



**MEDIA BRIEFING STATEMENT BY HER WORSHIP, NDESHIHAFELA LARANDJA,
MAYOR OF THE CITY WINDHOEK**

DATE: 24 November 2025

TIME: 10:00

VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY OF WINDHOEK

Members of the Medi, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

12 March – Mayoral Media Briefing

As I ascended to the role of the Mayor on 21st of January 2025, I made an address to the City’s resident, set out my declaration of intent to ‘*Setting the Requisite Leadership Tone*’ for the road ahead for Windhoek.

1. **Clarity and Direction:** to provides a sense of direction for the city, helping people understand what values and priorities are important, whether it’s economic growth, sustainability, community safety, or social equity.
2. **Fosters Unity:** Help unite people toward a common cause or set of values. Every resident to feel part of a larger mission, foster collaboration among residents, government, and other stakeholders easier and more productive.
3. **Promotes Confidence:** to builds trust and inspires confidence among residents, businesses, and investors, for people to come forward and support initiatives and engage with city leadership when they feel the tone is consistent and forward-thinking.
4. **Enhances Communication:** A to open communication channels that can create an environment where transparency is valued, and feedback is encouraged. This leads to better engagement between the council and the people it serves, allowing for more informed decision-making.
5. **Attracts Investment and Resources:** Making a city more attractive to businesses and investors by communicating of stability, growth, and progress will likely see economic development, job creation, and increased resources flow into the community.
6. **Encourages Positive Change:** By setting a tone of innovation, inclusivity, or sustainability promotes progressive changes within the city. Encourages citizens to be open to new ideas and solutions, leading to advancements in city policies and community well-being.
7. **Strengthens Relationships:** Build strong relationships with other public officials, community leaders, and residents, as a measure of strengthening the city’s social fabric and enhances its ability to address issues collaboratively.
8. **Boosts Morale and Motivation:** For city employees and public service workers, to sets an encouraging and supportive tone fostering a positive work environment. This, in turn, boosts morale and productivity, making it easier for the council to achieve its goals.

I had set the course for my tenure, outlining a proactive, systematic, and transformational approach to governance. I emphasized that my leadership will be guided by the principles of Section 11, Subsection 5 of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act 23 of 1992) (as amended).

It clearly states that:

The mayor of a municipal council or town council shall in respect of the municipal council or town council concerned - (a) be the principal head and, in consultation with the municipal council or town council concerned –

- (i) initiate and formulate planning and development policies;
- (ii) initiate promotion for the creation of employment in its local authority area; and Republic of Namibia 23 Annotated Statutes Local Authorities Act 23 of 1992
- (iii) closely monitor the implementation of the policies contemplated in subparagraph (i); (b) have supervisory powers regarding the planning and execution of all development programmes and projects;

It is on that basis that I had to strike a balance between red carpet mayor and an engaging mayor. In other words a leader has to be different. Not for the sake of being different, but for the sake of starting something new. To be a leader is to be willing to challenge the prevailing consensus. I decided to lead with compassion, because it is very hard to affect another without feeling a certain measure of caring for that person. By being among the people you lead, you will be exhibiting the crucial leadership trait of humility

I reaffirmed my commitment to driving impactful initiatives and positioning my office as a catalyst for execution and governance excellence. I stated that, intend for my tenure and office to be at the forefront of executing transformational projects and serving as a hub of effective governance.

I pledge to lead with integrity, to listen to your voices, and to act boldly for the benefit of all our residents, to work tirelessly to ensure that every neighborhood thrives, every child has a chance to dream big, and every citizen feels the pride of calling this city home.

Yet I made it clear that, no leader can achieve this alone. The true strength of City of Windhoek lies in its people. The voices, passion, and ideas of the community will be the heartbeat of our progress. I invited you to hold me accountable, to share your aspirations, and to stand with me as I stride to shape the future of City of Windhoek This is because I was very much convinced that together, we can create a city with clean streets and flowing water.

Dear residents, as I stated that the success of our journey depends on all of us. Thus, progress isn't built in offices or council chambers alone; it is forged in the collective spirit of our people. As a city I called upon all of us to be ambitious, to set an example for others, and to ensure that City of Windhoek remains a beacon of hope, opportunity, and excellence.

VOICES MATTERS

02 April 2025 – Community engagement with residents of Okahandja Park and Babilon

I Engaged Okahandja Park and Babilon Residents on pressing challenges affecting their communities.

In Okahandja Park Extension A,

- a blocked culvert tunnel has been a persistent issue due to rubble buildup, illegal dumping, and overflowing municipal skip containers.
- Illegal electricity connections in the area pose serious safety risks.

Okahandja Park Extension B

- faces ongoing drainage challenges, with one tunnel blocked by a nearby home,
- Limited road infrastructure further complicates accessibility and emergency response efforts.

In Babilon Block B, residents continue to struggle with inadequate toilet facilities, including some that were built years ago but never connected to the sewage system.

In response, i pledged to engage the relevant municipal departments to expedite waste collection, address the toilet facility issues, and ensure the continuation of a program to install additional communal taps. She reaffirmed her commitment to working closely with residents to find sustainable solutions to these challenges.

25 July 2025 – Handover of sanitation hub in Babilon Area by the Mayor

The community courageously raised their voices and brought to the attention of the Mayor a concern of unused toilet in the area and the over reliance on a single toilet, often shared between children and their parents. In response to their plie, a modern sanitation hub was constructed in the Babylon area of the Tobias Hainyeko Constituency. The sanitation hub includes eight toilets and two urinals, addressing a critical need for improved sanitation infrastructure in the community. It forms part of the City of Windhoek’s broader strategy to enhance living conditions in underserved areas.

The mayor emphasized that access to sanitation is a basic human right and a key element of a healthy and dignified life. Similar projects are planned for other communities, including one nearing completion in the Mix settlement. She also encouraged residents to take ownership of the new facility by using it responsibly and helping maintain its condition. Local resident Ester Johannes, who has lived in Babylon since 1998, shared her appreciation, stating

“We have suffered for many years without proper toilets. This new hub is a blessing. I encourage my fellow residents to take care of our new facility and use it responsibly.”

13 April 2025 – Visit by the Mayor and Prime Minister to the Okahandja Park fire victims

A devastating house fire has claimed the lives of two young siblings, Elias Jonathan Ndapwoita (6) and Laimi Penohamba Ndapwoita (4), in Windhoek’s Okahandja Park informal settlement, Tobias Hainyeko Constituency.

The tragic incident occurred on the night of Saturday, 12 April 2025, between 20:00 and 21:00. The City of Windhoek's Fire Brigade (Maxwilili Centre) received the emergency call at 21:41 and arrived on scene at 21:47.

The children were reportedly home alone while their older brother stepped out briefly. Their mother, Saveria Shidimbwa (45), was on night duty at a local service station. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

The Right Honourable Prime Minister, Dr. Elijah Ngurare, and Her Worship, the Mayor of Windhoek, Cllr Ndesihafela Larandja, visited the grieving family to offer their condolences and assess their immediate needs. They were joined by Emergency Service Chief at City of Windhoek, Raymond Kapia, Tobias Hainyeko Constituency Councillor Christopher Likuwa and former City Councillor Mathilda Ukeva.

18 April 2025 – Mayoral Visit to the fire affected families

On Friday, 18 April 2025, Her Worship, the Mayor of Windhoek, Councillor Ndesihafela Larandja, visited Mr. Philipus Mwoondimani and his family in Maxwilili informal settlement, after a tragic shack fire destroyed their home and belongings.

The fire, which occurred last Saturday, consumed everything the family owned. Only a laptop and schoolbooks belonging to their daughter, a NUST student were spared

The Mayor, deeply moved by the family's loss, extended her support and solidarity, stating: "The Mayor's Office is not a private office. It is an office for the residents, it is here to serve the people of Windhoek, especially in times of hardship. When I took office, I declared action to serve the residents of Windhoek tirelessly,

Through the City's Disaster Risk Management Division, the Mayor donated mattresses and blankets to the family a gesture that was received with heartfelt gratitude.

This moment of compassion reflects the City's ongoing commitment to stand with residents in times of hardship.

In Okahandja Park

Visited the vulnerable family living in Okahandja Park, where I made a follow up with the family after encountering two siblings begging for food at Katutura Metro Complex. Deeply moved by their plight and physical appearance, provided them with food to eat and I gave them my contact details for the family to engage me. Parents contacted me, upon visit at their house I learned that their struggle extended beyond food security. During the visit I learned that their grandmother, who is keeping the family going with the social grant was paralysed, while their mother had no ID and was unable to replace it due to lack of funds, while two children lacked birth certificates because of their mother not having an ID. Using my own resources, With the support of City Police, I facilitated the replacement of the mother's lost ID and secured birth certificates for two children and also bought a school bag and shoes for the 14-year-old, contributed N\$1 000 for a

refill of a water prepaid card and provided food parcels through the Windhoek residents Mayoral Trust.

I also learned that the youngest child is not yet in school, while one travels long distance to school every day. Through my office, I facilitated the children's admission to nearby schools in 2026.

On the same day I also visited the home of a bereaved family who lost their 19 year old daughter, Emerencia Frederiks on 31 August, may her soul rest in peace. I learned their plight through the national broadcast, NBC, where the family appealed for assistance to bury their love once. The household of 21, has no employed member and struggled to meet expenses. I appealed to the public to donate the funds. The President of the Official opposition Party, Dr. Panduleni Itula, came on board, exercised the party's social responsibility towards the nation. He provide funds to cover the entire burial, starting with the coffin, meals and transportation.

MAYORAL CLEAN-CITY INITIATIVE

14 April 2025 – Consultative meeting concerning the skip containers in Windhoek

Following the consultative meeting held in March 2025 to plan and finalize the concept for the Mayoral Clean-Up Campaign 2025, Her Worship, Councillor Ndesihafela Larandja, Mayor of the City of Windhoek, directed the Solid Waste Management Division to defer the official launch of the campaign. This decision was taken to allow for the resolution of several critical issues affecting the general cleanliness of the city, with particular emphasis on improving the management and efficiency of the Skip Container System. In response to this directive, a series of targeted actions and initiatives were undertaken, as outlined

Between April and October 2025 alone, the City successfully completed around 11,919 skip removals and transported 4,379 loads of waste collected from the cleaning of open spaces and the removal of illegal dumping.

a) Training Workshop with Neighborhood Committees and Constituency Development Committees (CDCs)

One of the key strategies identified during recent consultative sessions is the strengthening of community engagement through structured collaboration with Neighborhood Committees in informal settlements and Constituency Development Committees (CDCs) in formal areas. These structures are essential for enhancing grassroots participation and improving service delivery across the City of Windhoek.

These sessions, aimed at empowering community structures, began with Neighborhood Committees from informal settlements. Between 12–22 May 2025, we trained **244 community representatives** through interactive sessions, facility visits, and presentations.

The objective of these sessions is to build the capacity of CDC members in addressing waste management challenges within their constituencies through practical knowledge, collaborative dialogue, and exposure to operational waste management systems.

The program includes:

- Interactive presentations and Q&A sessions
- Educational site visits to key facilities such as:
 - Health Care Risk Waste (HCRW) Facility
 - Waste Buy-Back Centre
 - Kupferberg Landfill Site
 - Selected satellite collection points

12 July 2025 – Launch of the Mayoral Clean- Up Campaign – Samora Machel Constituency

Planning for the 2025 Mayoral Clean-Up Campaign commenced in March 2025. Although the launch was initially scheduled for May, it was postponed to allow for comprehensive consultations and to ensure alignment with practical, long-term waste management solutions. The campaign was officially launched in June, following the Mayor’s satisfaction with the progress made in improving the cleanliness and management of skip containers. Between April and May, the division successfully emptied 5108 skip containers, and transported 1 877 These massive operations demonstrated our readiness to restore

The launch marked the beginning of a series of coordinated clean-up activities conducted across all constituencies, as outlined in the schedule below. The high level of participation and the exemplary leadership demonstrated throughout these campaigns are commendable and reflect a strong collective commitment to building a cleaner and more sustainable Windhoek.

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Constituency	Assembly Point (Venue)	Date
Samora Machel	Green Mountain Soccer Field	12 July 2025
Tobias Hainyeko	Stop n Shop	19 July 2025
Tobias Hainyeko	C/O Ongete & Ongava	26 July 2025
Moses Garoeb	Constituency Office	9 August 2025
Moses Garoeb	Havanna 4 Way	16 August 2025
WHK Rural	Mix Settlement	23 August 2025
Khomasdal (8ste De Laan)	C/O Istanbul & Frankfurt	6 September 2025
Khomasdal (7 De Laan)	Open Space Kitchener	13 September 2025
WHK East	Constituency Office	20 September 2025
Katutura East	Constituency Office	27 September 2025
Katutura Central	Single Quarter	4 October 2025
John Pandeni	Soweto Market Parking	11 October 2025
WHK West	NUST Library Parking	18 October 2025

1. Clean Skip Competition Concept

As part of the Mayoral Clean City Initiative, the **Clean Skip Competition 2025** will introduce a **Community-Led Clean City Competition**, focused on promoting the cleanliness and correct use of skip containers across the City of Windhoek. This campaign aims to foster **active civic participation**, encouraging local communities to take ownership in maintaining a clean, safe, and sustainable environment.

a) Target Areas: North-Western Suburbs

The 2025 competition will specifically focus on the following constituencies in the North-Western suburbs:

- John Pandeni
- Katutura Central
- Katutura East
- Tobias Hainyeko
- Samora Machel
- Khomasdal
- Moses //Garob

Communities living near these skips will be responsible for:

- Keeping the areas surrounding the skips clean and litter-free
- Ensuring only appropriate waste is deposited into skips
- Preventing and discouraging illegal dumping around the skips
- Reporting full or overflowing skips for timely servicing by the city
- Actively monitoring and discouraging misuse

12 September launched the Mayoral backyard garden at Maxuilili centre and on 15 October 2025 –launched backyard gardening training to boost food security

The primary objective of this project is to promote food security by raising awareness, and equipping our residents with practical knowledge and skills to successfully establish and maintain backyard gardens. We recognize that many households, especially in low- and middle-income neighborhoods, have under-utilized spaces that can become productive gardens yielding fresh vegetables and herbs. By doing so, we nurture nutrition, create opportunities to supplement household income, and promote environmentally sustainable practices.

This initiative is built around three core pillars:

First, **Backyard Garden Techniques**: We will introduce residents to proven sustainable practices such as composting to improve soil health, water-efficient irrigation methods including drip irrigation and greywater reuse, and innovative growing methods like raised beds, vertical gardens, and container gardening. We will also emphasize effective crop selection and seasonal planning to maximize yields.

Second, **Training and Capacity Building**: The project will conduct training workshops for households, community groups, schools, and vocational institutions. Our "Train-the-Trainer"

modules are designed to empower community leaders and youth groups to sustain and scale these efforts long-term.

Third, **Community Awareness Campaigns:** Through radio shows, flyers, community meetings, school campaigns, and demonstration gardens, we will engage and inspire Windhoek residents about the benefits of backyard gardening for improved nutrition, income generation, and environmental stewardship

The vision is to see Windhoek where every household has a patch of green: small gardens that feed families, that are sources of side incomes; where informal settlement areas are greener, healthier; where children know what fresh vegetables look like; where our city is more self-sufficient, and less vulnerable to global food supply shocks; where we manage our precious water more wisely; and where urban spaces become more beautiful and livable.

The training of the Mayoral Backyard Gardening Training was launched on 15 October 2025 at Farm Okukuna in Goreangab. This to ensure successful implementation of the project, 55 community members were trained, received a comprehensive starter kit which includes essential seeds, tools and composting materials. For it to remain impactful and a mayoral legacy program a network pyramid model was adapted, where each participant will be expected to transfer their knowledge to at least five others within their communities.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

24 January 2025 – Site visit flash floods affected areas

The Mayor of Windhoek, Ndesihafela Larandja, along with fellow councilors and city officials, visited the relocation site for families affected by flooding. The City, in collaboration with its stakeholders, has successfully relocated 102 out of a total of 890 structures from flood-prone areas. Plans are in place to relocate an additional 280 structures, not only from the Otjomuise riverbed but also from other flood-prone areas within informal settlements. The Mayor expressed appreciation for the collective efforts of everyone involved in providing timely assistance to flood victims during this challenging time. She stated that the City of Windhoek will continue to monitor the situation and implement long-term strategies to prevent future flood risks and improve infrastructure in the affected areas.

The City has already identified key locations for essential infrastructure, including three sites for water points, road clearance efforts to facilitate public transportation access, and plans for a police station, health center, and schools to serve the relocated community.

“The response to this emergency has been commendable,” said Mayor Larandja. “We are committed to ensuring that these families are not only given shelter but also provided with the dignity and services they need to rebuild their lives. I am pleased with the swift action of the City of Windhoek, as well as the collaboration with other stakeholders in the provision of emergency relief.”

20 February 2025 – Handover of food parcel to flash flood victims by the Mayor through the Windhoek Mayoral Trust Fund

On 4 January 2025, heavy rainfall caused flash floods that displaced several residents of Otjomuise's 7th and 8th De Laan, forcing them to relocate to a designated safe site in Goreangab (Farm 508). In response, the City of Windhoek and other stakeholders provided emergency relief by supporting the affected families.

Today (20 February 2025), led by Her Worship, Mayor Ndesihafela Larandja, along with Deputy Mayor Cllr Clemensia Hanases, Cllr Bernadus Araeb, Cllr Sade Gawanas, Cllr Magdalena Lombardt, Cllr Otlie Uukule, and the Board of Trustees of the Windhoek Mayoral Trust, the city donated 200 food parcels worth N\$100,000 to assist the relocated families. Each household received 5kg White Sugar, 5kg Maize Meal, 5kg Rice, 500g Macaroni, 2L Cooking Oil, 3x 410g Canned Fish.

Her Worship, Mayor Ndesihafela Larandja, emphasized the importance of the Windhoek Resident Mayoral Trust Fund, which relies on donations from stakeholders and friends of Windhoek to support vulnerable residents. She called on more partners to come on board, stating that the Trust Fund exists to provide financial assistance for social welfare initiatives, community development, food security, and education. "Without contributions from our partners, we wouldn't be able to support those in need. We invite more stakeholders to step forward and make a difference."

Trustee Chairperson of the Windhoek Mayoral Trust, Ms. Toucy Tjijombo also addressed the affected residents, acknowledging their resilience. "We see your struggles, and we appreciate your strength. Some of you have shared your dreams of starting small businesses nail salons, daycare centre, and hair salons. This fund is here to support such initiatives because we believe in empowering you to build sustainable livelihoods".

Stakeholders' Consultative meetings: 16 July 2025

Engaged targeted groups sessions to share key insights, achievements and challenges that have shaped our journey from 2020-2025. Meetings were vital in discussing matters of public interest and reporting on developmental projects. They allowed us to clarify misinformation, collect meaningful feedback, and foster civic pride. They have reinforced Windhoek's image as a city that listens – a city that is people centered, forward thinking and accountable.

17 May 2025 – Mayoral engagement with Neighborhood Committee members from the city's informal settlements

Her Worship, the Mayor of Windhoek, Cllr Ndesihafela Larandja, today engaged with Neighborhood Committee members from the city's informal settlements, who are currently participating in a Solid Waste Management training program at the City of Windhoek's Solid Waste Management Division.

During her address, the Mayor emphasized the critical leadership role Neighborhood Committee members play in their communities. She encouraged them to absorb the knowledge shared during the training to better understand solid waste management and promote cleanliness in their respective constituencies.

“I expect our community leaders to take the lead in the upcoming city-wide clean-up campaign,” said Mayor Larandja. “You are the eyes and ears of your communities and have the power to influence positive change. I hope to see Windhoek reclaim its status as the cleanest city in Africa.”

The week-long training, which began on Monday and concluded today, focused on educating participants about the impact of solid waste, proper clean-up practices, waste disposal facilities, and the overall principles of waste management.

In addition to classroom learning, participants were taken on guided tours to various waste management facilities, including landfills, dump sites, the medical waste incinerator, and the Buy-Back Centre, which collects recyclable materials.

These site visits aim to provide community leaders with firsthand insight into the city’s waste management systems, empowering them to actively support municipal efforts in keeping Windhoek clean. Next week, the program will continue with training sessions for Community Development Committee members.

Alderwoman Fransina Kahungu joined the Mayor in this important engagement, reaffirming the City's commitment to working hand-in-hand with communities to keep Windhoek clean.

08 Invitation to address the Central region Association of the Visual impaired Annual general Meeting

Keeping the promise of leading with compassion and humility, I visited various households and I learned that the community is facing challenges in their families, however have no shoulder to cry on. Because of these visits I was invited to address the Central region Association of the Visual impaired Annual general Meeting. I was invited to provide share initiatives, programs, and benefits available for persons with disability. The aim is to enhance their quality of life and participation in city of Windhoek activities like any other resident. This invitation was made possible by a family of five (3 minor children), husband and wife who both are living with disability. The man has challenges with waling while the lady is visually impaired. They have been living without water for more than five years. Before services were cut off, the man did welding to generate income for the family and pay for the services. After covid, could not recover from debts and because they are not pensioners, didn’t also benefit from the council debt write-off program taken in 2023. It is because of this family that the debt write-off program was reviewed, to include people living with disability, house hold led by orphans. This was one of the main benefit shared with the visual impaired.

VISIT TO CHURCHES

Invited to 22nd Annual Feast of Thanksgiving Sunday Prayer of the St John Apostolic Church of Prophecy by **Senior Bishop GH Mupurua**,

Our churches have always played a crucial role in city life. You provide more than spiritual guidance—you offer support to families in crisis, mentorship for our youth, and hope for our most vulnerable citizens. In many neighborhoods, **the church is the most trusted and present in A Prayer for the Future**

As your Mayor, I want to say this: the strength of any city is not only in its buildings or roads, but in its **people**, and especially in its **faith community**. Churches like St John Apostolic Church of Prophecy are the heartbeat of our neighborhoods — places where hope is restored, lives are healed, and the love of Christ is made visible **situation**, stepping in where others cannot.

14 August 2025 - Mayoral Winter Drive (Handing over of jerseys to various beneficiaries)

The Windhoek Residents Mayoral Trust has donated 538 jerseys, valued at N\$80,000, to vulnerable learners from 24 primary and secondary schools in the Khomas Region. The donation was officially handed over today by Windhoek Mayor, Councillor Ndesihafela Larandja, to the beneficiary schools. Speaking at the event, Cllr Larandja described the gesture as an act of kindness, a message of hope, and a reminder that no child should be left behind due to poverty or circumstance. “This occasion is not just about material support, it is a symbol of solidarity, human dignity, and the kind of city we aspire to be: a caring, inclusive, and compassionate city that leaves no child behind,” she said. The Mayor encouraged learners to take their education seriously and to persevere despite any challenges they may face. The jerseys were received on behalf of the schools by the Director of the Khomas Region Directorate of Education, Paulus Nghikembua, along with school principals and teachers.

Nghikembua thanked the City of Windhoek and its partners for the donation, noting the importance of sustaining and expanding such partnerships to reach more learners in informal settlements, vulnerable communities, and under-resourced schools. Established in 2017 as the Mayoral Relief Fund, the Windhoek Residents Mayoral Trust supports vulnerable residents and community development initiatives. It is governed by a duly appointed Board of Trustees responsible for overseeing the Trust’s affairs.

Let this initiative be the beginning not the end. Let’s continue to build a city where no child is left cold, hungry, or hopeless, let’s continue to build a better Windhoek, one act of kindness at a time. Let us work together — government, civil society, the private sector, and individuals — to build an ecosystem where every child can learn, grow, and thrive.

The mayor’s key priorities will include:

✔ Investment Attraction – Establishing Windhoek as a regional and continental economic hub while fostering an investment-friendly environment.

- ✔ Service Delivery Acceleration – Enhancing the speed and efficiency of infrastructure development, sanitation expansion, and urban transformation initiatives.

10 July 2025 – City of Windhoek Urban Mobility conference

The City of Windhoek successfully hosted its first ever Urban Mobility today in Windhoek.

The well attended event brought together over 200 key stakeholders to address the creation of a sustainable transport system for all residents, under the theme “Driving Economic Growth Through Urban Mobility.”

In his welcoming remarks, the Chief Executive Officer of the City of Windhoek, Moses Matyayi described the gathering as a long-awaited and essential engagement, noting that sustainable transport is necessary to improve the daily lives of all residents as they commute to and from work. Matyayi called for a paradigm shift, stating that public transport should not be limited to domestic workers or residents of Katutura only, but should serve every citizen, including professionals, just like in some developed countries.

He urged all stakeholders to work together to end the lack of public transport and establish Windhoek as the viable economic hub that is safe and liveable for every resident.

On her part, Windhoek Mayor Cllr Ndesihafela Larandja, described urban mobility as an issue of “justice, dignity, and opportunity,” highlighted the daily struggles of residents, particularly those in informal settlements, who spend a large portion of their income on transport and navigating unsafe infrastructure that favors cars over people.

With Windhoek’s population growing rapidly and its informal settlements expected to double by 2031, the need for integrated solutions is urgent. Councillor Larandja pointed to the adoption of the Sustainable Urban Transport Master Plan, a N\$5 billion initiative aimed at developing non-motorised infrastructure, green corridors, and better connectivity.

She called for shared responsibility and renewed political will, emphasizing that investing in urban mobility will stimulate economic growth, create jobs, and build a more inclusive Windhoek.

Speaking on behalf of the Minister of Works and Transport, Jonas Sheelongo, the Deputy Executive Director from the Ministry stated that transport is fundamentally about “dignity, access, and equity.” He acknowledged that urban transport has often been a low priority but has a direct impact on poverty reduction and economic participation.

To address these challenges, his ministry is focusing on modernizing NaTIS, improving access to transport permits, and investing in feeder roads, especially in informal settlements.

He also outlined a vision for a green mobility shift, including solar-powered bus stops and infrastructure for electric vehicles.

Presenting a situational assessment, Prisca Mayumbelo, Business Development Officer for Urban and Transport Planning at the City of Windhoek, linked a city's success to its liveability, which is

driven by factors like housing, infrastructure, and access to services. Mobility, she argued, is at the heart of all these elements, connecting people to jobs, education, and markets.

- ✔ Strategic Stakeholder Engagement – Strengthening collaboration with private sector entities, civil society organizations, development partners, and community leadership.



14 May 2025 – Courtesy call to the Vice President, Her Excellency Hon. Lucia Witbooi by the Mayor and delegation

In a powerful show of unity and shared purpose, Her Worship, the Mayor of Windhoek, Cllr. Ndesihafela Larandja, accompanied by the City's Acting Chief Executive Officer, Jenny Comalie and other officials paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency Lucia Witbooi, Vice President of the Republic of Namibia. More than a visit, this was a conversation grounded in vision and action a meeting between two leaders dedicated to improving the lives of all Namibians.

Mayor Larandja congratulated the Vice President on her historic appointment and used the opportunity to raise some of the real, everyday challenges affecting Windhoek residents, calling for national collaboration, bold leadership, and urgent solutions.

Key Issues Raised by the Mayor:

◆ Substance Use Among Youth: Mayor Larandja voiced serious concern over the rising use of vaping devices and hubbly bubbly among young people. These products, often seen as trendy, are slipping through regulatory gaps and posing real risks to public health especially in schools. She stressed that the ongoing use of these substances undermines educational investments, as addiction leads many children to drop out. The Mayor called on the Government to assess their health impact and implement stronger controls.

◆ Safe Homes for the Homeless and Vulnerable: Highlighting the growing number of homeless individuals especially street children the Mayor emphasized the urgent need for functional, well-resourced safe homes. While the City has allocated a property for this purpose, it requires extensive renovation to become a proper haven. She appealed for national support and multi-sectoral partnerships to bring this vision to life.

◆ Early Childhood Development (ECD) Centres: The Mayor also raised concern over the sustainability of three ECD centres currently run by the City in Rocky Crest and Okuryangava. Originally established with support from international sister cities, the centres are now solely funded by the Municipality an increasingly heavy burden. She urged the involvement of relevant ministries to ensure the centres can continue offering critical early education and nutrition to underprivileged children.

In response, Her Excellency Vice President Witbooi pledged her full support, commending the Mayor's proactive stance on issues affecting the nation. She echoed the urgency of addressing substance abuse and shared that she had previously tabled a motion to ban hubbly bubbly. She

promised to follow up with the Ministry of Health and Social Services regarding the progress of public consultations aimed at receiving input that will strengthen the possible amendments of the Tobacco Act.

On the matter of safe homes, the Vice President acknowledged the current gaps and emphasized the need to identify more facilities ideally in each region to ease the pressure on existing centres, especially in Windhoek. She thanked the Mayor for spotlighting this important issue.

Regarding ECD, Vice President Witbooi praised the City's efforts and shared a personal connection one of her grandchildren attended a city-run ECD centre and thrived. She emphasized their importance in shaping young minds and building stronger communities. Committed to finding sustainable solutions, she proposed convening a meeting between the [Ministry of Health and Social Services-Namibia](#), the [Ministry of Gender Equality and Child welfare Namibia](#), and the City of Windhoek to collaboratively address the challenges discussed.

- ✔ Economic Development & Job Creation – Creating an enabling environment for businesses, entrepreneurs, and informal traders to thrive.

13 May 2025 – Consultative Meeting between the Mayor and the Central Business District (CBD) owners

Windhoek Mayor Cllr Ndesihafela Larandja met with property owners in the central business district (CBD) today to address concerns regarding the delayed gazetting of the Special Rating Area (SRA) Regulations. This meeting, initiated by property owners, comes nearly two years after the Municipal Council of Windhoek approved the SRA Regulations in 2023. Although these regulations were submitted to the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development for endorsement, they remain un-gazetted, hindering progress and raising concerns among the business community. “This regulation is critical,” Mayor Larandja emphasized to the attendees. “Windhoek’s CBD is deteriorating, and we cannot afford any further delays. Revitalizing the city center is not just about aesthetics; it is about restoring investor confidence, creating jobs, boosting tourism, and improving the lives of our residents.” Once a bustling commercial hub, the CBD has seen a significant decline in activity, especially after business hours, largely due to the rise of suburban malls. Property owners noted that foot traffic decreases after 18:00 on weekdays and even earlier on weekends, leaving the area desolate and economically stagnant. The Mayor reaffirmed the City of Windhoek’s commitment to revitalizing the CBD as part of its strategic vision: “To be a Sustainable and Caring City by 2027.” This vision is about creating smart partnerships, promoting economic growth, ensuring inclusivity, and enhancing service delivery. Key initiatives under this strategy include the Windhoek Tourism Mile, mixed-use developments, upgraded street lighting, and revitalized public spaces such as Zoo Park. During the meeting, property owners expressed their concern over the delay in gazetting the SRA regulations. “One would expect quicker action after the Council's approval. Why is it taking so long to finalize?” asked one property owner. Another urged the Mayor to initiate a roundtable discussion with the government, stating, “We need clarity. This delay does not reflect a sense of commitment from the government.” Several proposals were discussed to address the decline of the CBD. Some attendees suggested hosting

entertainment events, such as concerts and street festivals, to attract foot traffic and restore vibrancy to the area. Others mentioned that restrictive parking requirements in the city center deter visitors and asked the municipality to reconsider these regulations.

Mayor Larandja assured the property owners that their concerns would be formally communicated to the Ministry. “I will relay your concerns, suggestions, and expectations. The gazetting of the SRA Regulations is essential; our CBD depends on it. This is the heart of our beloved city.” The SRA framework was designed to empower property owners and stakeholders to jointly invest in the maintenance, safety, promotion, and beautification of designated urban areas. Funded through special levies, this model allows for additional services and targeted improvements. If implemented, it could mark a significant turning point in reviving the capital’s struggling city center.

11 August 2025 – Courtesy Call to the Mayor by the NCCI Executives

The Chief Executive Officer of the Namibia Chamber of Commerce and Industry (NCCI), Titus Nampala, paid a courtesy visit to the Mayor of Windhoek, Cllr. Ndesihafela Larandja, as part of efforts to strengthen collaboration in supporting local entrepreneurs.

Nampala highlighted the need for inclusive support for entrepreneurs in the capital, aligned with President Nandi Netumbo’s call that “No One Should Be Left Out.” He stressed that the Chamber must be inclusive and actively support emerging entrepreneurs, particularly those from underserved communities such as Katutura and informal settlements.

“Windhoek is the economic hub of the country. We want to partner with the City to understand the challenges faced by emerging entrepreneurs and find ways to assist them,” said Nampala. While the Mayor expressed concern over the low attendance of NCCI members at a recent business engagement hosted by the City, she welcomed the renewed commitment to collaboration. “The business community plays a significant role in Windhoek’s growth. Strengthening our relationship with NCCI is essential,” she said.

NCCI also proposed the establishment of a satellite office closer to local communities to better serve small and emerging entrepreneurs. The Mayor responded positively, indicating that the City would explore the possibility of accommodating NCCI at existing community centers.

The engagement concluded with both parties agreeing to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalize and strengthen their working relationship. Nampala was accompanied by NCCI’s Business Manager, Yvonne Amukwaya.

09 June 2025 – Follow meeting on the Mayoral Ramatex Visit

Windhoek Mayor, Councilor Ndesihafela Larandja, recently held a meeting with internal stakeholders to discuss the current status of the Ramatex property before engaging external parties. As many may recall, Ramatex, spanning approximately 43 hectares, was originally leased under a 99-year agreement, which ended in 2008 after the company went into provisional liquidation.

Since then, the City and the liquidators have been involved in a lengthy legal process, which has now been resolved. According to the settlement, the liquidator was given three years to remove the existing warehouse and restore the land to its original condition, failing which, the Council can step in and appoint a contractor to remove the warehouse. With the deadline now passed, the City is reviewing the current state of the property and exploring new opportunities to transform Ramatex into a vibrant industrial or commercial hub. The land, owned by the City of Windhoek, holds great potential to create jobs and generate much-needed revenue for the City. Following internal consultations, the Mayor and City officials also listened to development proposals specifically focused on the Ramatex property, submitted by various interested business entities. Thereafter, a site inspection was conducted to assess the area's current state and potential. While no final decisions have been made, these engagements are an important step toward unlocking the economic potential of Ramatex.

INFORMAL TRADERS AT CENTRAL HOSPITAL

Minet Namibia Executive and FNB Namibia Executives

The Mayor also met with Minet Namibia Insurance Brokers, represented by Managing Director Antoinette van Wyk. Minet, the City's insurance broker, paid a courtesy call to strengthen collaboration and explore areas of continued support.

Lastly, representatives from FNB Namibia's Public Sector Banking team reaffirmed their partnership with the City, pledging continued support for key initiatives such as the annual Christmas lunch and tree planting campaign.

03 September 2025 – Courtesy visit by Mayor and City Executives to the Namibia Breweries Limited (NBL)

A City of Windhoek delegation, led by Mayor Cllr. Ndesihafela Larandja, paid a courtesy visit to the Namibia Breweries Limited (NBL) in the Northern Industrial Area today to explore potential areas of collaboration.

The visit, undertaken at the invitation of NBL Managing Director Waldemar von Lieres, included a tour of the brewery's facilities, with a focus on its sustainability initiatives. These efforts include reducing water consumption as well as the adoption of renewable energy, including the use of solar and biomass, to minimize the company's carbon footprint.

Mayor Larandja thanked NBL for the opportunity to tour the brewery and commended the company's impressive work, calling NBL a national pride with iconic brands like Windhoek and Tafel Lager. She also expressed her openness to exploring partnerships between NBL and the City of Windhoek that would benefit not only both parties but also Namibia as a whole.

Discussions between the City and NBL leadership centered on addressing Windhoek's water scarcity challenges and how they can work together to save water, reduce waste, and promote renewable energy.

27 October 2025 - Windhoek Launches Community-Led 'Clean Skip Competition 2025

The City of Windhoek's Solid Waste Management division has rolled out a Clean Skip Containers Competition, a community-focused campaign designed to promote cleanliness, encourage proper waste disposal, and empower local communities to take ownership of their waste and environment. Mayor Ndesihafela Larandja was on the ground this morning to assess the progress of the selected skips, observing community efforts and raising awareness for the initiative.

The competition, which started last week, is targeting seven North-Western suburbs, including Katutura Central, Khomasdal, and Samora Machel. Although initially planned for 21 problematic skips, overwhelming community interest has seen participation grow to approximately 30 skips. Participation is voluntary, requiring a minimum of five monitoring members per skip. These community members are responsible for maintaining clean, litter-free surrounding areas, ensuring only appropriate waste is deposited, and discouraging illegal dumping. All participants must sign an indemnity form, emphasizing the voluntary nature of the work.

"All these initiatives are aimed at improving the cleanliness of the City of Windhoek and helping us reclaim our title as the cleanest city in Africa," the mayor stated. Everyone must apply the motto of 'My waste, my responsibility'.

The cleanest skips will win significant prizes, with the top three receiving shopping vouchers of N\$12,000, N\$7,000, and N\$4,000, respectively. These vouchers will be shared equally among the winning committee members, and all participating teams will receive recognition.

The mayor also called on the business community and Good Samaritans to offer sponsorships to help sustain and expand the initiative.

03 October 2025 - Building Partnerships for Water Security

The City of Windhoek engaged with key members of the with key members of the Northern Industrial Forum (NIF), including Namibia Breweries and Bokomo, to address the sustainable use of Windhoek's aquifers and ensure long-term water security. The key outcomes included:

- Clear guidance on groundwater abstraction permits issued by the Ministry of Agriculture.
- Constructive discussions on industry allocations and their impact on investment and operations.
- Assurance of the City's commitment to continuous potable water supply for both residents and businesses.
- Agreement to strengthen collaboration through a joint technical committee to explore interim operating measures and long-term solutions.

Both the City and industry partners emphasized the importance of a balanced approach that protects water resources, secures jobs, sustains businesses, and safeguards the needs of residents. Together, we remain committed to the triple bottom line – people, profit, and planet – as we work towards a sustainable water future for Windhoek.

20 October 2025 – Site visit by the Mayor to NFA House

The engagement follows a courtesy visit to the Mayor on 24 September 2025 by NFA President, Mr. Robert Shimooshili, and his team to discuss progress on the NFA's 2024 application to the City. The application requests to donate or purchase Erf 340, located on Richard Kamuhuka Street in Katutura. NFA General Secretary, Cassius Tarsisius Moetie, noted that the association has been given a deadline by the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA) to secure the land in order to access funding of approximately USD 6 million for the project's implementation.

The land will empower the NFA to expand football development programmes for youth, women, referees, coaches and lower league. The land will serve as training and competition centre for all national teams, school leagues, women leagues, lower leagues and community tournaments, and at the same time boost economic activities in Katutura and promote social progress, an area that represents Namibia's resilient working class and non-working passionate communities.

Today I can proudly say that the application reached council, and council approved the purchase of land to NFA at a 50% discounted rate, half the amount of the land market value to the tune of N\$2 000 000.

Windhoek Mayor, Cllr. Ndesihafela Larandja, today led a City of Windhoek delegation to the Soccer House in Katutura for a follow-up meeting with the management of the Namibia Football Association (NFA).

During the visit, the Mayor and her delegation were presented with technical drawings and development plans for Erf 340, situated near the Soccer House. The proposed project envisions a modern Technical Centre featuring a hotel, restaurants, and football development facilities.

Providing an update on the status of the application, the City's Strategic Executive for Housing, Property Management, and Human Settlement, Faniel Maanda, informed the meeting that the matter has been placed on the agenda of the next Management Committee meeting, scheduled for tomorrow.

"Depending on the outcome of the Management Committee deliberations, the submission will proceed to the next Council meeting for a final decision," he stated.

05 June 2025 - Courtesy Call by the Mayor to the Honourable Emma Theofelus, MP (Minister of Information and Communication Technology)

The Mayor of Windhoek, Councillor Ndesihafela Larandja, paid a courtesy visit today to the Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Honourable Emma Theofelus, as part of ongoing consultative governance efforts. The meeting focused on fostering collaboration between the City and the Ministry in key areas such as access to information, digital literacy, among others. During the engagement, Mayor Larandja said there was a need for the Ministry of ICT to collaborate with the City to utilise the City's community centres in delivering basic ICT training in order to enhance digital literacy among vulnerable groups, including senior citizens, thereby enabling them to fully participate in the digital economy and protecting them from cyber threats. The Mayor also proposed collaboration to extend free internet access to the City's community libraries, particularly those located in informal settlements, to enable the youth and

students access to educational resources, online services and job opportunities. Furthermore, the Mayor expressed interest in partnering with the Ministry to support the effective utilization of the City's fibre optic network and to develop a robust legal and policy framework to facilitate the integration of technology into urban planning and support the implementation of Windhoek's smart city agenda. In response, Minister Theofelus welcomed the Mayor's visit and acknowledged the significance of the proposed collaboration. She noted that the Ministry currently operates two ICT centres in Windhoek, which can extend its services to the community centres. Minister Theofelus further implored the City to accommodate network infrastructure within its town planning scheme, pointing out the difficulties network providers face in securing land for essential infrastructure such as network towers. The two parties parted with a promise for further consultations to formalise their interactions either through a Memorandum of Understanding or the establishment of a task force.

13 July 2025 – Inauguration of the City of Windhoek Community Pre- Consultative Meetings

The City of Windhoek Hosts Inaugural Pre-Stakeholder Engagement Meeting

The City of Windhoek yesterday hosted its first-ever Pre-Stakeholder Engagement Meeting under the theme: "Reflecting on the 2020–2025 Term: Strengthening Accountability, Engagement, and Service Delivery."

This inaugural engagement brought together City Councillors, Regional Councillors, the Constituency Development Committee, and Neighbourhood Committees from Katutura East, Katutura Central, Mix Settlement, and John Pandeni Constituency.

These platforms are vital for the Council to consult, inform, and interact with residents and stakeholders on matters of public interest. As the current Council enters its final year in office, these engagements offer an opportunity to reflect on achievements, ongoing initiatives, and challenges experienced over the five-year term.

This year, a new two-phased format has been adopted to strengthen transparency and encourage more focused dialogue.

Phase One targets key stakeholders, local government structures, ministries, faith-based and community organisations, business groups, and transport associations, who play a pivotal role in supporting and amplifying the Council's mandate. A detailed schedule for these engagements is provided.

Phase Two will open the platform to the general public. Dates and venues for these community meetings will be widely communicated across all constituencies once finalised.

Stay engaged and be part of shaping Windhoek's future.

20 July 2025 - Community Consultative Pre-Meeting with Constituency Development Committee and Neighbourhood Committee Members for the Tobias Hainyeko and Moses Garoëb Constituency

During the Pre-Stakeholder Engagement Meeting with the Tobias Hainyeko and Moses Garoeb Constituency Development and Neighbourhood Committees, electrification emerged as one of the most pressing and frequently raised topics.

As part of the City's 2025/26 Electrification Programme, the following areas within the two constituencies have been identified to benefit:

- One Nation – targeting 850 households
- Max Mutongolume – targeting 1,210 households
- Mandume Ndemufayo – targeting 157 households
- Okahandja C and D – targeting 435 households
- Onghulumbashe – targeting 803 households

17 August 2025 - Pre-Stakeholders Engagement with Savings Groups

Today, we are concluding the Pre-Stakeholders Engagement Meetings as we consult the Savings Groups. This platform was initiated by Council to reflect on the City's achievements, challenges, and future plans under the theme: "Reflecting on the 2020–2025 Term: Strengthening Accountability, Engagement & Service Delivery." As Council prepares to conclude its five-year term, we have been engaging with key stakeholders including Community Development and Neighbourhood Committees, political parties, churches, ratepayers associations, business communities, and many others. Starting next month, we will roll out wider public consultations to ensure that all residents have the opportunity to contribute to shaping the future of our City.

✔ Urban Transformation & Smart City Integration – Promoting sustainability through digital innovation and modernization efforts in Windhoek.

06 September 2025 -Public Meeting in the Samora Machel Constituency

The City Council has kicked off its 2025/26 cycle of public meetings and on Saturday, 6 September the engagement was in Samora Machel Constituency, held at Okapale. Her Worship, Cllr Ndesihafela Larandja, extends a warm welcome to the residents. As the Council is in its final year of its current five-year term, the meetings serve as a platform to reflect on achievements, share ongoing initiatives, and engage residents on the challenges experienced during this term. Her Worship shared key achievements and outlined future plans for communal taps and toilets in the Samora Machel Constituency, covering the period from 2019 to 2025.

08 May 2025 – Graduation of Her Worship, the Mayor

The City of Windhoek extends heartfelt congratulations to Her Worship, Cllr Ndesihafela Larandja, Mayor of Windhoek, on successfully completing a Postgraduate Diploma in Procurement Management from the Namibia University of Science and Technology.

This latest academic milestone adds to her growing list of qualifications and reflects a strong commitment to continuous learning and professional growth. Her Worship's pursuit of excellence

is a shining example of visionary leadership one that inspires confidence and drives progress in public service.

We proudly celebrate this achievement and look forward to the continued impact of her knowledge and leadership in shaping a better Windhoek. Well done, Your Worship!

20 October 2025 - Official hand over of the start packs to trainees of the backyard gardening training project at Farm Okukuna

Launched a Mayoral Backyard Gardening project: The primary objective is to promote food security by raising awareness, and equipping residents with practical knowledge and skills to successfully establish and maintain backyard garden. By doing so, nurture nutrition, create opportunities to supplement households income, and promote sustainable income. To ensure successful implementation of the project, 55 community members were trained, received a comprehensive starter kit which includes essential seeds, tools and composting materials. To ensure we reach as many people as possible, a network pyramid model will be implemented, where each participant will be expected to transfer their knowledge to at least five others within their communities.

22 October 2025 - UN-Habitat Leadership - Smart City Visioning Workshop

Windhoek Mayor, Cllr Ndesihafela Larandja, has reaffirmed the City of Windhoek's commitment to becoming a smart, sustainable, and people-centred city that enhances the quality of life for all residents.

Speaking at the opening of the Visioning Workshop for the Smart City Concept, organised by UN-Habitat in collaboration with the City of Windhoek today, the Mayor highlighted the importance of leveraging innovation and technology to address the city's growing challenges.

“The City of Windhoek faces significant challenges in delivering services with limited financial resources, largely due to rapid urbanisation. It is against this background that we have embarked on a journey towards becoming a smart city by integrating physical, digital, and human systems within the built environment to achieve a sustainable, prosperous, and inclusive future for our citizens,” she noted.

The two-day workshop seeks to develop a comprehensive Smart City Strategy for Windhoek with technical support from UN-Habitat. The strategy will guide the City in harnessing technology to improve service delivery, promote environmental sustainability, and foster socio-economic inclusion and prosperity.

The workshop is attended by representatives from UN-Habitat and the City of Windhoek, including Masayuki Yokota, Head of the Sub-Regional Hub for Southern Africa, and Aline Machado Da Matta, Head of the UN Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities.

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

07 March 2025 – Courtesy Call by the Cape Town City Manager to the Mayor

The City Manager of Cape Town, Lungelo Mbandazayo, concludes his official visit to Windhoek today with a courtesy call to Her Worship Ndesihafela Larandja, the Mayor of Windhoek.

Mbandazayo expressed his gratitude to Mayor Larandja for her warm hospitality and for graciously hosting him during his stay. He has been in Windhoek since Monday, engaging in discussions with city officials to explore opportunities for collaboration, focusing on peer learning and knowledge exchange.

A key highlight of the visit was the examination of municipal governance structures and practices. Mbandazayo noted the differences between Cape Town's governance model and Windhoek's, emphasizing the value of learning from each other's approaches. He had the opportunity to observe a City of Windhoek Council meeting, which provided him with invaluable insights into the city's decision-making processes and governance practices.

The visit also served as a platform for reflecting on the strengths and challenges of both cities. Windhoek expressed a keen interest in learning from Cape Town's successful strategies for promoting itself as a leading tourist destination and investment hub. The two cities discussed ways to enhance Windhoek's global profile, focusing on strengthening its appeal to international investors and tourists.

Additionally, Mbandazayo's visit addressed several key areas of urban development, including urban planning, transport infrastructure, water management, affordable housing, human settlements, and investment promotion.

14 April 2025 – Courtesy Call to the Mayor by the ambassador of the European Union

The Ambassador of the European Union Delegation to Namibia, Ana Beatriz Martins, paid a courtesy visit to Windhoek's Mayor, Ndesihafela Larandja, today. During the meeting, Ambassador Martins expressed her satisfaction in continuing the long-standing partnership between the European Union and the City of Windhoek, offering congratulations to Mayor Larandja on her recent appointment.

Ambassador Martins highlighted several successful collaborative projects between the EU and the City, including the Waste Buy Back Center in Katutura. This initiative provides residents with an opportunity to contribute to environmental sustainability while earning income through the sale of recyclable materials. She also expressed enthusiasm about the upcoming completion of a second Waste BuyBack Center, a project the EU is committed to funding.

Furthermore, the Ambassador emphasized the EU's ongoing support for various community initiatives in Windhoek, such as the Shack Dweller Federation, tree planting projects in Katutura, and street art programs. She conveyed her eagerness to continue collaborating with the City of Windhoek, particularly in projects aimed at enhancing the city center through street art and increasing green spaces through tree planting.

Ambassador Martins reaffirmed the EU's unwavering commitment to supporting Windhoek's sustainable development and its vibrant community initiatives.

25 April 2025 – Visit by the Mayor of Marracuene, Mozambique to Windhoek

Ahmad Shafee Sidat, the Mayor of Marracuene, Mozambique, visited Windhoek's Mayor, Cllr Ndesihafela Larandja, during his stay in the Namibian capital. The meeting focused on establishing a sister city relationship between the two cities, with an emphasis on collaborating to advance the localization of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mayor Larandja highlighted the importance of strengthening ties between Windhoek and Marracuene, noting the potential for mutual growth and shared exchange. She outlined key areas for cooperation and expressed optimism for a productive and lasting partnership. The visit coincided with Windhoek's vibrant /Ae //Gams Cultural Festival, giving Mayor Sidat a unique opportunity to explore the city's rich cultural heritage. Mayor Larandja personally guided her guest through the festival, where he experienced a display of traditional dances, attire, local cuisine, as well as arts and crafts, providing him with valuable insights into Namibian culture.

28 April 2025 – Official visit by the Mayor of Blantyre, Malawi – Cllr Joseph Makwinja

Cllr. Joseph Makwinja, the Mayor of Blantyre, Malawi, is currently on an official visit to Windhoek, Namibia, accompanied by his CEO and other officials. The visit will run until Wednesday, 30 April 2025. Today, Mayor Makwinja paid a courtesy call to Cllr. Ndesihafela Larandja, the Mayor of Windhoek. Mayor Larandja warmly welcomed Mayor Makwinja, emphasizing the long-standing relationship between Malawi and Namibia, built on mutual respect and cooperation. She highlighted the importance of strengthening both municipal and intercultural ties, with a shared vision for a peaceful and prosperous Southern Africa under the SADC Vision 2050. The two cities are set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) tomorrow, 29 April 2025, aimed at strengthening cooperation in key areas such as tourism, heritage preservation, community development, education, capacity building, and public safety. The MoU will serve as a foundation for increased collaboration and the exchange of ideas between Blantyre and Windhoek.

29 April 2025 – Signing Ceremony between City of Windhoek and City of Blantyre, Malawi

Today, the **City of Windhoek** and the **Blantyre City Council** are formalising and strengthening a partnership to boost cooperation in key areas are Tourism, Culture & Heritage, Public Safety, Economic Development, Skills Innovation and Sustainable Development. Together, we aim to build trust, promote understanding, and drive meaningful collaboration between our two great cities.

29 April 2025 - Courtesy Call to the Mayor on request by Mr. Masayuki Yokoto, Head of the Sub - Regional Office for Africa, UN-Habitat

The City of Windhoek has reaffirmed its strategic partnership with UN-Habitat during a recent high-level visit from Masayuki Yokota, the Head of the UN-Habitat Sub-Regional Office for Southern Africa. The visit, which took place at the Mayor's Office, was centered on enhancing collaboration regarding the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and advancing Windhoek's Smart City Strategy. Mayor Ndesihafela Larandja welcomed Yokota and

his delegation, recognizing UN-Habitat as a key strategic partner, especially in efforts related to the localization of the UN SDGs. The Mayor also emphasized the collaborative engagement through UN-Habitat's United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC) initiative, which is involved in the Smart City project. During the meeting, Mr. Yokota stressed the importance of advancing the Smart City Strategy for Windhoek. He offered UN-Habitat's technical and advisory support to the city, highlighting their readiness to assist with the strategy's implementation. Additionally, he proposed formalizing the collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to solidify the partnership and foster greater cooperation in mutually beneficial areas.

The Mayor of Windhoek welcomed this proposal, expressing gratitude for UN-Habitat's ongoing support. He reaffirmed the City's commitment to deepening its relationship with UN-Habitat and agreed to solidify the partnership with the signing of the MoU.

20 May 2025 - Courtesy call by H.E. Mr Rahul Shrivastava, High Commissioner of India

The Mayor of Windhoek, Cllr. Ndesihafela Larandja, yesterday, welcomed His Excellency Rahul Shrivastava, the High Commissioner of India, during a courtesy visit aimed at exploring municipal-level cooperation between Namibia and India. High Commissioner Shrivastava emphasized the strong bilateral relationship between the two countries and highlighted opportunities for Windhoek to benefit from India's expertise in key sectors. A major focus of the discussion was the potential for collaboration in establishing large-scale textile production in Windhoek. Mayor Larandja expressed the City's strong interest in developing the textile industry, recognizing India's global leadership in this sector. She emphasized plans to revitalize the existing Ramatex facilities and transform them into a major textile production hub, with support from India's advanced technologies and industry experience. She noted that this initiative could significantly enhance local capacity, create employment opportunities, and contribute to Windhoek and the broader Namibian economy. Beyond textiles, the meeting also explored potential cooperation in health and wellness, with the City aiming to position Windhoek as a leading hub in this sector. Other areas of potential collaboration discussed included capacity building, education, and vocational training.

20 May 2025 - Courtesy to the Mayor by H.E. Rui Carmo, Ambassador of Portugal to Namibia

Today, Her Worship, Mayor Ndesihafela Larandja, welcomed His Excellency Rui Carmo, Ambassador of Portugal to Namibia, on a courtesy visit to the City of Windhoek. Namibia and Portugal share longstanding diplomatic relations built on mutual respect and cooperation across various sectors. During the meeting, Ambassador Carmo expressed his gratitude for the warm reception and reaffirmed the strength of the relationship between the two countries. He highlighted the visible cultural ties, particularly the promotion of the Portuguese language in Namibian schools and the vibrant Portuguese-speaking community in Windhoek and across the country. He also shared recent initiatives by the Portuguese Embassy, including a celebration of Lusophone countries held in May and the donation of Portuguese-language books to the national library.

Ambassador Carmo expressed his commitment to continue supporting such cultural and educational exchanges. Mayor Larandja noted that, while there is currently no formal cooperation agreement between the City of Windhoek and any Portuguese city, the strong bilateral ties between Namibia and Portugal create opportunities for municipal-level collaboration. She affirmed the City of Windhoek's openness to partnerships that promote shared development goals. Ambassador Carmo echoed this sentiment, expressing optimism about potential cooperation between Windhoek and Lisbon in areas of mutual interest. He pledged to facilitate discussions and extended a formal invitation to Mayor Larandja to attend the Day of Portugal, Camões and the Portuguese Communities, scheduled for 10 June 2025 at the National Art Gallery of Namibia.

Portugal's strengths in renewable energy, urban regeneration, and cultural preservation closely align with Windhoek's development priorities, offering promising avenues for future collaboration

20 May 2025 – Courtesy Call to the Mayor by Professor Earle Taylor, the Jamaican Consul in Namibia

Professor Earle Taylor, the Jamaican Consul in Namibia, visited Mayor Ndesihafela Larandja at her office today to discuss the implementation of their cooperation agreement. During the meeting, they outlined an action plan to help Windhoek unlock its cultural opportunities, which could attract tourists and generate revenue for the City. This discussion comes at a critical time as Windhoek faces challenges related to a deteriorating central business district (CBD).

Recently, the City of Windhoek has been working to revitalize its city center, focusing on restoring investor confidence, boosting tourism, and enhancing residents' livelihoods. Professor Taylor expressed his belief that Windhoek could learn a great deal from Kingston regarding cultural exchange. He highlighted the numerous cultural events in Kingston that engage and excite residents, including music, sports, drama, and theater. Jamaica is famous for its traditional attractions that draw visitors from around the world. Windhoek has the potential to become a vibrant tourist destination by leveraging its revenue-generating assets, such as museums, music, theater, and the arts. To attract tourists, the city must offer more than just shopping; it needs to effectively showcase its culture in a way that generates income. According to Professor Taylor, Namibia must effectively package its cultural products to achieve this goal.

The cities of Windhoek and Kingston first entered into a Sister Cities Agreement in 2019, which was renewed in 2022. This agreement aims to strengthen the historic, economic, and cultural ties between the two capital cities through structured collaboration.

20 May 2025 – Courtesy visit to the Mayor by from The Association of Diplomatic Spouses of Namibia (ADS)

Her Worship, Mayor Ndesihafela Larandja, today received a courtesy visit from The Association of Diplomatic Spouses of Namibia (ADS) led by its President, Mr. Matthias Geisler, and former President, Madame Lamia Lotfy, among other members. Mayor Larandja warmly welcomed the delegation and commended ADS for their continued commitment to strengthening community development through diplomacy. Mr. Geisler outlined the association's mission and activities. Founded at Independence, ADS is a voluntary group comprising spouses of accredited diplomats

based in Namibia. It serves as a platform to promote cultural exchange, international understanding, and charitable initiatives while fostering strong social ties within the diplomatic community. The delegation expressed interest in partnering with the City of Windhoek for the use of a suitable City venue to host future editions of the popular International Day Diplomatic Charity Bazaar. The 2025 edition, held in April, raised over N\$200,000, which ADS intends to allocate to education-focused charities, and the maximum they can allocate to each project is N\$50 000. Mr. Geisler requested therefore requested that the City's support in identifying appropriate projects within the education sector to benefit from these proceeds. Looking ahead, ADS proposed a formal collaboration with the City to collaborate on hosting of the 2026 Charity Bazaar, scheduled for May. Given the event's growing attendance of over 3,000 people, securing a suitable venue remains a key priority. Mayor Larandja expressed her appreciation to ADS for their ongoing interest and meaningful contributions, noting the importance of continuity in partnerships regardless of leadership changes within the municipality. Both parties agreed to formalize their partnership through an official agreement to ensure coordinated planning ahead of the 2026 event. The City will share recommendations for charity beneficiaries to receive the 2025 proceeds in due course, while ADS will submit a formal request for future collaboration and agreements. This visit follows a previous engagement with former Mayor Cllr. Joseph Uapingene in 2023.

13 October 2025 – Courtesy Call on the Mayor by Mrs. Hornhues Council Member from the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen

Today, Councillor Bettina Hornhues from Bremen, Germany, accompanied by her husband, Mr. Martin Hornhues, paid a courtesy visit to Her Worship, the Mayor of Windhoek, Ndesihafela Larandja.

Bremen, Germany, is one of the sister cities of City of Windhoek. This long standing partnership fosters cultural exchange, capacity building, and collaboration in key areas such as urban development, environmental management, education, and youth empowerment.

The Hornhues family also shares a long-standing connection with Namibia. Mr. Hornhues is actively involved in his late father's foundation, which has supported numerous development initiatives across the country. Councillor Bettina Hornhues's areas of focus include education policy and labor market policy.

16 October 2025 - Windhoek and Berlin Celebrate 25 Years of Partnership

Windhoek and Berlin marked 25 years of collaboration with a high-level German delegation led by Governing Mayor Kai Wegner. Hosted by Mayor Her Worship Ndesihafela Larandja, the visit focused on solar energy, urban security, and education.

The day included a visit to the future Solar Centre, a project benefiting informal settlements, households, and small businesses, with exchange programs and a "Train the Trainer" initiative

planned for 2026. The delegation also toured the City Police headquarters, learning about Windhoek's modern public safety measures, which include 400 cameras and drones.

At the Ministry of Home Affairs, Immigration, Safety and Security, Minister Lucia Iipumbu and Namibian Police Inspector General Lieutenant General Joseph Shikongo welcomed the delegation, celebrating the historic 25-year sister-city relationship. Mayor Wegner highlighted Windhoek as Berlin's only African partner city, while Mayor Larandja emphasised building on the strong foundation laid.

The visit concluded at the University of Namibia, where Mayor Wegner discussed the partnership's success, the importance of remembrance culture, and the commitment to deepen cooperation in culture, education, business, and youth engagement.

LOCAL COLLABORATION

09 May 2025 – Handover of vehicle to local authorities by the City of Windhoek

The City of Windhoek handed over 14 vehicles and equipment, valued about N\$9.7 million, to sister local authorities across Namibia today. The donated items include compactor trucks, bakkies, skip trucks, standard trucks, portable steel flat tanks, compressors, and refuse removal loaders. These resources aim to support service delivery in towns that have signed memoranda of understanding with the City of Windhoek, including Okakarara, Rundu, Eenhana, Khorixas, Katima Mulilo, Rehoboth, Outjo, Berseba, and Gibeon. Speaking at the handover ceremony held at the City's Fleet Division, Windhoek Mayor Cllr Ndesihafela Larandja, reaffirmed the City's commitment to strategic partnerships, especially with other local authorities. "The City of Windhoek places high value on its relationships with sister local authorities because we believe that by working together and uplifting each other, we can achieve far more than we can alone." On behalf of the beneficiaries, Eenhana Mayor Omri-Onn Kavandje, said the City has exemplified the spirit of helping one another as local authorities in Namibia through the donation. Kavandje promised that the generosity would not be in vain, as the town is going to use the donation effectively for the benefit of all residents.

09 May 2025 – Courtesy call by Honourable Felicia Motinga, Mayor of Berseba Village Council and Delegation

Her Worship, the Mayor of Windhoek, Cllr Ndesihafela Larandja, today received a delegation from the Berseba Village Council, led by Chairperson Hon. Felicia Motinga. The engagement centered around exploring possible support from the City of Windhoek toward Berseba Village Council's upcoming Gala Dinner, slated for early August 2025. The Gala Dinner aims to raise funds for the 5th edition of the Berseba Goat Expo, an initiative that celebrates local culture, promotes agribusiness, and boosts rural economic development. The City remains committed to fostering inter-authority cooperation and supporting initiatives that drive inclusive national growth.

21 February 2025 – Signing of MOU with local authorities and the Heritage Council

The City of Windhoek has signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with nine local authorities and the National Heritage Council.

New agreements have been signed with Aroab Village Council, Bethanie Village Council, Kalkrand Village Council, and Omaruru Municipality while existing agreements have been renewed with Aranos Town Council, Otjinene Village Council, Outjo Municipality, Otavi Town Council, and Opuwo Town Council.

Each MoU outlines specific areas of collaboration, with common key focus areas including waste management, economic development and trade, town planning and land management, support for small businesses and entrepreneurship, environmental management, as well as human resource and capacity building.

Additionally, the MoU with the National Heritage Council aims to preserve cultural, historical, and architectural heritage in Windhoek and surrounding areas.

Speaking at the signing ceremony held at the City of Windhoek, Mayor Ndesihafela Lalandja said these partnerships go beyond symbolic gestures, serving as active frameworks for cooperation to address shared challenges and drive sustainable development.

23 June 2023 – Courtesy call to the Mayor by Okahandja Mayor, Okakarara Mayor,

Okahandja Mayor Councillor Beatrice Kotungondo requested the City's assistance in waste management and general cleanliness of the town, including equipment that the City is no longer using and skip containers, as well as assistance with taxi rank shading.

Okakarara Mayor Asnath Kavetuna Jazukuka appealed for help with their drainage system, which has become a critical problem in the town, requesting technical support and machinery, and sought advice on improving water treatment practices.

Thank you.