



OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY

**THE MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF
WINDHOEK
COUNCIL MEMBER NDESHIHAFELA LARANDJA**

ON THE OCCASION OF

THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF JUNE 2025

**26 June 2025
17:30
Council Chambers**

- **Council Member Clemencia C Hanases; Deputy Mayor of the Municipal Council of Windhoek;**
- **Council Member Illse Keister, Chairperson of Management Committee;**
- **Council Members Present;**
- **Mr Moses Matyayi, Chief Executive Officer;**
- **Reverend Dr Haruna Goroh, Greater Love Ministries;**
- **Strategic Executives and Senior Officials present;**
- **Windhoek Residents;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

June 2025 has been a month of substance and momentum - a time of meaningful engagement, infrastructural strides, and renewed affirmation of our commitment to inclusive growth and dignity for all.

In a continuous effort to strengthen collaboration between the city of Windhoek council with the government Offices, Ministries and Agencies, I paid a courtesy call to the Minister of Information, Communication and Technology, Honourable Emma Theofelus on 05 June 2025. Accompanied by City officials, I used this timely engagement to raise key areas of possible collaboration for effective service delivery and community empowerment as well as issues impacting our people:

- **Promoting ICT literacy at Community Centers for vulnerable groups and senior citizens:** The Council aims to offer basic ICT training to empower the vulnerable community members with essential digital skills, enabling access to on-line services, improved communication and greater inclusion in the digital economy. The intention is to collaborate with the Ministry by resourcing the community centres with the necessary technological equipment for the provision of ICT literacy.
- **Safe homes for the homeless and street children:** While we allocated property for a safe home, national resources are needed to make it functional. No child should grow up on the streets of Windhoek.
- **Expanding Public Internet Access in the informal settlement:** To address the digital divide, it is essential to provide free and reliable internet access in libraries situated in the informal settlements. This initiative is aimed at enabling community members, particularly students and unemployed youth, to benefit from educational resources, digital learning platforms, and employment opportunities.
- **Advancing Smart City development through a supportive legal framework:** There is a need of a coordinated and supportive legal and policy environment for the implementation of Smart City strategies. The city seeks the Ministry's support in developing and harmonizing national and local regulations to

enable the effective intergration of digital technologies into urban planning, services delivery, and governance.

- **Leveraging Fibre Optic Infrastructure for Smart City implementation:** Recognizing fibre optic technology as a critical enable of Smart Cities, the city expressed interest in partnering with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technology to expand and optimize the use of fibre optic infrastructure. Such collaboration would ensure high-speed connectivity that supports data.

I am pleased to report that the Honorable Minister welcomed the proposed areas of collaboration. She further emphasized the importance of the partnership, noting that the Ministry is ready to partner with the city.

Let me begin with our youth, the heartbeat of Windhoek's future. From 2 to 6 June 2025, the Department of Economic Development and Community Services ran the "*Start Your Business*" training programme in Groot-Aub, empowering 17 young aspiring entrepreneurs. This wasn't just a workshop. It was a lifeline. For many of these participants, it was the first time they were supported to believe in the value of their ideas and shown a path to viability.

The impact of such initiatives goes beyond numbers - it instils hope and action where once there was doubt.

Dear residents,

On 18 June 2025, we turned inward, engaging internal stakeholders to review our informal trading regulations. The informal sector is the foundation of countless livelihoods. If we are serious about dignity,

lawfulness, and economic opportunity, then we must continue to evolve our support for informal traders.

Also in June, our commitment to basic service delivery was visibly realised. Electrification work commenced in Otjomuise and Okatunda B. These are not just cables in trenches, they are lines of opportunity, illuminating homes and livelihoods. Through our Five-Year Electrification Plan (2023 - 2028), we reaffirm that every Windhoek household deserves light, security, and dignity.

On 25 June 2025 (yesterday), I had the honour of hosting the **8th Windhoek Mayoral Business Forum**, which focused on Urban Agriculture - exploring how policy, innovation and investment can feed both our people and our economy. The forum generated actionable recommendations to inform our Urban Agriculture Strategy and strengthen food security for all residents. Let us be clear: a hungry city cannot thrive.

Dear residents,

Windhoek, like many urban centres, faces challenges related to food insecurity, rising food prices, and a lack of access to nutritious, fresh produce. Despite these challenges, there is a significant opportunity to enhance household food self-sufficiency through backyard gardening. Many residents have unused or underutilised spaces that can be converted into productive garden plots.

By being among the people you lead, you will be exhibiting the crucial leadership traits of humanity. A leader must observe the burdens of those they lead. You must empathize with them. Their pain must become your pain. It is in this spirit that the Office of the Mayor will launch - the "*Windhoek Grows Campaign*" - a city-wide initiative to promote household backyard gardening, and where participating backyard gardeners will be awarded with Certificates of Recognition on a quarterly basis.

The project aims to increase awareness, provide practical and theoretical skills and promote sustainable gardening practices among our residents, through training, community outreach, and demonstration gardens. The project will kick off in July 2025, with strategic partners such as the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Land Reform; and the University of Namibia, who pledged technical support for training, awareness campaigns, and technical assistance.

The City of Windhoek intends to train between 200 and 300 backyard gardeners from the various constituencies in areas such as composting and soil health, water-efficient irrigation, raised plant beds, vertical gardening and container gardening, as well as crop selection and seasonal planning. Not only will this project aid in improving gardening skills and build capacity, but it will, most importantly, contribute to enhanced food security and nutrition, whilst potentially creating opportunities for entrepreneurship and income generation, through produce sales.

Similarly, in the quest to create a sustainable city and communities, during the same month, on 23 July 2025, the Office of the Mayor will launch a complementary programme, a “Health and Wellness” project in collaboration with private doctors targeting the vulnerable community members.

Moreover, looking ahead, as part of Council’s renewed efforts to restore Windhoek’s status as the cleanest city in Africa, the Mayor’s Clean-Up Campaign will also be launched during the same month, on 12 July 2025. The campaign will be a city-wide initiative running across all constituencies until November 2025. Thank you to Namibia Breweries Limited (NBL) who became the first corporate partner to respond to our call to action to join the cleaning campaign. They donated 17 cases of bottled water produced by the company. Council appreciates their timely support and I would like to reiterate the

importance of our shared responsibility in keeping our capital city clean.

This initiatives, through the Windhoek Residents Mayoral Trust, directly supports vulnerable members of our society and have a significant impact on the living standard and dignity of the Windhoek residents.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Earlier this month, we also advanced strategic discussions around the Ramatex property, a long-dormant space with immense potential. Council is poised to reclaim and transform the site into a dynamic industrial or commercial zone. Site inspections and internal consultations were conducted, and we are carefully reviewing proposals. While no final decision was made, we are determined to unlock Ramatex's full potential - for jobs, revenue, and regeneration.

Honourable Councillors, fellow residents,

Leadership is about making things happen. The call to leadership is therefore a call to take up responsibility. You don't need to be perfect, or experienced. It's about seeing a people, communities, a country or organization in trouble and taking action. It means taking responsibility, sometimes even at risk to your own life.

Let us continue building a Windhoek that works for all, where history is honoured, lights are turned on, businesses are born, and every citizen feels seen. I thank you.

Council Member Ndesihafela Larandja
Mayor of Windhoek
