

**The City of Many Faces**

**Mayoral Speaking Notes at the Handover of Christmas Donation to Elderly People, 08 December 2016**

**Date: 08 December 2016**

**Venue: Function Hall**

**Time: 11h00**

**Director of Ceremonies,**

**Our Elders and Community Leaders,**

**Honourable Regional and Local Authority Councillors,**

**Esteemed Invited Guests,**

**Members of Media,**

**Land and Gentlemen,**

Good morning

I am honoured to stand before as we meet here to share a light moment with our elderly citizens from all the corner of our city. This occasion is so special, more so because it coincides with the beginning of the festive season, which we as Namibians cerebrates in generosity. It has also become a tradition to us the City Council, that during the December month we prepare the City for the celebration of Christmas.

I am therefore very happy to welcome our elders and everybody present to this joyous occasion.

**Program Director,**

Xmas is the time of giving. However, the greatest gift we could exchange is to serve one another. It is for this reason that as part of the Mayoral Outreach programme, the City every end of the year hands out food stuff and materials support to deserving community members as Christmas gifts.

This is so because we remained cognizant that although Xmas is supposed to be a festive time of the year, there are amongst us, members of our communities who are less fortunate and find Christmas rather sad. As a tradition, the City last night handed out food stuff valued at N$20 000.00 to the selected OVC centers and deserving families on the occasion of the Mayoral Switching on of City Lights.

On the other hand, we are aware of the many challenges our old people are experiencing. Henceforth, we have embarked upon a deliberate program aimed at assisting our elderlies, who are trying hard to make ends meet, in many aspects.

Today, we are happy to have been joined by our corporate partners **Standard Bank Namibia** who contributed N$50,000.00, **Ohlthaver & List** who contributed N$25,000.00 and **Hon Matheus Amadhila**, the Chairperson of the Management Committee of the City of Windhoek, who contributed N$2,400.00 to the Mayoral Outreach program.

I am also happy to announce that the **Khomas Medical Centre**, pledged to contribute to our efforts an amount of N$25,000.00. On this note, I wish to, on behalf of Council, to extend our gratitude to these esteemed stakeholders, for this timely corporate social responsibility response.

It is therefore my belief that this contribution will indeed go a long way in putting a smile on the faces of the beneficiaries.

**Program Director**

The beneficiaries for this Christmas gifts were carefully chosen by our Hon Regional Councillors, through the Constituency Development Committees. They include elders residing within the boundaries of Windhoek and some vulnerable members of our community. I am also happy to mention that the large number of the beneficiaries is made up of pensioners and our elderly citizens.

Last year, I was happy to have received some of you at my office, when you engaged me on the issues of possible write off of municipal debts for pensioners. I have informed you and assured you of the Council’s ongoing efforts on addressing this social welfare matter, in search of a long term solution.

In the spirit of our Hambee Prosperity Plan, which calls for prosperity for all, Council is busy designing a policy that will guide us, on how our senior citizens and deserving members of our community could be assisted, on municipal services.

It is important to reiterate that our focus is on addressing the plight of the needy pensioners and vulnerable residents only. I am sure most of our pensioners who hold municipal accounts with us have found time to register themselves during the registration process which was undertaken by City. After verification of the register, we will then engage relevant stakeholders and authorities in order to find an amicable long term solution. Our focus is on possible write off debts, subsidized water supply and exemption from municipal rates and taxes.

**Program Director, Ladies and Gentlemen**, as we celebrate this holiday season, I hope we will continue to spend time with family and friends. Let us use this time to reflect and count our blessings. May I ask all Windhoek residents to remember your neighbours at this time of year, especially the elderly and those who live alone.

In the same vein, I would like to encourage other corporate entities to emulate the good example set by Standard Bank Namibia, the O&L Group and the Khomas Medical Centre.

It is important to mention that resources at the disposal of Council are not adequate for the City to sustain corporate social responsibility, such as this- we therefore count on our private sector partners. My office is busy setting up an independent Mayoral Development Fund from where initiative such as this will be supported. To realise that this fund is successfully set up, we will engage our corporate and development partners for support, when the fund is launched early next year.

In conclusion, my very best wishes also go to those who are sick at home or in hospital this Christmas and I wish you a speedy recovery.

I wish you all a Happy, blessed Christmas and a Prosperous 2016.