

Tribute to Alderman Matheus Kristof Shikongo



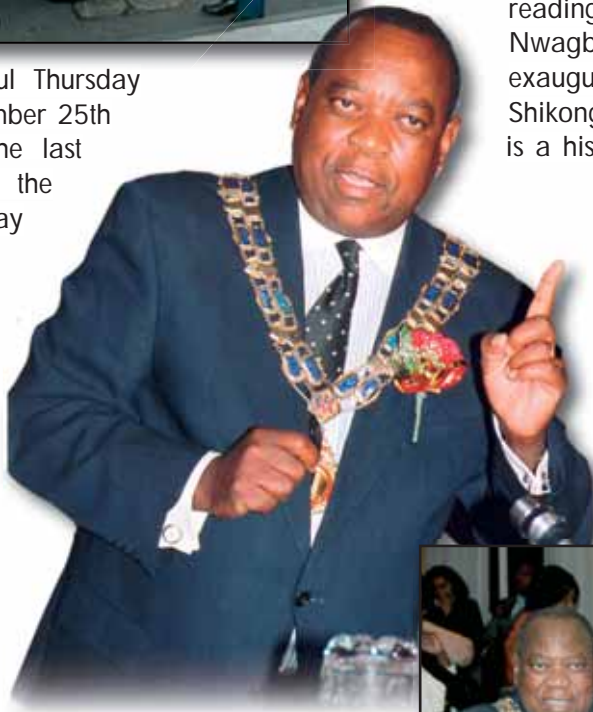
It was a beautiful Thursday afternoon, November 25th which marked the last council meeting of the year 2010. A day many employees, residents and friends of the City will not forget. A bouncing cultural group making jubilant sounds marked the eastern entrance of the City of Windhoek, with a red carpet leading to the entrance of the Council chambers. The

City Police officers standing on attention, awaiting the arrival of His Worship the Mayor, Cllr. Matheus Kristof Shikongo. In moments, the black Mercedes chauffering the Mayor, parked in front of the eastern entrance, the door opened and Mayor Shikongo entered the City Town House, waving

at the energetic cultural dancers, passing onto the red carpet through the corridor of saluting police officers, the Mayor was ushered into the Chambers. After 17 years of being the Mayor of the City of Windhoek, 25th November 2010 at 14:00 was the last time that the long serving Cllr. Shikongo was entering both the City Townhouse and Council Chambers, as the Mayor of our beautiful City.

It was business as usual in the Chambers as the proceedings started with the usual scripture reading and prayer by Apostle Goody Nwagboso. The Mayor then delivered his exaugural address. Followed by a greeting Shikongo said "Today's Council meeting is a historic and a special one" Not only was it historic because it was the last meeting for the year but also because the Mayor publicly declared that he didn't stand for elections and was bidding farewell to the City's political leadership as well.

continue page 3



Editor's desk



This year 2010, has been a unique year in many respects. It indeed was a year of the unusual, the unthinkable, extraordinary and the unexpected. It is November, the month known for the last edition of the Aloe, the monthly newsletter for the residents, partners, tourists, friends and visitors to the City of Windhoek. It will therefore be proper that I take some time to reflect on the happenings, issues discussed and communicated via this publication during the year. But before I get there, in line with the recently held Regional and Local Authority elections, we will also welcome the new Mayor and Management team while giving tribute to our longest serving Mayor, now Alderman Shikongo. This Aloe will therefore have a different look and feel than what we usually have.

The focus of the Aloe has always been guided by the views and proposals of our readers. It is worth mentioning that the aim of the newsletter remains to: interact, educate and to keep the residents informed on current affairs and major projects in and around the City and by so doing also demonstrate to the rate payers how the City utilizes public resources for the benefit of all.

For the Aloe, the year started on a strategic note with a high powered Chinese delegation visiting the then Mayor Shikongo, strengthening the already existing bilateral relations between the two Cities while an official invitation was extended to the Mayor to attend the World Expo 2010. One of those once in a while events was the traditional curtain-raiser to the Commonwealth games. The Commonwealth Baton Relay bearers carried the 664 millimetres long baton, made of 9 carat solid gold, weighing 1.9000 grams, escorted by members of the Namibian special field forces, as the Queen's Baton Relay made its way past the enthusiastic crowd en route to the Mayor's office. After about 12 years of employment at the City of Windhoek, the then Editor, of the Aloe news letter Mr. Ndangi Katoma dropped a bombshell of his resignation, calling the February Aloe, the last edition that past through his hands as editor. Besides electing the Junior Council representatives, the March Aloe saw the introduction of receiving the monthly newsletter via email, calling on interested clients to complete the necessary form which can still be obtained by forwarding a request to communication@windhoekcc.org.na Ms. It was also the month in which Liz Sibindi than took over as Editor of the Aloe.

The City of Windhoek is committed to nation building, decentralized local governance and to contribute to the attainment of Namibia's fundamental statement of intent, Vision 2030. In this regard, the City continued to offer assistance to sister local authorities through capacity building initiatives and has demonstrated this in signing yet another memorandum of cooperation with the Karasburg Municipality. The City also introduced the celebration of the World Water day in March 2010.

For the past 5 years, it was customary for the City Councillors to elect their office bearers in the month of May. This was the last time the then Mayor Shikongo stood for elections and also the last time that Council office bearers were elected in May. Hence forth it will be towards year end, more or less around the same time national elections were held. The significant population growth experienced during the past 15 years placed a challenge on service delivery to the residents. In this regard, the

City invested about N\$21 million to construct an additional fire station to adequately address the ever increasing and challenging responsibilities in firefighting. In a build up towards the tabling of the annual budget, Council resolved to implement a consultative approach with the City's clients. The first ever consultative meetings were held with the Constituency Development Committees (CDC) operating in the Khomas Region.

One most important aspect in the running of the affairs is the its annual budget. In July the City fathers and mothers approved a cool N\$2,026 billion budget. The 2010/11 was the first ever compiled in consultation with the public and relevant stakeholders of the City of Windhoek. The City's budget is usually a reflection of Council's response to the needs of the residents, ratepayers and the business community served by council though within constraints of limited resources.

The Magdalena Stoffels murder that send shock waves in the entire country saw different sectors in the Windhoek community pioneering and joining hands with the City to clear bushes thereby cleaning open spaces. The City has also joined hands with Rent-a drum on a recycling project towards a cleaner City. The latter introduced the City to be moving towards a green City, thereby planting about 300 trees across Windhoek, marking the first ever celebration of the International Arbor Day in October. In order to deliver effective and efficient public transport service, the 20 passenger transport busses procured through a tender process from Scania Truck Namibia and Mercedes Benz were delivered with each company supplying 10 busses. The City of Windhoek also enhanced Zonal policing with 50 more vehicles in order to contain the crime situation in the City. The CCTV project which commenced in 2009 was also launched with a number of cameras and network equipment installed at identified sites such as, shopping malls, public open spaces and major road blocks.

The City of Windhoek also scooped the Golden award in the indoor exhibitors category at the 2010 Windhoek Show. The cherry on the cake was the election of our first black female Mayor, who is no stranger to us. A woman who proved to have what it takes to lead this City into the next phase, she is non other than, Alderwoman, Cllr. Elaine Trepper.

Considering the above, the year 2010 was indeed characterized by major ground breaking events, which in my opinion is a good omen for the new Council, standing on an established spring board to start well on a clean slate. The Aloe is but one of the many communication tools the City uses to fulfill its duty to engage in consistent and open dialogue with you our valued clients. May I take this moment to encourage you not to stop engaging with the Aloe via one of the 2 email addresses, communication@windhoekcc.org.na or els@windhoekcc.org.na

I will fail in my duty if I omit to thank you for reading the Aloe, engaging in discussions, providing the much needed suggestions, contributions and feedback that indeed forms the basis of all content in our newsletter. I wish to pursue a new approach in 2011, that of publishing commendable suggestions, feedback or contributions with your picture in the Aloe. Kindly provide your thoughts regarding that or other ideas on how we can together improve our newsletter. From the newly elected Alder Woman and Mayor of the City of Windhoek, Cllr. E. Trepper, Councillors, Management and Staff, May I now wish you and your families a well deserved holiday, a blessed Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2011.



After serving the City of Windhoek as Mayor for seventeen years, Namibia's longest-serving mayor, now Alderman Matthew Shikongo, bid farewell, leaving a "City of Excellence" behind.

He has by far been a remarkable ambassador this City ever had. A standard to be maintained and improved by those coming after him.

While we recognize his hard work, excellent service and his dedication and commitment to the Vision of the City of Windhoek, (to enhance the quality of lives of all our people), on behalf of management, staff and residents of the City of Windhoek, we all wish him a very happy retirement coupled with promising new beginnings in 2011.

Alderman Shikongo was instrumental in shaping both Council and Management of the City of Windhoek after independence. As the City grows, the demand for efficient service delivery increases concurrently. It is worth mentioning that, it is under Alderman Shikongo's leadership, that, municipal services continued to meet the increasing demand.

What would make his contribution utterly unique and significant is the fact that Mayor Shikongo and the outgoing 2004-2010 Council will be remembered as the team that not only kept the train on the tracks but really moved it forward.

Their fingerprints are seen all across Windhoek.

Addressing the last City Council meeting for the year, Matthew Shikongo, described his tenure as a success in which the Council made 'great strides'.

Shikongo said in a short space of time the Council has been transformed into a leader in the international Local Authority arena where they now command great respect.

Under the 2004- 2010 Council leadership, Windhoek also grew into a peaceful and relaxed city.

The Council adopted a policy of openness and consultation, thus gained the participation of Windhoek residents in addressing the expectations of the electorate.

Communities in Windhoek matured to exercise their own value preferences, determine their own community values and call their elected representatives to public account.

On the other hand, Council maintained the existing infrastructure and standards to promote an atmosphere for investment and creation of job opportunities.

The then Mayor, now Alderman Shikongo thanked the residents of Windhoek saying, ***"it has indeed been a pleasure to work together in the interest of our beautiful City. It was an exciting period of an incredible learning experience for me. I have forged many friendships and I have had the opportunity to represent the greater diverse communities of Windhoek which at that time just emerged from the apartheid system of divide and rule. I thank the Windhoek***

residents for their participation in the running of this City, for without their efforts, the City could not have made the milestone achievements". Wishing the residents a blessed festive season, he also called for responsible drinking behaviour and avoid drinking while driving.

Below is a summary of achievements of the 2004-2010 Windhoek City Council under the leadership of the outgoing Mayor Cllr. Shikongo.

The outgoing Swapo Party led Council took a leaf from the 2004 Swapo Party manifesto which highlighted 3 thematic issues which guided the implementation program of 2004-2010 namely:

1. Maintenance of Law, Order and Good Governance;
2. Provision of Basic Services such as Water, Electricity, Roads and Housing; and
3. Development of Towns / Cities.

MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER

The Windhoek Municipal Council established the City Police which implemented community-orientated policing and problem solving approaches.

This resulted in timely reporting and response to reduce criminal activities in the City.

The City Police also established a complimentary relationship with the Namibian Police and has seen successful joint operations.

As part of the overall strategy of maintaining Law and Order, Council also implemented the use of advanced technology such as 24-hour Close Circuit Television (CCTV) monitoring the streets.

Some of the approved projects include the implementation of a Computerized Crime Mapping System, the Ground Positioning System (GPS) and Computerized Occurrence Register.

To learn best practices in city development, the council established networks with other countries that are leading champions in local policing such as Canada and France.







PROVISION OF BASIC SERVICES SUCH AS WATER, ELECTRICITY, ROADS, LAND AND HOUSING.

Water

Council maintained a steady supply of good quality water to all our residents by making substantial investment in crucial Water Infrastructure such as:

- Artificial Recharge of underground water through bore holes;
- Goreangab Reclamation Plant;
- Gammams Waterworks; and the
- Installation of Pre-paid Water Points in nearly all the Informal Settlement areas.

Sanitation

The City of Windhoek is proud to have held high the banner of the Cleanest City in Africa.

Council invested a considerable amount of money to increase/expand Water and Sewer Distribution Networks and cater for the ever increasing demand and increase pumping capacity.

Currently, there is an efficient management of solid Waste for all residents (Residential, Business or Industrial).

A Water and Sanitation Committee (WATSAN) was also launched during this season.

The Committee launched a cleaning operation for installation of 318 dry sanitation facilities in the areas of Okahandja Park and Havana and such services will soon be extended to all the Informal Settlements.

It is however important to mention that provision of sanitation facilities in the Informal Settlements remains a big priority, as the service is directly dependent on water availability and affordability to the residents of such settlements.



Electricity

Amidst the general electrical power shortage in the SADC region and in Namibia, City of Windhoek residents continued to enjoy uninterrupted electricity supply.

The city takes pride in delivering such a critical service without outsourcing electricity under the Regional Electricity Distribution Scheme.

Moreover, despite the shortage of resources and also without any subsidy from Central Government, the council has managed to power its residents.

In striving to ensure that all residents have access to electricity throughout the City, Council electrified the following informal settlement areas with high mast lights, as well as installed individual electricity connections to some settlements such as,

- Havana 1 to 6;
- Kilimanjaro;
- Babylon;
- Ongulumbashe;
- Onyeka 2
- 7de and 8de Laan in Otjomuise;

Road Infrastructure

During this period under review, council spent close to N\$ 300 million to expand, improve and maintain the Road Infrastructure, as indicated below.

- Extension of Robert Mugabe Avenue;
- Construction of the Rocky Crest Bridge on the Western Bypass;
- Surfacing of roads in Katutura and Khomasdal including the Khomasdal Bridge and traffic circle;
- The expansion of roads in new township developments including Auasblick and Kleine Kuppe;
- The surfacing and tarring of roads in Katutura, Rocky Crest and Samora Machel, Tobias Hainyeko, Moses Garoeb and Khomasdal North Constituencies.

The increase in the vehicle population resulted in the widening of some roads and intersections such as the Maerua Mall intersections.

Land use

In addition, the Swapo led Council, invested a considerable amount of money in servicing land for different uses, particularly residential use.

Notable amongst these, were the development of 28 commercial sites in the northern industrial area, 56 in





southern industrial area and several portions along Lazarett and Paterson Streets in the Southern Industrial Area.

As far as residential land is concerned, 500 residential erven were availed in Cimbebasia and Kleine Kuppe, during 2007.

Areas such as Auasblick, Otjomuise and Khomasdal Extension 16 were also serviced for residential dwellings.

Council developed policies and procedures to provide access to land to all income groups.

To this end Council deliberately developed Otjomuise Extensions 8 and 9 with a yield of about 500 erven, to cater for households with a monthly income bracket not exceeding N\$8000-00.

Council also revised its Credit Control Policy in order to protect the pensioners if they become indebted for municipal rates and taxes.

Development of the City

In order to enhance the quality of lives of its residents, the City Council constructed and upgraded several markets such as Okahandja Park, the Khomasdal Market and Oshetu Market (commonly known as the Single Quarters).

Council implemented a BEE approach in allocating tenders, since 2006 and many previously disadvantaged people benefitted in various projects.

Thirty four tenders for the purchasing of business erven were allocated to SME's, while some were included in the



tenders of all Capital projects for both knowledge and skills transfer.

Contracts to the value of N\$ 84,5 million were awarded to 82 SME contractors ranging between N\$ 150 000- 00 to N\$2.5 million.

Council approved the construction of the N\$20 million state of the art, soon to be completed, Rocky Crest Multipurpose Centre.

As for sports and recreational facilities, Council upgraded the Khomasdal and John Nankudhu Stadiums. Additionally, the Council constructed the Sam Nujoma Stadium which later attracted a donation from FIFA.

Several play grounds throughout the City such as the Samora Machel playground (which is the largest playground in Windhoek), were constructed.

Council adopted the new concept of family play parks such as the Sigma Park in Khomasdal Northeast constituency.

Katutura Swimming Pool was upgraded and the Olympia Swimming Pool relocated.

Council acquired 20 new buses to ensure that Windhoek residents have access to affordable public transport.



Considering the above, it is evident that the 2004-2010 Council has achieved the objectives as guided by both the Local Authorities Act 23 of 1992 and the 2004 Swapo Party manifesto.

New council 2010-2015



Kristof Shikongo and the previous council members for a job well done. **"The foundation you have laid forms the springboard of our efforts, to carry forward the development agenda of our Organisation"** she said.

The Windhoek voter population has conferred a political responsibility and a mandate upon a new set of Councillors at both Local and Regional Council level. We congratulate and welcome the first black female Mayor of the City of Windhoek, Alderwoman Elaine Trepper, deputized by Cllr. Gerson H Kamatuka (on the picture above). The new Management committee members are, Cllrs. Agnes M. Kafula (chairperson) Boas Ekanjjo, Christina Swart-opperman, Mwadhina H.K. Veico and Cllr Moses Shiikwa (on the picture below).

As effective and efficient municipal service delivery tops the agenda in her acceptance speech, Her Worship, Alderwoman Trepper reiterated that her appointment as the Mayor will see her follow through with her commitment to fight against one of the greatest difficulties faced by the Windhoek residents: affordable municipal service delivery at cost recovery. She believes that with common action, that of seeking to bring about a better life for the people of Windhoek as directed by the SWAPO Party Manifesto and by the Local Authorities Act 23 of 1992 from Councillors, Management and staff of the City of Windhoek, half the battle is already won.

Trepper thanked the SWAPO Party and the people of Windhoek for the trust and the confidence they have in her to serve as the Mayor of this great City. She also thanked her predecessor, Alderman Matheus

Alderwoman Trepper also appealed to the residents of the City to contribute and be part of the management and administration of the City of Windhoek through the appropriate forums and channels. This will make it easy for the new councillors to implement the Vision of the City of Windhoek "to enhance the quality of life of all our people" Trepper said. She further acknowledged enhanced cooperative governance by strengthening the Intergovernmental structures as the important pillar of a stable governance. Above all, Mayor Trepper did not mince her words with regards to serving the Windhoek community **"Our task as the leadership is to ensure that the City of Windhoek is a City at work, at work in the interests of its people that the millions of visitors will revel in our hospitality and the services we provide"**.

The Management and Staff of the City of Windhoek together with the residents pledge our unwavering support to your mandate and wish the incoming council, under the leadership of Her Worship, Cllr. Elaine Trepper, all the best in achieving the vision, mission and the strategic objectives of our beautiful City, as mandated by the Local Authorities Act 23 of 1992 and the SWAPO Party Manifesto.

On behalf of the Editorial team of the Aloe, I, Liz Sibindi wish you and your families a blessed Christmas and the very best wishes for the year 2011.

