

**STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP CLLR MUESEE KAZAPUA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK, ON THE OCCASION OF THE RENAMING OF BACH STREET TO PARAMOUNT CHIEF DR. KUAIMA RIRUAKO**

**DATE: 22 AUGUST 2018**

**TIME: 10H00**

**VENUE: BACH STREET, WINDHOEK WEST**

Director of Ceremonies, Mr. Robert Kahimise, Chief Executive Officer of the City of Windhoek;

Hon Laura McLeod-Katjirua, Governor of the Khomas Region;

Hon. Rachel Jacob, Chairperson of the Khomas region;

The Honourable Regional and Local Authorities Councillors Present;

Adv. Vekui Rukoro, Paramount Chief of Ovaherero Traditional Authority;

Distinguished Members of the Riruako Family;

Invited Guests,

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good afternoon.

 It gives me great pleasure, to address you at this historic ceremony, marking the renaming one of the major streets in our City, in honour of one our respected traditional leaders; and a renowned political leader in the history of Namibia, the late Paramount Chief of the Ovaheroro Traditional Authority Dr. Kuaima Riruako.

**Director of Ceremonies, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I believe that the foundation of our renaissance as a nation and as a sovereign country, must be our own rediscovery. As such, we must resurrect the leaders and legends of our history and culture; so that our city is representative of the people who lived here.

Therefore, the Council of the City of Windhoek, have adopted a Street and Place Naming/Renaming Policy Guidelines, by which streets and places in the City are named and or renamed. As a token of appreciation, the policy guidelines recognise the importance of paying tribute, to leaders who tirelessly devoted their time to their people.

It is in this spirit that Council decided to rename Bach Street in honour of the late Paramount Chief Kuaima Riruako after various applications were received from individual members of the community, and the Ovaherero Traditional Authority.

The late Paramount Chief Dr. Kuaima Riruako lived a memorable career, both as a political and traditional leader. His involvement and rise to influential positions started at a tender age, seeing him holding portfolios that he held until his fateful death. As a national leader, his contribution towards national development bears notable grounds; as he fought against colonialism, apartheid and imperialism. In the independent Namibia, his involvement in nation building founds surface; as he openly and passionately spoke against socio-economic immoralities.

Within the traditional set-up, he firmly stood by the traditional value system; of inclusivity that saw many united and rallied behind him, particular his subjects, the OvaHerero people. More remarkably, he is largely credited and remembered for his tireless and effortless engagement on the subject of reparations campaign; on the genocide of the OvaHerero and Nama people which took place during the period of National Resistance, from 1904 to 1908.

This Street measures approximately 2 630 metres in length., Along this stretch, it joins with amongst other streets, Hendrik Witbooi and Dr Sam Nujoma Drives. Thus, the direct connection with the aforementioned streets behold the relationship and social accolades that the late Paramount Chief Dr. Chief Kuaima Riruako shares with those two leadership personalities.

It is important to mention that, the decision to honour the late Paramount Chief Kuaima Riruako was anonymously taken by the Council, due to the instrumental contribution he made towards the development of Namibia. The renaming of this street will indeed forever reflect on the dedication he held on the social wellbeing of his community and Namibia at large.

**Program Director, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

As a Council, we value public participation and consultation in our decision making processes. In this context, the renaming of this street was advertised in local newspapers for public opinion. I am happy to inform you that; none of the Windhoek residents objected to the renaming of Bach Street to Dr. Kuaima Riruako Street.

This I believe, is an indication of how the Windhoek communities, value contributions made by the late Paramount Chief Dr. Kuaima Riruako, to the development of his community as a traditional leader and to Namibia; as a political leader and Member of Parliament. It equally symbolizes our unified pledge, to work together, united as a nation in our diversity, to build a better life for all of us today, and generations to come. The late Paramount Chief Riruako, did not only earn respect from the Ovaherero people he was leading, but was also a national leader who sought to unite Namibians from all walks of life.

On this note, I would like to thank the Riruako family for allowing us to inscribe the name of your father, uncle and grandfather, Dr. Kuaima Riruako on one of our major roads. As we rename the Bach Street to Dr. Kuaima Riruako Street, we must reflect on the values and principles he stood for.

With this few words, I thank you, for your attention**!**