



OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY

THE MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

OF WINDHOEK

COUNCIL MEMBER SAKARIAS UUNONA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL

MEETING

OF JANUARY 2025

05 February 2026

17:30

Council Chambers

Council Member Nangula A Amutenya; Deputy Mayor of the Municipal Council of Windhoek;

Council Member Austin Kwenani Kwenani, Chairperson of Management Committee;

Council Members Present;

Mr Metusalem A Nikanor, Acting Chief Executive Officer;

Fr Willem Eita of Corpus Christi Parish, of the Roman Catholic Church;

Strategic Executives and Senior Officials present;

Windhoek Residents;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good evening!

It gives me great pleasure to extend a warm welcome to you, with the utmost honour and respect, as we gather here in this August House for our first monthly Council meeting for the 2026 calendar year. I trust that you had a peaceful festive season and all returned with renewed purpose and dedication.

It is with profound gratitude and humility that I stand before you as the newly elected Mayor of the Municipal Council of Windhoek. I am deeply humbled by the trust placed in me to serve Council, our beautiful City and most importantly our esteemed residents.

The privilege to serve as the Mayor of the Municipal Council of Windhoek is a responsibility I will carry with genuine commitment and honour as we strive to collectively serve our residents and our nation.

As John C. Maxwell reminds us, *“People do not care how much you know, until they know how much you care.”*

This principle will guide my leadership and the manner by which Council’s affairs shall be conducted henceforth. Conduct rooted in **care, respect, and service** for our residents and stakeholders.

As a newly elected Council, we should be reminded that we have been entrusted with a unique opportunity for us to serve and that we should embrace this responsibility to serve the residents to the best of our ability over our tenure.

Let us do so with unity, integrity, and respect for one another.

Honourable Council Members, dear Residents,

In keeping with the commitment and duty to serve, Council hit the ground running and immediately after being sworn in as Council Members on 05 December 2025, the Council Members undertook an initial three (3) day pre-induction onboarding exercise from 08 to 11 December 2025.

A subsequent detailed Induction and Teambuilding Workshop was undertaken from 14 to 24 January 2026, where all Council Members, together with Management, participated in the workshop which sought to ensure that new Council Members are fully equipped to serve residents effectively from the onset and waste no time in striving to fulfil Council’s mandate of service delivery.

The induction workshop proved fruitful as it equipped leadership with a holistic understanding of the City of Windhoek’s operations and further embedded a culture of teamwork and collective responsibility.

During the first week of March 2026, Council Members will further participate in a Ministerial Induction Workshop to be held in Otjiwarongo between the 02 – 06 March 2026.

The workshop equally serves as a platform to afford Council Members with an opportunity to develop a deep understanding of the local governance systems and dynamics; strengthening their knowledge and understanding of critical factors and ensuring alignment with the strategic intent of the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development and that of the Government of the Republic of Namibia.

The expressed commitment to these capacity development efforts reflects our commitment to cultivating strong, unified leadership aligned to the mandate of the Organisation and the expectations of our residents and stakeholders.

Dear Council Members and Residents,

- As part of strengthening diplomatic ties, I am pleased to inform you that on 15 January 2026, I was honoured to receive His Excellency Zhao Weiping, Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China to Namibia for a Courtesy Call, where he pledged continued support for the long-standing relationship between China and Namibia, through various sectors across various cities in China, dating back to Namibia’s Independence in 1990;
- On 29 January 2026, I was graced with the presence of Mr Phiwayinkosi Dlamini, City Engineer; and Ms Sibonisowe Ngcamphala, Head of Environmental Unit from Matsapha Town Council, Kingdom of Eswatini who visited the City for a benchmarking visit to the incinerator facility; and

delivered a congratulatory letter on behalf of their Mayor, Her Worship, Lindiwe Dlamini.

- During the month of January, Council announced the hosting of the 2026 Windhoek //Ae //Gams Arts & Cultural Festival which is scheduled to take place on 08 and 09 May 2026.

A Call for Applications for all Creatives and Vendors to participate in the festival is advertised widely on various platforms and media. The closing date is set for 20 February 2026. We would once again urge all creatives and residents to join us in celebrating the diversity of our vibrant City.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would wish to make use of this opportunity to remind our residents that The City is anticipated to continue to receive high rainfall during the ongoing rainy season. Residents are therefore urged to remain vigilant and practice careful conduct and avoid crossing flooding roads and riverbeds as per the recently issued flood advisory and safety warning issued. Although no injuries have been recorded thus far, our response teams have recorded isolated incidents and residents are urged to reduce their flood risks and protect their homes.

Before I conclude, please allow me to, on behalf of Council, extend heartfelt birthday wishes to Council Member Ivan Skrywer, who celebrated his birthday on 14 January 2026. May your year ahead be filled with joy, good health, and wisdom. We appreciate your continued service to our City.

In conclusion, as your Mayor and first servant, I wish to reiterate Council's commitment to leading with humility, listening with empathy, and acting with integrity.

Respect will be our compass and Service will be our duty. Let us go forward together, united in purpose and guided by the Spirit of Ubuntu and common purpose.

I thank you.

Sakaria Uunona

MAYOR