



The Gateway to Endless Opportunities

KEYNOTE ADDRESS DELIVERED BY:

**HER WORSHIP, COUNCILOR QUEEN OMAGANO KAMATI
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE:

**RENAMING OF THE CITY POLICE HEAD OFFICE FROM THE
P.A. DE WET BUILDING TO THE CHIEF A.K. KANIME
BUILDING**

Monday: 18 November 2024

10:30 to 13:00

City Police Head Office

Windhoek North

Directors of Ceremonies:

Deputy Chief Adam Eiseb, Deputy Head: Administration

Mr. Chris Eita, Manager External Relations & Networking

Hon Frans Kapofi, Minister of Defence and Veterans Affairs,

Hon John Shaalukeni Moonde, Chairperson of the Khomas Regional Council,

Regional and Local Authority Council Members present,

Cllr. Prof. Job Shipululo Amupanda, Chairperson of Council Heritage Committee

Former City of Windhoek Council Members, present,

Chief (Rtd) Abraham Kotokeni Kanime Former Head of Police Service and Madam Kanime and Family,

Mr Moses Matyayi, Chief Executive Officer of the City of Windhoek, all former CEO of the City of Windhoek

Veterans of the Liberation Struggle, Present,

Esteemed Service Chiefs of Security Cluster:

- **Maj Gen Elias Mutota, Deputy Inspector General for Operations, Representing the Inspector General of the Namibian Police Force**
- **Brig Gen Nathanael Ngolo, Chief of Staff Defence Intelligence, Representing the Chief of the Defence Force,**

- **Commissioner Leonald Mahundu, Correctional Service Central
Regional Commander, Representing the Commissioner General of
the Namibian Correctional Service,**
- **Chief Leevi Shivolo Iлека, Head of Windhoek City Police Service
General Officers, Senior Officers, and the entire rank and file of the
NDF, Nampol, NCS, City Police, and Emergency Services, Present
Members of the Joint Committee on the Establishment of the
Windhoek City Police Service,
Retired and Former members of the Windhoek City Police Service
Esteemed Chief Executive Officers and Captains of industries
Strategic Executives and Officials of the City of Windhoek,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good morning fellow Citizens,

Today, we stand on historic ground not only to rename a building, but to honour a legacy, of a servanthood leader whose dedication, courage, and vision has profoundly shaped the safety of our city, its unity, and spirit. Today, the P.A. de Wet Building will be renamed to '**Chief A.K. Kanime Building**', celebrating the acumen of a persona who is not only deserving of this honour, but emblematic of the progress, resilience, and dedication our city has come to represent. This momentous event was deliberately scheduled to coincide with the commemoration of the 18th anniversary of the City Police Service.

A day that not only marks the remarkable milestones achieved by the Service over the years but also pays tribute to the pivotal role that Chief Abraham Kanime has played as the First Head in its establishment and growth. Dear Chief Abraham Kanime, your leadership, vision, and unwavering commitment were instrumental in laying the foundation for the success of Service and today, as we reflect on the progress made, we honour the legacy you have initiated nineteen (19) year ago. This also is a day about acknowledging the lasting impact of your contributions, which continue to guide and inspire the future of the Service.

As we reflect on the renaming ceremony, it is important to acknowledge the great strides taken for us to arrive at this juncture and on such a special day. Allow me now, to take us back for just a few moments and revisit the history of this building. P.A. de Wet served as Katutura's first administrator during the old Segregation Policy's implementation, according to records held by the National Archive. For decades, this building bore the name of P.A. de

Wet - a name linked to a painful period in our history, when segregation divided our people and wounded our city's spirit. The Apartheid Segregation Law forced the community of Windhoek to live and grow apart. It was a legacy of suffering, yet it is also a reminder of the strength, courage, and resilience that emanated from that struggle, igniting the resolve that would one day secure our liberation of Namibian nation.

DEAR INVITED GUESTS

Today, we set a new symbol in place, one that stands for a liberated society, inclusion, protection, and peace. We recognise Chief Abraham Kotokeni Kanime, who dedicated his life to serving the people of Windhoek and Namibia and we do so on a day that is notably befitting by way of commemorating the establishment of the City Police Service with its First Head.

This vision was not merely administrative, it was also deeply personal to him. Day after day, Chief Abraham K. Kanime inspired and motivated those around him with his dedication to the safety of our residents. His loyalty to Windhoek's residents and his commitment to justice and peace exemplify the ideals we hold dear as a city and as a nation. Chief Abraham Kanime's career, which culminated in his retirement in April 2023, reminds us of what true public service looks like - steadfast, courageous, and compassionate. It is against this background and upon Council's approval as per **Resolution 223/07/2023** approved the renaming of the said building in honour of Chief Abraham Kanime and in accordance with Section Thirty (30), Sub-Section 1, Paragraph (Q) which reads as follow:

q’ “to confer honours upon any person who has in the opinion of the Local Authority Council rendered meritorious service to its residents.”

read together with **Regulation 66** of the Windhoek Municipal Police Service Regulations which reads as follow:

66 ‘The Chief Executive Officer, with the approval of the Council, may honour or award to any person who is or was a member, for the extraordinary diligence or devotion in the performance of his or her duties as such member, such honour, monetary or other rewards as he or she considers appropriate under the circumstances.’

Hence, Council adopted the Street and Place Naming/Renaming Guidelines, to enable this process. Therefore, honouring Chief Kanime is a recognition that our past can be a source of strength for our future and through the renaming of this building, we affirm our commitment to diversity, equality, inclusion and a just society.

Today’s event was also fitting to memorialise Chief Abraham Kotokeni Kanime’s name here, for generations to come, as a testament to his enduring contribution to Windhoek and to Namibia. Chief Kanime, today I proffer this words of acknowledgement to you that this is also an opportunity for you to look before you and witness the fruits of your sweat and dedication. Your efforts and collaborative approach have made a difference, not only in assisting the Namibian Police Force in curbing crime in Windhoek but also in providing assurance of safety to the City residents, businesses and government as a whole.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

To date, we have witnessed a significant transition from conventional policing to smart policing strategies with increased technological advancements in preventing and combating crime, by-law enforcement, and managing traffic law enforcement. This transition, first laid out by the First Head of the City Police Service, is now being actively implemented by the current Head, who has worked tirelessly to ensure that the Service remains true to its core principles while embracing innovation and progress. Building on this foundation set by the First Head, a total of 130 CCTV cameras were then in operation, marking the beginning of sustained efforts to leverage technology in the fight against crime and to improve public safety. Since then, the current Head has overseen the expansion of this initiative, increasing the number of CCTV cameras to 400, reflecting the service's ongoing commitment to leveraging technology.

As we continue on this path, I want to reassure each one of you as well as Chief Abraham Kanime, that Council remains fully committed to supporting the Service through this transition. We will continue to invest in the tools, training, and resources needed to help you succeed. The use of technological equipment is highly embraced by council in order to continue to optimise our service delivery to make Windhoek the safest city in Africa and a self-regulating city when it comes to traffic law enforcement a reality. The Windhoek Municipal Council has also set a Strategic Objective to expand the number of cameras to 2000 by 2027.

Lastly, as the Service continues to evolve, I want to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance of discipline. I urge each one of you to remain

steadfast in your commitment to upholding discipline. This is because discipline is a cornerstone in the fight against crime and disorder, and together, we will continue to make a real and lasting impact in our community.

DEAR SERVICE CHIEFS

I also wish to remind all of our uniformed officers that as you execute your duties, you do so in collaboration with members of the various security cluster, represented here today, through planning and implementing joint operations. The fact that we are seeing members adorned in the Namibian Police Force uniform and the Namibian Correctional Service uniform, is testimony to the cohesion that exists between City Police Service and the sister Services. I would therefore like to thank the Lieutenant General Joseph Shimweelao Shikongo, the Inspector General of the Namibian Police Force and Commissioner General Raphael Hamunyela, Commissioner General of the Namibian Correctional Service for committing members to join their brothers and sisters in commemorating their day and sharing in the renaming of the City Police Headquarters in on honour of Chief Kanime, today.

To Chief Kanime, his family, and all who have served with him, we thank you and shall uphold with dignity, the foundation, principles and commitment that we all have come to associate with you.

To the residents of Windhoek, let us carry forward Chief Kanime's example as a guiding force towards a future of unity, security, and hope!

May the Chief A.K. Kanime Building stand tall as a beacon of safety, service, diversity and peace, and may Chief Kanime's legacy prevail for generations to come.

I now have the singular honour by the powers vested in me by Council to confer the renaming of this building in honour of Chief Abraham Kotokeni Kanime.

In so doing, allow to share the short brief history of the Chief Abraham Kanime. He was born in Lipanda Village in the Okahao Constituency, and his story reflects the heart of our nation's journey. He joined the liberation struggle in 1980, going into exile to fight for Namibia's independence. There, he received military training in Angola, Germany, and Yugoslavia, preparing to stand for freedom and justice. Through the United Nations Repatriation Programme, Chief Kanime returned to Namibia to be reunited with his family and community. However, Chief Kanime returned with a mission: to protect, to serve, and to build a safer Namibia. From 1991 to 1994, he served with distinction in the Namibian Defence Force, and from there, he rose within the ranks of the Namibian Police Force, serving as Station Commander at Wanaheda Police Station and later as Regional Commander in the Erongo Region. These positions, while distinguished, were just the beginning of his illustrious legacy.

In 2001, Chief Kanime joined the Windhoek Municipal Council with a vision. He founded the Windhoek Municipal Police Service (City Police) - an agency that remains central to our city's safety, security, and public trust. Under his leadership, the City Police Service grew into a proactive, respected, and efficient force responsible for preventing crime, traffic and by-law enforcement, creating public awareness and education, and fostering collaboration with national security agencies. Chief Kanime's vision was of a city where all could live, work, play and move in peace and security.

Therefore, I equally invite Chief Abraham Kanime to accept the conferment accolade and symbol of such conferment.

I Thank you.

QUEEN O. KAMATI

MAYOR