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MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 1 April 2025

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, HELD ON MONDAY, 31 MARCH 2025

1. City of Windhoek to receive donation of Infrastructure and equipment for Farm Okukuna from AfriFoodLinks

The City of Windhoek is set to receive a donation from AfriFoodLinks, an EU-funded project, to enhance urban agriculture. Valued at approximately N\$ 750,000 (€ 35,000), this donation will support the growth and development of Farm Okukuna, an urban agriculture initiative located in Goreangab, Windhoek. Established in 2015 by the Municipal Council of Windhoek, Farm Okukuna aims to address food poverty, empower small-scale farmers, and promote sustainable urban agriculture. The farm currently features thirteen greenhouse plots, irrigation systems, and water tanks, all designed to help beneficiaries grow a wide variety of crops.

The contribution from AfriFoodLinks will provide essential infrastructure and capacity-building support for the farm. This donation aligns with the City of Windhoek's broader efforts to promote sustainable agricultural practices within the city and create opportunities for small-scale farmers to thrive.

2. City of Windhoek's Farm Okukuna to receive donation of three e-solar motorcycles from Ministry of Agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform will donate three E-Solar motorcycles to support the Farm Okukuna urban agriculture project. This donation aims to enhance the farm's operations by ensuring that project participants are better equipped to produce food for both self-consumption and income generation.

Farm Okukuna, located in the Goreangab area of Windhoek, was established by the Municipal Council of Windhoek in 2015. The project focuses on empowering small-scale farmers by providing them with the tools and resources to sustainably grow crops, with an emphasis on addressing food insecurity in the urban area. The donated E-Solar motorcycles are expected to improve the mobility of farmers and facilitate the transportation of goods, contributing to the farm's efficiency and its ability to market surplus produce.

3. City approves partnership for New Science, Technology, and Innovation Centre

The Windhoek Municipal Council has approved a proposal for a partnership with the Namibia Centre for Research, Science, and Technology (NCRST) to establish a Science, Technology, and Innovation Centre (STIC) at the UN Plaza Community Complex. Located at the corner of Independence Avenue and Penning Street in Katutura, the UN Plaza Community Complex is set for renovations estimated at N\$2,300,000. The partnership agreement grants NCRST the rights to renovate the restaurant building

at the complex and lease the space for a period of five years. The lease may be extended based on a mutual agreement between the two parties.

The establishment of the Science, Technology, and Innovation Centre is expected to provide city residents with innovative educational resources. It will act as a hub for fostering creative thinking, advancing scientific and technological projects, and inspiring students, educators, innovators, entrepreneurs, and particularly youth.

4. City of Windhoek approves amendment to Institutional Land Policy

The Windhoek Municipal Council has approved amendments to the Institutional Land Policy, which regulates the use and transfer of institutional land and sports grounds. Under the new policy, land can only be used for the purposes for which it was originally intended. Purchasers of land, as well as their successors, are prohibited from changing the property's use, selling, leasing, or donating it without the Municipal Council's consent for 30 years from the date of transfer.

Any sale, sublease, or donation to a third party will require the Municipal Council's approval and may incur a penalty based on the difference between the original purchase price and the current market value. Transfers to third parties will only be considered if the property has been improved according to the Windhoek Town Planning Scheme or is subject to a court order. If the property is not improved, the Municipal Council reserves the right to buy it back at half its market value.

These amendments apply not only to all new sales but also to existing sales where notarial conditions are still in effect. The aim of this policy is to ensure that institutional lands are used appropriately and developed in line with the city's planning goals.

5. City to conduct general valuation of all rateable properties starting May 2025

The City of Windhoek will begin a general valuation of all rateable properties within the municipal area on 1 May 2025. This crucial process will involve the collection and analysis of data to determine updated property values, which will be used to establish a new base for rates and taxes for the next five years.

The Municipal Council of Windhoek last conducted a general valuation in February 2015. The general valuation is a mandatory activity that must be carried out at intervals of no more than five years, in accordance with the legal requirements. This process will enable the city to establish a more accurate and equitable framework for determining property taxes, benefiting both the local government and property owners.

The entire valuation exercise is expected to cost N\$ 4,700,140.00, and is scheduled to take approximately twelve months to complete. The public will be informed of key milestones throughout the process, and opportunities for feedback and engagement will be provided.

6. Windhoek Municipal Council approves revival of the low-carbon public transport initiative

The Windhoek Municipal Council has approved the revitalization of the Low-Carbon Public Transport Initiative under the Move Windhoek Project. This initiative will allow the council to procure low-carbon electric buses and conduct a feasibility study to evaluate potential routes for integrating these electric buses into the city's public transport system.

The Move Windhoek Project is funded by the Green Climate Fund. It aims to enhance the frequency of public transport, improve accessibility, reduce traffic congestion, and enhance air quality, all while promoting public health. Ultimately, it contributes to a more sustainable future.

This initiative aligns with the City of Windhoek's Strategic Plan for SMART Cities, which emphasizes technological innovation, operational efficiency, and sustainability. The project's goal is to decarbonize the mass transit sector by investing in high-capacity buses, including hybrid and electric models. This approach aims to make economic opportunities more accessible to low-income citizens while reducing pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from conventional vehicles.

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**

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