

MEDIA RELEASE

Date: 24 March 2020

ADDITIONAL PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES ON COVID-19

Following His Excellency, President Dr. Hage Geingob's declaration of the State of Emergency: COVID-19, the Windhoek Municipality Council at its Special Council meeting of 19 March 2020 (CR65/03/2020) resolved to adopt the following additional measures to strengthen Windhoek's preparedness and response to the COVID-19 and to prevent further transmission of the virus within its jurisdiction.

1. AWARENESS CREATION

As the custodian of local public health at municipal level, the Municipal Council of Windhoek has a mandate to intensify community mobilisation, education and awareness on the COVID-19 and disseminate factual information on precautionary measures using available resources.

2. MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUILDINGS

- All access points will be supplied with sanitizers, water and soap, and to be disinfected continuously;
- Thermo guns will be used (once stock is available) at all entrances for screening of everyone entering the municipal buildings.

3. CASH HALLS

- All employees in our Cash halls will be provided with gloves, face masks and hand sanitisers;
- The public is encouraged to enquire via telephone and e-mail and make use of online payment option;
- The City will send monthly municipal statements via e-mail;

4. PUBLIC TOILETS

- Cleaners at all public facilities will be supplied with protective clothing.
- Continuous disinfection of public toilets; and
- Damaged public ablution facilities will be fixed and related infrastructure to be rehabilitated.

5. CITY POLICE

- Breathalyzer testing will be discontinued with immediate effect for a period of thirty (30) days, however members of the public must not drive under the influence of alcohol and prohibited substances.
- City Police to strictly enforce laws on overloading to prevent crowding and close contact.

6. GENERAL PUBLIC

- All public gatherings of more than fifty (50) people are suspended and this includes schools, religious gatherings, weddings, funerals and all parades uniformed forces to be suspended until further notice.

7. MUNICIPAL PARKS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The following facilities to be closed for the next thirty (30) days:

- Paaltjies;
- Public swimming pools;
- Informal soccer fields;
- Sam Nujoma Stadium;
- Goreangab Dam recreational facility; and
- Playgrounds
- For existing bookings, clients will be advised to propose a future date for events.

8. GYMNASIUMS AND SIMILAR PLACES REGARDED AS PLACES OF MASS GATHERING

- Due to the economic impact of closing some areas, Council resolved that business owners should take appropriate precautionary measures like provision of hand-washing facilities, sanitizers, gloves and masks and other recommended supplies to minimise the spread of the COVID-19.

9. BURIAL/FUNERALS

For non-COVID related funerals, families/organisers are required to adhere to the following conditions:

- Limit the number of people attending to not more 50 people;
- Promote hand washing, social distancing and respiratory hygiene (e.g cover your mouth when coughing and sneezing).

Death and funerals related to COVID-19 will be handled by the Government with psychosocial support to the family.

10 ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENTS

- Provide sanitizers and masks to all staff;
- Educate guests to apply precautionary measures;

- Have full travel history of the guests and next destination;
- Contact health authorities immediately when they notice a guest displaying symptoms related COVID-19;
- Adopt and implement WHO Guidelines on Workplaces; and
- Prevention of COVID-19, including training of staff members of accommodation establishments on appropriate infection prevention and control measures.

11. WATER SUPPLY

- The Windhoek Municipality Council will scale up the provision of water supply in informal settlements including placement of water tanks at all strategic places; and
- Clients whose water accounts are disconnected due to non-payment will be reconnected for the next thirty (30) days and to be disconnected after this period.
- Clients will still be billed for their water consumption during this period.

12. MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BUSES AND VEHICLES

- Municipal busses and vehicles will be disinfected after every cycle; and
- Bus Drivers will be provided with sanitizers, masks and gloves.

13. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- Owners of public transport to sanitise their vehicles and to ensure that the hands of their clients are sanitised; and
- Owners to ensure that their vehicles are not crowded to avoid close contact.

14. MASS REGISTRATION

- The City of Windhoek was busy carrying out the mass registration of informal structures as part of upgrading of informal settlements. This mass registration is now put on hold until further notice.

15. ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT (SIGNING OF LEASES)

- The City of Windhoek is currently busy with the electrification of informal settlements whereby household owners are required to sign lease agreements. The signing of leases is now put on hold until further notice.
- Contractors currently on-site will continue and precautionary measures will be put in place in order to minimise exposure.

16. MARKETS, INDUSTRIAL STALLS AND STREET VENDORS

- The markets and industrial stalls remain open and traders are urged to adopt appropriate precautionary measures and good hygiene practices;
- City of Windhoek will ensure that markets are thoroughly cleaned, disinfected and sanitised;
- Illegal Street Vendors to be removed and City Police to do law-enforcement in this regard.

17. BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS

- Ensure that shops, bars, shebeens, shopping malls and supermarkets put measures in place to ensure and enhance hygiene at all time to protect all clients, such provision of alcohol-based sanitizers;
- Business owners are required to ensure that their businesses are not overcrowded and to ensure that their customers maintain safe distance;

New Operating hours for alcohol selling outlets:

Shebeens	12:00 - 19:00
Bars and Night Clubs	20:00 - 24:00

- The above new operating hours for alcohol selling outlets (shebeens, night clubs and bars) should strictly be adhered to and City Police will enforce this directive with immediate effect for a period of thirty (30) days;
- New applications for shebeens will not be processed during this period of thirty (30) days;

All precautionary measures will be implemented for a period of thirty (30) days in line with the Presidential Directive, unless otherwise directed.

The public is encouraged to make telephone enquiries relating to Customer Accounts through our customer contact centre on 290 3777 or via e-mail at enquiry@windhoekcc.org.na

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