



80 Independence Avenue  
**WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA**



*The Gateway to Endless Opportunities*

**Tel:** (+264) 61 290 2615

**e-mail:** [CEO@windhoekcc.org.na](mailto:CEO@windhoekcc.org.na)

[www.cityofwindhoek.org.na](http://www.cityofwindhoek.org.na)

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

Wednesday, 17 September 2025

### **Clarification on Informal Settlement Upgrading and Related Funding Matters**

The City of Windhoek wishes to provide clarity following recent media coverage and public commentary concerning the nationwide upgrading of informal settlements, particularly in reference to the reported pledge of N\$750 million by the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development (MURD) to the City.

We acknowledge the importance of this national initiative and remain committed to the shared goal of improving the living conditions of our residents in informal settlements. However, it is critical to correct certain misconceptions and misrepresentations that have emerged in recent reports.

### **Ongoing Commitment and Proactive Implementation**

Contrary to reports suggesting non-responsiveness by the City of Windhoek, we wish to place it on record that the City has long been actively engaged in upgrading informal settlements. Our commitment began well before the national initiative was launched in March 2025.

Through Council Resolution 342/10/2020, the City mandated its Housing and Land Delivery Division within the Department of Housing, Property Management and Human Settlement to implement end-to-end project management to address informal settlements. This was followed by Council Resolution 220/10/2021, which laid out targeted short-, medium-, and long-term interventions targeting various income segments, with implementation commencing in the 2021/22 financial year.

This proactive planning has enabled the City to align seamlessly with the more recent broader national initiative and to immediately commence project execution in the 2025/26 Financial Year. Current projects under implementation include planning, municipal service design and construction, as well as housing delivery in the following areas:

- Portion A of Farm 1028 (Part of Farm 508) – Havana Extension 13
- Remainder of Farm 1028 (Part of Farm 508) – Havana Extension 14
- Farm 1029 (Part of Farm 508) – Havana Extension 12
- Farm 1033 (Part of Farm 999) – Otjomuise Extension 14
- Remainder of Farm 999 (Part of Farm 508) – Otjomuise Extension 15
- Erf 3161 & 3383 Otjomuise – Otjomuise Extension 8
- Erven 2314, 2340, 2347, 2339 – Okuryangava Extension 5

***All official correspondence must be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer***

## **Engagement with the Ministry and Stakeholders**

The City of Windhoek categorically denies any suggestion that it has not engaged with MURD on this initiative.

Our implementation team has been attending all monthly technical meetings with other stakeholder local authorities, during which regular reporting takes place. The most recent comprehensive report released on the 15<sup>th</sup> of August was submitted and discussed during the August 2025 meeting.

Furthermore, as early as April and May 2025, the City submitted a detailed report to the Ministry on the formalization and upgrading of informal settlements, which included project schedules, financial estimates, and implementation frameworks.

## **On the N\$750 Million Pledge and Conditionalities**

While the City appreciates the pledged funding from MURD, we must express concern regarding certain conditions attached to the pledge, which are, unfortunately, impractical or legally untenable.

### **a) Procurement Process and Legal Compliance**

The Ministry's expectation that the Municipal Council of Windhoek be appointed as a "public entity" under Section 34 of the Public Procurement Act, 2015 (Act 15 of 2015) is legally inappropriate, unpractical and not executable. The conditions outlined in this section do not apply to this context, and any attempt to proceed as proposed would contravene both the letter and spirit of the Act.

### **b) Unrealistic Timelines and Milestones**

The proposed timelines and financial milestones, as set out in the Ministry's communication, do not align with the statutory requirements under the Urban and Regional Planning Act, 2018 and the Public Procurement Act, 2015. These laws mandate specific planning and procurement procedures that inherently require time to implement responsibly and lawfully.

Despite these constraints, the City continues to move forward with implementation at the fastest legally permissible pace, and we are confident that our expenditure will surpass that of any other local authority during the same period.

## **Addressing the Threat of Funding Reduction**

The City has noted both formal and informal statements suggesting potential reductions in the pledged N\$750 million due to alleged "non-performance." These allegations are without merit and lack a factual basis.

As of the latest correspondence dated 30 May 2025, the Ministry's pledge remains at N\$750 million, with no reductions confirmed to date. The City of Windhoek remains fully committed to utilizing these funds within the bounds of all relevant legal frameworks and in line with best governance and technical practices.

## **Conclusion: Our Commitment to Sustainable and Inclusive Development**

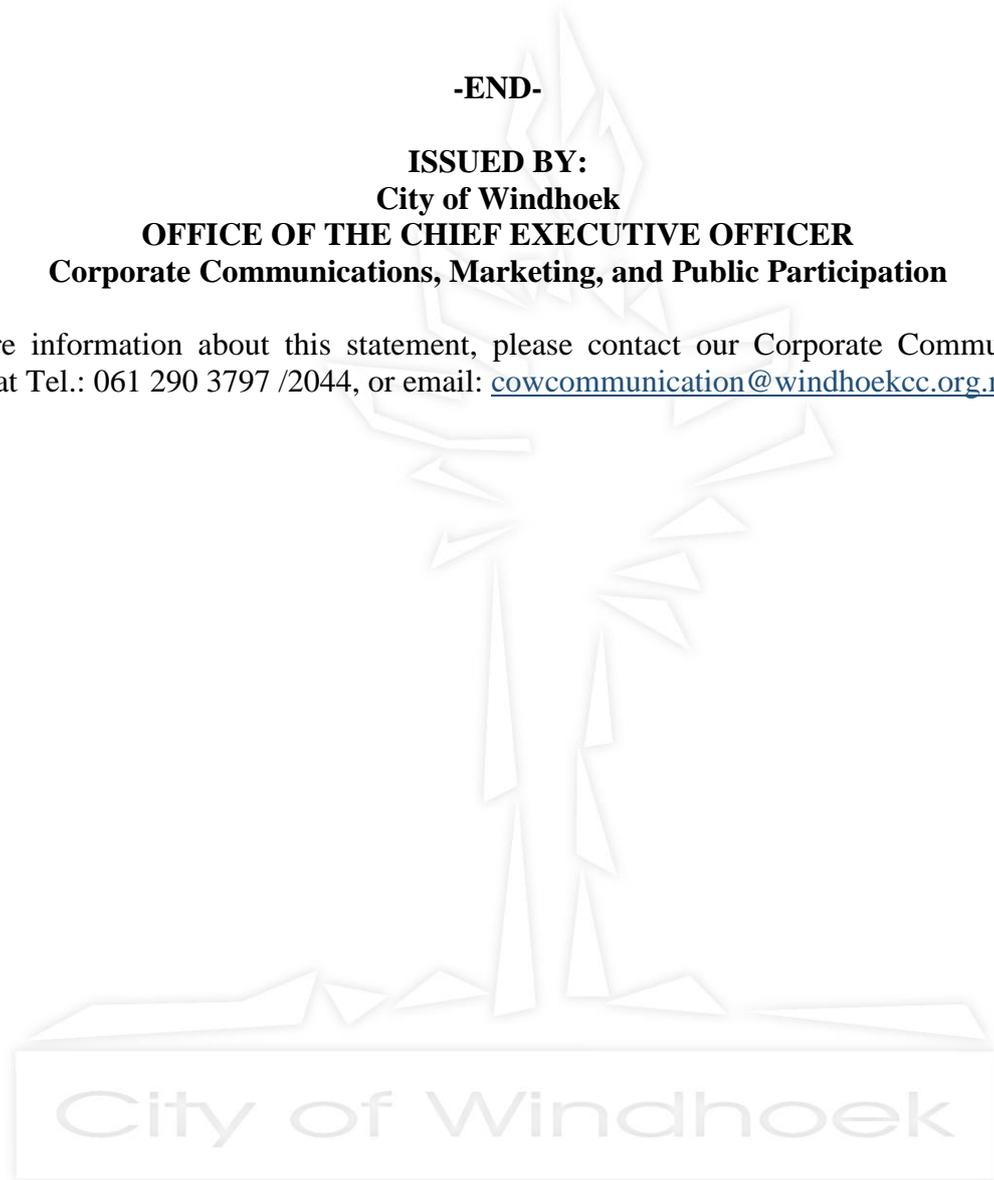
The City of Windhoek reiterates its commitment to upgrading informal settlements and addressing the needs of all residents. We remain guided by our vision of being a sustainable and caring city, working in partnership with all spheres of government and our communities.

We trust that this statement serves to clarify our position and reaffirm our proactive role in this critical national endeavor. We call upon all stakeholders, including the media, to engage with facts and to support a collaborative, solutions-driven approach to urban development.

**-END-**

**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](mailto:cowcommunication@windhoekcc.org.na)



*The Gateway to Endless Opportunities*