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MEDIA RELEASE

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK, HELD ON THURSDAY, 07 AUGUST 2025

1. City of Windhoek reverts to Normal Water Supply – Category A status

The City of Windhoek is pleased to inform residents that current water reserves are sufficient to sustain the city's water needs for at least the next two rainy seasons. Following this positive development, the City Council has resolved to lift the water restrictions previously imposed under the City of Windhoek Water Management Plan. The current 15% water savings demand target (Category D) and the associated tariffs will be revoked, with water supply reverting to 'Normal Supply – Category A' status in line with the Water Management Plan and applicable tariffs, effective 11 August 2025.

The 2024/2025 rainy season delivered above-average rainfall, resulting in improved water availability across the region. The City's water supply is primarily supported by three major dams, Swakoppoort, Von Bach, and Omatako, alongside the Windhoek Goreangab Operating Company (WINGOC), which plays a critical role in water recycling efforts. Recent assessments indicate that these sources have sufficient reserves to meet demand for at least the next two rainy seasons. Additionally, the inflows to the three-dam system have been adequate to support Managed Artificial Aquifer Recharge for the Windhoek Southern Aquifer. As of 6 May 2025, the Swakoppoort Dam was at 99% capacity, Omatako Dam at 72.8%, and Von Bach Dam at 81.3%, resulting in a combined capacity of 86.2%.

The City commences with the Managed Artificial Recharge of the Windhoek Southern Aquifer (WMARS), effective 11 August 2025, to further strengthen water security. No water restrictions will be imposed in the foreseeable future; however, the situation will be reviewed in May 2026 based on dam levels at that time.

The City of Windhoek remains committed to ongoing public education, awareness campaigns, and engagement initiatives to encourage responsible water use. Residents are urged to continue using water sparingly and wisely to ensure the sustainability of this essential resource.

2. Windhoek Council approves provisional park adoption by council members

At its meeting held on 31 July 2024, the Municipal Council of Windhoek provisionally approved the reservation of two public open spaces, Erf 7146 in Olympia and Erf R/4247 in Windhoek West, for development and adoption by Council Members Professor Job S Amupanda (now former member), Illse Keister, and Clemencia Hanases. This follows Council Resolution 153/07/2024, which encourages Council Members to voluntarily adopt parks to mobilize resources for their development or upgrading.

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The reserved erven, currently undeveloped and spanning approximately 90,980 m² and 5,508 m² respectively, will be developed in accordance with the Recreational Facilities and Public Open Spaces Development Master Plan. This includes adherence to principles of accessibility, sustainability, community engagement, and proper maintenance.

The provisional reservation is valid for twelve months, during which the Council Members are expected to submit detailed development proposals and funding plans, supported administratively by the Office of the Mayor and the Parks Division.

This initiative aligns with Windhoek's strategic goals of social progression, economic advancement, and infrastructure development, aiming to enhance green spaces for public recreation and community wellbeing.

3. Windhoek Council advances plans for Unique African Market

Windhoek's Municipal Council is moving forward with plans to establish a dedicated African Market, aimed at boosting cultural tourism, supporting local artisans, and formalising informal trading in the city. The initiative, driven by a motion submitted by former Council Member Professor Job Amupanda, envisions a vibrant marketplace showcasing authentic Namibian and African crafts, cuisine, and cultural experiences.

The Council approved the commissioning of a comprehensive Feasibility Study during the 2025/2026 financial year. This study will assess the financial viability, land options, and socio-economic benefits of the market. It will also incorporate stakeholder consultations with government departments and potential private partners to ensure effective planning and sustainable implementation.

The Windhoek African Market seeks to create safe, well-managed trading spaces that empower local Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), especially women and rural artisans. Drawing inspiration from successful markets in Kenya, Turkey, and Ghana, the project aims to enhance Windhoek's appeal as a cultural tourism destination and provide meaningful economic opportunities for residents.

Council further tasked the Strategic Executive for Economic Development and Community Services to develop a detailed market plan, including design, infrastructure, operational frameworks, and budgeting, to be submitted for approval.

The initiative aligns with Windhoek's broader strategic goals of economic advancement, social inclusion, and tourism development, promising to enrich the city's cultural identity while formalising informal trade sectors.

Please take note that the above are only highlights of the council meeting. More details about all the items discussed are available on our website through this link: <https://www.windhoekcc.org.na/council-agenda/>

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ISSUED BY:
City of Windhoek
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Corporate Communications, Marketing, and Public Participation

For more information about this statement, please contact our Corporate Communication Section at Tel.: 061 290 3797 /2044, or email: cowcommunication@windhoekcc.org.na



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