Groundbreaking for the new Fire Station in Otjomuise

The City of Windhoek has experienced significant population growth during the last 15 years, from a Population of approximately 180,000 in 1995 to over 350,000 in 2010. The City’s Emergency Management (fire brigade) facilities and resources have not kept pace with this growth and maintained the same staff complement of firefighters and ancient facilities, in addressing the ever increasing and challenging responsibilities of firefighting.

A very pleased Mayor of the City of Windhoek Cllr. Matheus Shikongo, who projected the City’s population to be beyond a million by 2030, stated at the ceremony that the construction of the facility will cost the ratepayers N$21 million excluding the running cost of about N$12 million. Shikongo once again called on the central government, to subsidize the services delivered by the Municipalities in the country, in order to reduce the burden on the rate payers.

Junior Councillors at the feet of the elderly, finding wisdom

“The death of the elderly is like a burning library” says an old African proverb. The City’s Junior Council certainly found meaning to this adage on Saturday June 18, at the parliament gardens, as they sat at the feet of the elderly, carefully listening to their life experiences and absorbing the wisdom that was freely offered. Approximately sixty Senior citizens between the ages of 59 – 90, spend a delightful afternoon with the Junior Councillors playing water balloon games, egg races and various other games before sitting down for a well prepared hot lunch as they continued to impart words of wisdom to the youth. The resounding message was that, the young people should value opportunities such as education and make the most of it, go on and become positive contributors to the growth of the country and its economy.
Shikongo amongst others highlighted the City Police service as an example, proposing that, since the City Police service complements the National Police, part of its budget should be subsidized by Government. The Mayor also calls for the rerouting of the fees from parking meters that are supposed to be the City’s income, but ends up at the National Treasury.

The City of Windhoek currently has 3 fire stations and the City is currently divided into 3 zones. However, as the City has grown, the response time to some incidents is beyond the allowable standard of 8 minutes after the call has been received.

This has prompted the City of Windhoek to conduct an emergency coverage risk assessment. The assessment revealed that three additional fire stations are needed to cater for the expansion of the city. These sites were identified as follows:

1. The site between Khomasdal and Otjomuise
2. Stadion street, Olympia
3. Stein street, Klein Windhoek

The groundbreaking ceremony signified the commencement of the construction work of the Otjomuise Fire Station, to be completed in July 2010. Otjomuise was prioritised due to its vulnerability, high risk in terms of fire outbreaks as well as to shorten the emergency response time to 5 minutes to the areas below:

- Otjomuise and surrounding informal settlements (7de Laan, 8ste Laan, 9de Laan)
- Greenwell Matongo and Goreangab
- Rocky-Crest
- Sam Nuyoma drive (Dan Viljoen Road)
- Otjomuise road up to Monte-Cristo:
- And other informal settlements in the area

The construction of a Fire Station alongside the Otjomuise road is an indication of the Windhoek City Council’s commitment to bring essential services closer to the communities, while providing infrastructural facilities and resources to render quality and professional service to the residents of Windhoek.

Shikongo concluded by saying that, “Failure to provide appropriate, timely, and well-organised responses to the wide variety of emergencies that occur, has life or death consequences” in this regard, the new station is yet another milestone to Windhoek’s overall safety and security framework.
Used oil collection in the City of Windhoek

Sources of used oil?
Used oil is oil refined from crude oil and synthetic oil, that has been contaminated by physical or chemical impurities as a result of being utilized.

The main generators of used oil are:
- Car and truck dealerships
- Auto repair shops
- Vehicle repair shops
- Machinery repair operations
- Petrol Service stations
- Government service centres
- Hydraulic equipment service and repairs
- Truck and bus fleets
- Airports
- Car Hire
- Transport contractors
- Do-it-yourself (DIY) or backyard mechanics/services

Used oil contains small quantities of substances that could contaminate air, soil and ground water. They may contain trace metals, chlorinated solvents, gasoline, polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons, glycols and PCBs.

When collected, used oil can be recycled and reprocessed into a useful product instead of becoming an environmental threat. Collection can only be successful if the oil is managed properly on the site where it is being used.

the bad
Improper used oil management could lead to:
- water pollution,
- soil contamination which consequently pollute the groundwater.
- It will also make your operational site look like this:

People do not think twice about discarding used oil, they simply dump it
- In fields,
- in ditches,
- down drains and sewers
- on the roadside.

Oil, when it comes into contact with water, forms a film on the surface of the water, which can drastically reduce the level of oxygen in the water. The organisms used for water purification require oxygen to function and this film of oil on wastewater make it difficult for micro organisms to breathe. Oil can also coat plants and animals that come into contact with it. Oil contamination can therefore cause problems at sewage works rendering them inoperable.

continue page 4...
Steps to used oil management:
- For large and medium operators install an oil trap.
- An oil trap is a device that can be installed to prevent oil from entering the sewer system from the site it is used.
- For small operators, obtain a good oil container.
- Call the City of Windhoek on time for your oil collection, do not wait until container or trap is overflowing.

**Trap maintenance**

The trap needs to be cleaned often to prevent sludge build-up which could render the trap non-functional.

The City of Windhoek has an oil collection program with established service places. It has introducing used oil collection facilities around the City. So far five collection points have been set up where you can safely dispose of used oil. The collection facilities are situated at:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collection Point</th>
<th>Physical Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Katutura Industrial Stalls (Fig. 2)</td>
<td>Hostel Street, Katutura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Khomasdal Industrial Stalls</td>
<td>Ranonkel Street, Khomasdal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Menorovandu Industrial Stalls</td>
<td>Attie Potgieter Street, Katutura</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk Water and Waste Water Division (Fig. 1)</td>
<td>Pullman Street, Windhoek North</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southgate Shell Service Station</td>
<td>Corner of Mandume Ndemufayo and Tacoma Street</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regular pumping of oil from the trap will also allow the trap to function effectively.

An oil trap is a device that can be installed to prevent oil from entering the sewer system from the site it is used.
Property Taxes

All people who own rateable property within the municipal boundaries of Windhoek have to pay property tax (rates) based on the value of their properties.

The valuations used to determine the property tax (rates) have to be determined every five years, as required by the Local Authorities Act, 1992. In other words, every rateable property has to be revalued. This process is referred to as the GENERAL REVALUATION. These property values are approved in a VALUATION COURT.

The main purpose of the general revaluation is to maintain equitable and uniform property values for property owners throughout the City. The real estate market is always changing based on the prices achieved as a result of the interaction between buyers and sellers. Such changes vary from one class of property to another, and from township to township, based on quality of life, standards and demand and supply.

All residents who own rateable property within a local authority such as Windhoek, by law are required to pay municipal rates and taxes on these values as they change after each revaluation roll. When the revised valuations came into effect in the middle of November 2006, the tariffs will be revised downwards so that the total rates collected based on the old valuations were equal to the total rates collected based on the revised valuations. It therefore follows that in most, if not all cases, the bill did not change. This is so because the total amount collectable during the following Council’s financial year from rates is determined during the budget process. The revaluation programme for the next six months is as follows:

- Klein Kuppe: 22 - 29 June 2010
- Academia: 30 June - 06 July 2010
- Pionierspark: 07 - 20 July 2010
- Olympia: 21 - 30 July 2010
- Auasblick: 02 - 06 August 2010
- Klein Windhoek: 09 - 31 August 2010
- Eros park: 09 - 31 August 2010
- Windhoek: 09 Sept - 08 Oct 2010
- Hochlandpark: 11 - 26 October 2010
- Dorado park: 27 Oct - 10 Nov 2010
- Khomasdal: 11 Nov - 3 Dec 2010
- Wanaheda: 06 - 17 December 2010

Make every drop count!

Help manage, collect and recycle used oil!

Be wise, put used oil in its place!
- Do not dump oil in the drain or rivers
- Look out for a used oil collection point located conveniently close to you or find a garage or service station next to you that have a proper oil container or oil trap where you can dispose off your used oil

The City of Windhoek is still looking for more collection points to set up similar facilities and hereby urge businesses or entrepreneurs who may have space on their premises to accommodate such a tank for the public.

Please contact the City of Windhoek at the following telephone numbers:
- Oil collection: 290 2402/2162
- Illegal oil dumping complaints: 290 3470/2903
- Advice on used oil management: 290 3470/2903
The Khomasdal Market is a newly constructed informal Market situated on erf 4808 at the corner of Mahatma Gandhi and Hans Dietrich Genscher Streets. The market was inaugurated on the 17th of November 2009 by Councillor A. Kafula. The City of Windhoek recently organised a market promotional day to sensitize the community about the market including the range of products and services offered at the market. The event was proudly sponsored by the First National Bank, Streethouse Clothing, Namibia Beverages and the traders at the market.

The activities of the day included a live broadcast by Radio Energy, fun games for the kids and adults alike, rides with the bikers Association, live performance by Khomasdal’s own Whani Jansen and a lot of cash prizes and specials on offer by various traders of the market. The highlight of the day amongst others was the Secondary and Primary Schools dance competition as well as the Barbecue Competition. The Barbecue Competition participants were expected to represent a country taking part in the world cup.

1st prize of N$ 1000.00, was won by Ms E. Meyer. Her team represented South Africa. Second prize of N$ 400.00 and a gift voucher of N$ 250.00 from Street House went to Ms. V. Numbala representing Brazil.

The 1st prize winner in the Secondary School category was Dawid Bezuidenhout Secondary School that walked away with a hefty N$ 5000.00 and N$250.00 gift voucher from Street House Clothing, that went to each of the 8 participating learners.

Runner – Up was the Khomasura Secondary School that walked away with the 2 defensive driving courses sponsored by the National Driving Institute, a cash amount of N$50.00 and a City of Windhoek track suite for each participant.

Primary School Dance Competition was won by the only participants in the category. The Khomasdal Primary School also walked away with a cash amount of N$5000.00 to the school and N$250.00 gift voucher from Street House Clothing to each of the 4 learners who participated.

The event was graced with the presence of Councillor Agnes Kafula as well as Councillor Werner Claasen who also served as a judge in the competitions. The City of Windhoek thanks all the following sponsors, the Entrepreneurs at the Khomasdal market and the members of the Windhoek community, who support and contributed towards the success of this magnificent event.

Africa Day celebrated at UN Plaza

As Namibians pay homage to the founding fathers and champions of African Unity

City residents celebrated the 47th Anniversary of the Africa Day at the UN Plaza amphitheatre in Katutura on 25 May 2010 under the theme “Building and Sustaining Peace through Sports” a timely theme as it coincides with the hosting of the FIFA Soccer World Cup in South Africa.

In his welcoming remarks Councillor Mathew Shikongo, Mayor of the City of Windhoek said “I am glad to note that the Government of the Republic of Namibia always attaches great importance to its ties and cooperation with other African countries, and is willing and ready to develop a new type of strategic partnership featuring political equality, mutual trust, win-win economic cooperation and cultural interactions. We are pleased that the African Union, as the most important regional organisation on the African continent, has stayed committed to maintaining Africa’s stability, promoting its unity, driving its economic integrity, proactively engaging in international affairs and safeguarding the interests of the continent. Through unrelenting efforts, the African Union is now playing an ever more important role in both regional and international arenas to which Namibia contributes. We equally continue to embrace the spirit of Pan-Africanism and African resonance.”

The well attended event had a diverse audience from various embassy representatives to a enthusiastic crowd mostly made up of the youth. This prompted Governor of the Khomas Region, Sophia Shaningwya to share with the audience particularly the youth, why it is important to celebrate this day, she said “A group of African leaders such as Kwame Nkrumah, Sekou Toure, Ben Bella, Gamal Adel Nasse, Julius Nyerere and Kenneth Kaunda, guided by the spirit of Pan Africanism founded the OAU (Organization of African Unity) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The aim was to rid the continent of colonialism, promote unity, solidarity and international cooperation among the newly independent African states and to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of member states. Indeed, the OAU served as a strong foundation upon which the people of Africa have continued to build a stronger and more united continent.”

While there were several speeches delivered by various personalities at the event, there was ample entertainment available for the audience as well. They also enjoyed various performances from local talents such as Lady May, Uno Boy, Bethold and many others.

President Hifikepunye Pohamba encouraged Namibians to reflect on the long way traveled thus far, and look forward with hope, that the challenges facing Africa will be overcome. He said, sport is a universal language that is understood in all parts of the world and that the 2010 FIFA Soccer World Cup will go a long way in strengthening the bridges of peace within Africa and from Africa to other parts of the world.

He urged all Namibians to do what we can in order to build a brighter future for Africa’s children in peace and security.

City Teams making Windhoek Proud

Deputy Mayor Councillor Agnes Kafka with the City of Windhoek Team that participated in the NALASRA games in Keetmanshoop (27 – 29 May 2010)

Left: Tokkie Ndjavera captain of the City Netball Team next to Fellow player, Officer Hileni from the Windhoek City Police.

One of the games won by the City against Keetmanshoop Municipality

THE Namibia Local Authority Sports and Recreation Association (NALASRA) recently held the inter-municipal games in Keetmanshoop under the theme ‘Play Safe’ a theme dedicated towards the fight against HIV-AIDS. At the occasion, the City of Windhoek proudly walked away with several medals including Overall winner, a title they shared with Walvisbaai Municipality.

The event attracted over 500 delegates from various municipalities from town and village councils. At the opening, President of NALASRA Mr. Jeffrey // Naobeb welcomed participants saying “Its heartwarming to see the great turn-out at the occasion of the NALASRA Games which further provides proof of our success in member mobilization and commitments to the association.”

The Association was established in 2008 by 23 local authorities.

Mr //Naobeb also said these games are being held to improve the mental and physical fitness of local authority functionaries, allowing them to network and ultimately improve their quality of life for all those involved. He believes that a country that plays as hard as it works is a very healthy one and that these games offer a competitive spirit and energy needed and establishes communication with counterparts from other local authorities in Namibia creating a mutually beneficial learning platform.

The body aims to unite sports enthusiasts from various local authorities in Namibia within a short time and give them a body that represents their respective interests.
**Every Tuesday**
*Windhoek Harriers Road Running Club*
Windhoek Harriers Road Running Club, all runners and walkers are invited to attend time trials commencing at 17h45 every Tuesday from United Sports Club in Olympia. Beginners, advanced runners and walkers are welcome. Races are held on a monthly basis. Charles Gordon can be contacted at Tel: +264 (0) 811 249471.

**Every Saturday**
*Green Market/ Biomarket*, fresh vegetables, milk products and many organic products are on sale at 3-5 Uhland Street in Klein Windhoek. Time: 09h00-12h00. For more information please contact Inge Glaue: 061 - 239 555.

**SHOW**

1-3 July  
*Dance Show*, organised by the College of the Arts. Venue: National Theatre of Namibia, Time: 20h00. For more information please visit www.ntn.org.na

16 & 17 July  
*Student Dance Show* organised by the National Theatre of Namibia, for more information please visit www.ntn.org.na

23 & 24 July  
*La Rosa Spanish Dance Theatre*, at the National Theatre of Namibia for more information please visit www.ntn.org.na

02 -30 July  
*HIMBA IN THE MIX* Afro-Centric Fashion Extravaganza and Photographic Exhibition Project. This exhibition attempts to draw attention to the beauty of the Ovahimba culture. Taking place at the FNCC Gallery. For more info please visit www.fncc.org.na.

05- 29 July  

Until 11 July  
*2010 FIFA World Cup*, view selected matches of the preliminary rounds of the 2010 FIFA World Cup on the big screen at the FNCC Restaurant Le Rende-Vous at FNCC Gallery or Goethe Centre

**NOTICE**

The City of Windhoek invites churches, schools and other community organisations within Windhoek to submit their upcoming events for publication at the discretion of the Editor of the Aloe on or before the 10th of the month, to the Editor at communication@windhoekcc.org.na

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**Worldcup fever in the corridors of the City of Windhoek**