



**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY:**

**HER WORSHIP, QUEEN OMAGANO KAMATI,**

**MAYOR OF THE CITY WINDHOEK**

**ON THE OCCASION OF:**

**THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 2024**

**23 October 2024**

**09:00**

**Council Chambers**

- **Your Worship, Joseph Uapingene, Deputy Mayor;**
- **Councillor Bernardus Araeb, Chairperson of the Management Committee;**
- **All Local Authority Council Members, Present;**
- **Reverend Matti Amunyela from Emmanuel Lutheran Parish – ELCIN**
- **Mr. Moses Matyayi, Chief Executive Officer;**
- **Strategic Executives and Senior Officials, Present;**
- **Windhoek Residents;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Good morning,

I extend a very warm welcome you all, to the ordinary council meeting of September 2024. As we convene today, allow me to reflect on the recent significant events from the past month:

### **African Urban Forum (AUF)**

From 4 to 6 September 2024, I attended the African Urban Forum (AUF) in Addis Ababa, which focuses on sustainable urbanisation in Africa. During the event, the Windhoek-Addis Ababa Twinning Agreement was signed, to collaborate on various urban development issues.

### **Zero Emissions Day**

Throughout September 2024, Windhoek hosted several sustainability-focused events, including Zero Emissions Day and Mobility Week, to promote the use of electric vehicles and public transport. These initiatives align with our Climate Change Strategy, aimed at transforming Windhoek into a low-carbon urban centre.

## **Handover of Communal Taps**

Despite the challenges of the current drought, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2024, we inaugurated five communal taps in a mountainous area of Windhoek's informal settlements thereby, providing essential water access to underserved communities. As a caring city and in line with our strategic objective of providing basic services, especially to vulnerable communities, it was important to explore the option of providing these much-needed services. Five (5) pre-paid water standpipes with the water pipelines and infrastructure were installed at a cost of approximately N\$150,000: four (4) were installed in the Jerry Ekandjo Location and one (1) was installed in the Mathew Shikongo Location.

## **Heritage Week**

Namibian Heritage Week was launched on 16 September 2024 at the Windhoek City Museum under the theme "*Community is Culture, Culture is Community.*" Council's Windhoek City Museum played a pivotal role in this year's Namibian Heritage Week, by hosting the following events:

- Official launch with the Minister of Education, Arts, and Culture, Honorable Anna Nghipondoka delivering the keynote address.
- City-guided tours tailored for primary schools.
- Visual Art Workshop and Scavenger Hunt

Heritage week is crucial in promoting national unity by celebrating Namibia's cultural diversity and emphasizing the importance of preserving both tangible and intangible heritage, fostering pride in local traditions, and encouraging communities to maintain cultural practices. This not only strengthens Namibia's identity but also supports sustainable tourism by drawing attention to the country's rich history and traditions.

## **Groundbreaking Ceremony of Electrification Projects**

On 18 September 2024, we inaugurated the Informal Settlement Electrification Project at Okatunda: bringing electricity to 803 households. This initiative is part of a five-year plan and underscores our commitment to

improve the living conditions for all residents. The roll-out of the electrification projects is ongoing and updates will be provided on a continuous basis.

### **Inauguration of Shapumba Twin Towers**

Last month, I also had the honour to mark the inauguration of the Shapumba Twin Towers-a key investment in Windhoek's Central Business District (CBD). This project reflects our collective efforts to promote economic growth, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goals 8 and 17 on Decent Work and Partnerships.

### **Engagement with Market Vendors (Tukondjeni Market)**

On 21 September, over 500 vendors from Tukondjeni Market attended a public meeting to discuss critical issues such as illegal trading, market cleanliness, public health, fire safety and prevention. During this engagement, the need for a clean and orderly market to prevent disease, was emphasised. An action plan to clean the marketplace and conduct orderly trading was mapped out and will run parallel to a long-term strategy. I am pleased to report that vendors expressed appreciation for the engagement and showed willingness to contribute to market improvements, which resulted in a massive cleanup effort at the end of September 2024.

Further to the above, the Municipal Council of Windhoek (under Section 94 of the Local Authorities Act, No. 23 of 1992), Gazetted the Street Trading Regulations in 1999. The regulations were reviewed and approved in 2007 as the Informal Trading Regulation, No. 3882 of 2007. However, the need to review the regulations with key stakeholders is important. With funding from the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Namibia, we were able to facilitate the first consultative workshop on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 with various stakeholders including the Namibia Informal Sector Organization (NISO), SME Compete, Dynamic Informal Traders Association (DITA) and representatives of market committee members amongst others. The inputs and recommendations from this workshop will be used to inform the review of the Informal Trading Regulation on which the revised regulation is anticipated for completion in early 2025.

## **Sister-City Co-operation with Bremen, Germany**

I was honoured to welcome Mayor Andreas Bovenschulte of the Freie Hansestadt Bremen and his delegation during their visit to the City of Windhoek on 22-24 September 2024. The relationship between Windhoek and Bremen is a long-standing one and a testament to the power of people-to-people connections and the shared values of solidarity, friendship, and co-operation. The co-operation agreement signed with Bremen, emanated from the signing of the Charter Agreement on the Local Agenda 21 in 2000. Windhoek and Bremen have successfully collaborated on various sustainable development projects such as, the Decentralized Wastewater Treatment System (DEWATS), in the Mix Settlement, and innovative solid waste management initiatives, were showcased to highlight the potential of this collaboration to address urban challenges and stimulate a circular economy through recycling.

The visit itinerary included a number of activities such as:

- *the unveiling of the Namibia-Bremen Partnership Exhibition at Parliament.* This exhibition honours our shared history and Bremen's support during Namibia's liberation struggle. The exhibition was then opened to the public at the Windhoek City Museum and;
- the unveiling of six cargo bikes as part of the Circular Economy Incubator Start-Ups Project, providing local entrepreneurs with the tools and training to turn recyclable materials into valuable products.

On 26 September 2024, we also reaffirmed our tripartite Sister-City partnership between Bremen, Durban and Windhoek. The agreement enhances collaboration in the areas of waste management, urban mobility, and sustainable development. This partnership builds on our 2000 Charter Agreement, thereby furthering the shared goals of creating sustainable urban environments.

In addition, the Junior Council led by Junior Mayor Ginel Goagoseb, met with Mayor Bovenschulte to engage on youth-led projects and challenges, such as depression, substance abuse, and social engagement.

Lastly, in collaboration with the University of Namibia (UNAM), we hosted a public lecture on "Contemporary Leadership in Local Authority Governance" during which Bremen's Mayor, Dr. Andreas Bovenschulte underscored the evolving nature of local governance. He emphasised the need for adaptability, separating political and administrative roles, resource availability, and constitutional frameworks as being crucial to effective leadership, whilst recognising the need for leaders to respond to their communities' needs.

### **Windhoek Residents' Mayoral Trust Donations**

I would also like to thank our partners of the Windhoek Residents' Mayoral Trust whose generous donations during the month of September 2024, enabled a visit to the Dr. Elijah Ngurare Kindergarten in Okahandja Park, to donate school jerseys to around 40 children. Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the donations.

### **Employee Performance Awards Ceremony**

Further celebrating our organisation's progress, the City hosted the second Employee Performance Awards Ceremony on 20 September 2024. The ceremony recognised outstanding employees under the theme *City Heroes - Building a Sustainable City*. Our workforce remains our most valuable asset in achieving Windhoek's development goals and it was indeed an honour to recognise the achievements and long-serving employees, some of whom have worked for the city for up to thirty years. I thank all of the City's employees for their dedication and encourage us to continue to live our values of teamwork, customer focus, communication, fairness and equity and integrity.

## **SAIMSA Games**

The City's participation in the Southern African Inter-Municipal (SAIMSA) Games from 22 to 27 September 20 was another highlight. Our athletes showcased their talents, and I extend my congratulations to all our teams who represented us with vigour and brought home 7 gold medals, 3 silver and 2 bronze medals in the ringboard, soccer, netball, tug-of-war, volleyball, darts and marathon categories. Well done to all.

As always, thank you for your all for an impactful month and as always, Council remains committed to serving all our residents. Let us deliberate this evening's matters with objectivity and an emphasis on finding sustainable solutions.

I thank you.

**Queen O. Kamati**  
**Mayor of the City of Windhoek**