



## MEDIA RELEASE

5 September 2023

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CITY OF WINDHOEK ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 31 AUGUST 2023

#### 1. ARRIVAL OF THE SUBSTANTIVE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK

The Windhoek Mayor, Cllr Joseph Uapingene, officially announced the arrival of Moses Matyayi, the new Chief Executive Officer of the City of Windhoek. He assumed office on August 1, 2023. During his first ninety days, Matyayi will undergo a comprehensive induction programme to familiarize himself and assess the environment. He will meet with all departments to engage with staff at all levels and gain insight into their experiences and suggestions on how to improve, streamline, innovate, and move the City forward. Matyayi will also probe into the organizational culture, which is an area of interest to him. The organization's culture and values, however, are important and must align with the ever-growing and increasingly sophisticated needs and expectations of residents and stakeholders. The mayor is confident that under Matyayi's leadership, the organization will be able to address critical matters more effectively and consistently, especially in terms of financial sustainability, internal business processes, customer service, and organizational capability.

#### 2. APPLICATION TO RESCIND COUNCIL RESOLUTION 80/04/2021 FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSAL OF DR SI BESHIR OF THE NAMIBIA HEART CENTRE TO CONSTRUCT A CHILDREN'S PARK IN EROS ON A PORTION OF ERF R/6249, WINDHOEK

Council Resolution 80/04/2021 which authorized the construction of a Children's Park in Eros on Erf R/6249 by Dr. SI Beshir of the Namibian Heart Centre, has been rescinded by the council due to non-compliance with the requirements of the resolution. In 2021, Dr. SI Beshir submitted an application to the council to upgrade the Children's Park into a multifunctional sports and recreational facility, which was approved by the council. However, the applicant was unable to construct the children's play park within the specified two-year timeframe, as stipulated by Council Resolution 80/04/2021, and did not respond to numerous reminders and written communications on the matter. As a result, the council has canceled the approval granted to Dr. SI Beshir for the development of the Children's Park in Eros on Erf R/6249, citing non-adherence to the provisions of Council Resolution 80/04/2021. The purpose of encouraging community or private sector-driven projects is to promote inclusive socio-economic development and enhance the provision of sports and recreational facilities in the

city. However, when applicants fail to fulfill their commitment to project implementation, it hinders socio-economic development and prevents other viable projects from being considered.

### **3. ACCEPTANCE OF THE GRANT FUNDING AND DONATION TO THE KATUTURA OLD AGE HOME BY THE ERICH KÖHNE TRUST**

The council has received funding of N\$11,416,548.84 for the Katutura Old Age Home from the Erich Köhne Trust. The Katutura Old Age Home, which is registered with the Ministry of Health and Social Services as an old age home, has received a payment of N\$11,416,548.84 from the Erich Köhne Trust. The home, which falls under the Department of Economic Development and Community Services, is managed by the Municipal Council of Windhoek and currently houses twenty-five residents.

The Erich Köhne Trust was founded in 2001 by the late Mr. Köhne. The trust was intended to benefit residents of old age homes in Namibia who needed financial assistance to pay their monthly rentals, levies, or frail care. The trust's duration was set for ten years from the date of Mr. Köhne's death, on 27 June 2013, with the termination of the Trust to take effect on 26 June 2023. The Katutura Old Age Home received its allocated portion from the trust on 29 June 2023, and the funds will be used to cater to the physical well-being of the residents and caretakers in terms of healthcare, dietary needs, upgrading of the facility, security, and safety. These funds will also cover the payment of monthly rentals for older persons who cannot afford it, as well as medical prescriptions and living expenses. By providing critical financial assistance, the funds will ensure that the home is sustainable and that the needs of its residents are addressed.

### **4. APPROVAL FOR THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) BETWEEN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK AND THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF MANAGEMENT (IUM)**

The Municipal Council of Windhoek has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the International University of Management (IUM). This MoU aims to formalize the longstanding relationship between the council and IUM in matters related to academic training, skills development, and governance issues. The collaboration will focus on curriculum development, capacity building, and practical training such as job attachments and student internships. It is important to note that universities are essential in driving national development through knowledge and scientific research. By partnering with governmental institutions, universities can enhance integrated planning and reduce duplication of efforts and resource wastage.

### **5. REPORT ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE 25 MW SOLAR PLANT MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP PROJECT**

The Department of Electricity is currently busy with the procurement of a 25 MW solar plant in line with the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Act, 2017 (Act 4 of 2017) as approved by

Council in 2017. The Request for Qualification application, Bid No. W/RFQ/COW-101/2021 was advertised on 18 June 2021 and closed on 19 August 2021. Three bidders out of the thirty were shortlisted to participate in the Request for Proposal stage. The three bidders are IJG-Akuo Suneg Consortium/IJG-IM; ChargeTech JV Sepco Electric Power Construction Corporation; and Alensy Energy Solutions (Pty) Ltd. The Department of Electricity in consultation with the Municipal Council of Windhoek's Procurement Management Unit (PMU) has now issued the Request for Proposal (RFP) to the shortlisted Bidders on 7 August 2023. With the Request for Proposal (RFP) document now issued to the shortlisted Bidders, the new revised project timeline is indicated as follows:

Item	Previous date	Revised date
Request for Proposal (RFP) released	18 June 2021	Done
Request for Proposal (RFP) submission due date	19 August 2021	Done
Evaluation and shortlisting of potential Independent Power Producer (IPP)	24 October 2021	Done
Request for Proposal (RFP) released to the potential Independent Power Producers (IPPs)	18 November 2021	7 August 2023
Meeting with the shortlisted Independent Power Producer (IPP)	3 December 2021	October 2023
Request for Proposal (RFP) submission due date	18 February 2022	18 November 2023
Request for Proposal (RFP) evaluation and selection	18 May 2022	18 March 2024
Commencement of negotiation	19 May 2022	19 March 2024
Concluding contract award	18 October 2022	18 August 2024
Construction commence	19 October 2022	19 August 2024
Practical completion	18 April 2024	18 April 2026

The above dates are indicative and can thus be shortened or extended depending on the speed and delays experienced.

## **6. ESTABLISHMENT OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MoU) BETWEEN THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK AND THE BERLIN ENERGY AGENCY, UNDER THE FRAMEWORK OF THE WINDHOEK-BERLIN SISTER CITIES PARTNERSHIP**

The Municipal Council of Windhoek has approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Berlin Energy Agency (BEA), a municipal-owned entity of the City of Berlin that offers modern energy solutions and services. The BEA has three business divisions: Consulting, Contracting, and International Know-how Transfer. Through this partnership, the Department of Electricity of the Municipal Council of Windhoek and the BEA are collaborating on a feasibility study to develop a solar Photovoltaic (PV) mini-grid for the Mix Informal Settlement, which is located in the Windhoek Rural Constituency. This initiative aims to provide electricity to the settlement in a more affordable and efficient way, as extending the

electrical infrastructure in the area would require significant capital investment. The Berlin Energy Agency (BEA) team, led by its Chief Executive Officer, visited Windhoek in November 2022 for a week-long engagement to discuss areas of cooperation, which are now outlined in the draft MoU.

## **7. NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY**

The Namibia-Germany negotiations on development were held in Berlin, Germany from 7<sup>th</sup> June to 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Ms. Wilhencia Uiras, Executive Director of the National Planning Commission (NPC), led the Namibian delegation during the negotiations. The Municipal Council of Windhoek was represented by Mr Clarence MU Rupingena - Strategy Advisor: SMART Cities and Transport, Office of the Chief Executive Officer, and Mr David Rowan Adams, Chief Engineer: Engineering Services, Department of Infrastructure, Water and Technical Services. As a result of the negotiations, the Namibian Government was able to secure N\$1.1 billion in new funding from Germany. The funding will be utilized for various projects in Namibia, that focus on securing water supply and promoting sustainable urban mobility. The deal was signed in Berlin as both countries strengthened their bilateral ties. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Co-operation and Development (BMZ) has committed to provide 51.5 million Euros (approximately N\$1.03 billion) for projects related to sustainable urban development, vocational training, climate change adaptation, and the protection of biodiversity and improved water supply in Namibia.

The Municipal Council of Windhoek, the implementing body that represents the Namibian Government on various projects, will designate staff members to carry out particular project-related tasks in order to free up necessary and constrained resources for crucial project inputs. Moreover, the Municipal Council of Windhoek is expected to abide by the established project implementation principles, in order to strengthen the sustainability of the development cooperation partnership.

## **8. IDENTIFICATION, NOMINATION, AND CONSERVATION OF 1960 KATUTURA AND KHOMASDAL HOUSES AS HERITAGE ASSETS**

The Windhoek Municipal Council has approved the identification, nomination, and conservation of seven houses in Katutura and Khomasdal that are over fifty years old to be declared as heritage resources. While the city center has monuments and statues, there are no official heritage resources in Katutura or Khomasdal. The aim is to create a cultural precinct by developing a trail around the townships. The houses, located in the following locations and township: Herero, Damara, Wambo, Donkerhoek, Gemengde, and Khomasdal areas will be selected based on the significance of their first occupants and will be transformed to tell the stories of social, political, and educational icons of the 1960s.

The main goal of this project is to transform the apartheid-era legacy of the Katutura and Khomasdal townships into vibrant hubs offering employment creation opportunities, as well as experiences for people to immerse themselves in Namibian culture and art. These houses will be utilized as historical icon museums, showcasing the people of a specific area, through

cultural performances, traditional food, traditional chores, and arts and crafts. They will also be used as accommodation, providing homestay experiences for visitors to stay with local people, and as restaurants serving local cuisine. Similar projects have been successfully accomplished in other Southern African cities, such as Johannesburg-Soweto, which nominated and preserved the late Nelson Mandela family home as a national heritage institution.

**Please note that the above are just highlights from the council meeting. For more detailed information on the items discussed, please visit our website through the link below:**  
[https://www.windhoekcc.org.na/coun\\_agenda.php](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](mailto:cowcommunication@windhoekcc.org.na)

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**ISSUED BY:**  
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