meeting of 2024, Councilor Queen Omagano Kamati, the Mayor of the City of Windhoek, pledged to focus on critical issues that are essential to enhance municipal service delivery and improve the well-being of residents. The Mayor expressed her deep sadness for the passing of His Excellency, Dr. Hage G. Geingob, who died on 4 February 2024. She described President Geingob as a wise, diplomatic, and passionate leader who was dedicated to promoting good governance, defending human rights, and advocating economic, social, and political solidarity among all African peoples. The Mayor thanked the staff members for their exceptional dedication and teamwork during the three weeks of national mourning for the late President.

The Mayor congratulated His Excellency, Dr. Nangolo Mbumba, on his appointment as the President of the Republic of Namibia and Her Excellency, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, on her appointment as Vice President. She also announced that the City of Windhoek has started the registration process for the pensioners' debt write-off program on 15 February 2024. The registration process is going well, with close to 900 pensioners having registered so far. The Mayor reminded pensioners that they can register at City of Windhoek offices in town, Katutura, and Ombili for their convenience. Non-pensioners and businesses do not need to register because their interest relief will be processed automatically. The City of Windhoek is providing relief to its residents with the writing-off of debts of over N\$500 million, including over N\$200 million for pensioners. This initiative will provide greater financial flexibility to residents during these challenging economic times.

The Mayor also warned against water wastage, stating that despite the water-saving measures introduced last year, weekly monitoring of water consumption shows that the city has exceeded its water consumption. Although the city has received good rainfall over the last few weeks, it is still crucial to conserve water. If the city does not reduce its water demand, it may have to impose penalties in the near future. Therefore, the Mayor urges everyone to remain vigilant about water leaks and wastages in and around homes and places of work and make every effort to save water. She encouraged residents to stay up to date with the latest water conservation situation in the city by following the city's social media channels.

THE WINDHOEK MUNICIPAL COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH ANOTHER TOWNSHIP ON PORTION 317, ROCKY CREST, TO BE KNOWN AS ROCKY CREST EXTENSION 8

The Windhoek Municipal Council has approved the establishment of a township on Portion 317, Rocky Crest, to be known as Rocky Crest Extension 8. This move is aimed at addressing the escalating demand for urban housing and related amenities in the city. The proposed extension measures about 25 hectares and consists of 227 erven. It is situated to the south of the existing Rocky Crest township, along the eastern boundary of Otjomuise Road, and the northwestern boundary of Bernt Carlson Road. It borders on a small section of the Rocky Crest Extension 5 development. The development offers a mixed land use concept place of work and live' where people can live and work in the same space, and it supports the Sustainable Urban Transport Master Plan (SUTMP), which proposes access through collector roads of 25 meters wide, providing enough space for taxi stops and ranks, as well as bus stops.

Namibia's urban centres are experiencing rapid growth, which poses a huge challenge to local authorities in providing serviced land for housing. The Municipal Council of Windhoek is no exception, and with a huge influx of people into the city, the demand for serviced land is ever increasing. The provision of serviced land for development is amongst the city's biggest challenges, with more than half of Windhoek's residents residing in informal settlements, not to mention the array of economic challenges emanating from this. Therefore, the proposed development is essential to open up possibilities for housing and economic sustainability.

The table below gives the following breakdown of the proposed land uses for the township development:

Table 1: Proposed land use for Rocky Crest Extension 8

Rocky Crest Extension 8: Land Use Budget				
Land use	No of erven	Average erf size (m²)	Total area size (m²)	Coverage (%)
Residential	168	442	80 088	32
General residential	3	2 752	4 707	2
Institutional	2	12 805	24 158	10
Business	1	1 077	1 077	0
Restricted business	41	1 308	59 341	24
Public open space	5	1 102	5 509	2
Municipal	7	912	6 387	3
Street			69 860	28
Total	227		251 127	100

MAYOR'S VISIT TO KISUMU, KENYA FROM 19 JUNE TO 23 JUNE 2023 RESULTED IN A COMMITMENT OF €60,000 IN GRANT FUNDING FOR THE WINDHOEK URBAN FOOD SYSTEMS.

The former Mayor of the Municipal Council of Windhoek, Councillor Joseph Uapingene, led a delegation of five members to participate in the First In-person AfriFOODlinks Consortium held in Kisumu, Kenya from 19 to 22 June 2023. The visit resulted in several benefits for the City of Windhoek, including grant funding of €60,000.00 (equivalent to N\$1.2 million at the November 2023 Euro-Namibian Dollar exchange rate) spread over a period of one year for the Windhoek Urban Food Systems Transformation Pilot Project.

Moreover, the meeting led to a cluster exchange visit to Windhoek from 26 February 2024 to 1 March 2024, which is fully sponsored by AfriFOODlinks and its partners. The purpose of the visit is to foster collaboration and exchange between city officials on food system transformation at the city level. Finally, the council will participate in the 2024/2025 exchange visits to partner cities Chefchaouen, Morocco, and Bonn, Germany, which will also be sponsored by AfriFOODlinks and its partners in collaboration with the hosting cities.

The City of Windhoek believes it is imperative to join a group of leading cities in Europe and Africa that are addressing food systems and nutrition issues in light of the urban challenges it faces, including poverty, unemployment, and population growth.

The goal of the AfriFOODlinks consortium, which consists of European and African cities, is to enhance food and nutrition security while promoting environmental and climatic benefits and fostering socio-ecological resilience.

Please take note that the above are only highlights of the council meeting. More details about all the items discussed are available on our website through this link

https://www.windhoekcc.org.na/coun_agenda.php

For more information about this statement, please contact our Corporate Communication Section at Tel.: 061 290 3797 /2044, or email: cowcommunication@windhoekcc.org.na

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ISSUED BY:

City of Windhoek

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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