



OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY:

**HER WORSHIP, NDESHIHAFELA LARANDJA
MAYOR OF WINDHOEK**

ON THE OCCASION OF:

THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2025

5 March 2025

17:30

Council Chambers

- **Your Worship, Clemencia Hanases, Deputy Mayor;**
- **Council Member Illse Keister, Chairperson of the Management Committee;**
- **Reverend Joel Fikeipo, Hosiana Parish;**
- **Mr. Moses Matyayi, Chief Executive Officer;**
- **Mr. Lungelo Mbandazayo, City Manager of the City of Cape Town in the Republic of South Africa, and his colleague;**
- **Strategic Executives and Senior Officials, present;**
- **Windhoek residents;**
- **Members of the media;**
- **Ladies and gentlemen.**

Good evening.

Our nation mourned the loss of Dr. Sam Shafiishuna Nujoma, our Founding President, revolutionary leader, and Father of the Namibian Nation who transitioned from this earth on 08 February 2025. This past weekend, during his memorial and funeral services respectively, the City of Windhoek joined the masses in honouring of his extraordinary legacy of resilience, sacrifice, and unwavering leadership.

Dr. Nujoma led Namibia's fight for independence, and his leadership held the liberation movement together, ensuring victory. From his early political activism to his diplomatic efforts across Africa and beyond, he shaped Namibia's path to freedom. He built our nation on the principles of unity, justice, self-determination, hard work, and reconciliation. As we mourn his passing, let us continue the healing process by honouring his legacy, and

upholding the values he fought for. A great leader never truly leaves us; their vision, wisdom, and sacrifices continue to guide and inspire generations to come. Though he is not with us in person anymore, Dr Nujoma's vision lives on in the hearts of all Namibians.

To the bereaved family of the founding father, may God comfort you. May you find strength in the legacy he leaves behind – a legacy of unity, resilience and hope. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, and we stand in solidarity as we honour his remarkable life and service. Nelson Mandela once said: *“Death is something inevitable. When a man has done what he considers to be his duty to his people and his country, he can rest in peace.”* The Father of our Nation, Dr Sam Shafishuna Nujoma's memories will always be treasured in this organisation and beyond. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Allow me to also extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation, the Khomas Regional Council, City of Windhoek Councillors, and all staff for your invaluable support during the memorial and funeral services of our Founding President. Your dedication and collaboration played a vital role in ensuring a dignified and seamless commemoration. I truly appreciate your commitment and efforts during this important time for our nation.

Dear Council Members,

I spent time over the last month to meet with some departments of the City of Windhoek. These engagements will continue this month. The importance of meeting with all departments is to gain a comprehensive overview of their mandates, projects, budgets, successes, and challenges which cannot be

overstated. These engagements provide my office with a holistic understanding of the City's operational landscape, ensuring informed decision-making and strategic planning. Additionally, these meetings facilitate transparency and accountability, fostering a culture of open communication and shared goals among all of us. Ultimately, the engagements will enable me to shape a coherent and impactful programme for the year, aligned with the needs and aspirations of Windhoek's residents.

Dear residents,

I believe that, as the capital city of Namibia, Windhoek has a responsibility to lead by example in fostering unity and cooperation among local authorities. On the 21st of February, we hosted a number of our sister local authorities, and a key stakeholder in the National Heritage Council, during the signing of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). New cooperation agreements were signed with the Aroab-, Bethanie-, and Kalkrand Village Councils, and the Omaruru Municipality, while existing agreements were renewed with the Outjo Municipality, the Aranos-, Otavi-, and Opuwo Town Councils, and the Otjinene Village.

We will continue to work together around specific areas of development and growth, including management, economic development and trade, town planning and land management, small businesses and entrepreneurship, environmental management, and human resource and capacity building.

Our cooperation with the National Heritage Council aims to preserve the cultural, historical, and architectural heritage in Windhoek and surrounding areas. Heritage is not just about monuments and historic sites - it is the soul

of our identity. It tells the story of our people, their struggles, achievements, and contributions to history. Through this agreement, we will work hand in hand to research, plan, protect, educate, and promote our heritage in its various forms.

It was my distinct honour and privilege to reaffirm our commitment to collaboration, shared progress, and sustainable development with our above-mentioned partners. These partnerships are not merely symbolic, but serve as active frameworks for cooperation, aimed at addressing common challenges and advancing shared development goals. It is only through unity and shared effort that we can overcome challenges and create thriving communities. The lessons we learn from one another will enable us to build stronger, more resilient local authorities that meet the needs of our people.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Through our Economic Development and Community Services Department, we focus on stimulating economic growth by implementing strategies and projects that promote business development, job creation, and investment. One such project is the CAPTURE Project, which represents a significant step in fostering sustainable development and inclusivity within Windhoek's entrepreneurial landscape. Council, together with its strategic partners - the Berlin Society for International Cooperation (BGZ), and the Namibia Institute for Democracy, successfully concluded Phase 1 of CAPTURE Project. This impactful initiative empowered forty (40) local vendors of our Semi Mall arts and crafts centre opposite Avani Hotel in Windhoek's Central Business District (CBD), through various capacity-building initiatives. About 77% of the participating vendors were female and 23% were male beneficiaries. The

vendors graduated from the training on 11 February 2025. The project's interventions achieved great success through enhancing the vendors' business management skills and providing them with networking opportunities.

Through initiatives such as this, as well as many others - for example the recent Christmas Market and Kapana Festival - the City of Windhoek remains committed to revitalise our CBD and empower SME's by creating opportunities for local entrepreneurs which foster economic growth and community engagement.

Honourable Council Members, Dear Residents,

Earlier this year, heavy rainfall in and around Windhoek led to flash floods that displaced several residents, forcing them to relocate to a designated safe site in Goreangab (Farm 508). In response, the City of Windhoek and other stakeholders have been providing emergency relief by supporting the affected families. As part of this effort, the Windhoek Residents Mayoral Trust donated two hundred (200) food parcels worth N\$100,000 to assist the relocated families. Each household received sugar, maize meal, rice, macaroni, cooking oil, and canned fish. My sincere thank you goes out to the Chairperson of the Windhoek Residents' Mayoral Trust, Ms. Toucy Tjijombo and other trustees, including Her Worship the Deputy Mayor, Council Member Clemencia Hanases who represents the Council, all officials, and volunteers who assisted with the parcel handovers.

I would like to highlight the importance of the Windhoek Resident Mayoral Trust, which relies on donations from stakeholders and friends of Windhoek, in supporting our vulnerable residents. I invite more partners to come on

board and help us provide financial assistance for social welfare initiatives, community development, food security, and education. Without contributions from our partners, we would not be able to support those in need. We invite more stakeholders to step forward and make a difference.

At the same time, I would like to thank Vivo Energy Namibia for their generous support in addressing sanitation challenges in Windhoek. Eight (8) toilets, two (2) urinals, and two (2) communal water points, will be installed in the Mix Settlement, as part of a sanitation hub sponsored by Vivo Energy Namibia. The project, which was launched on 11 February 2025, is primarily funded by proceeds from the 2024 Vivo Energy Windhoek Marathon, which amounted to approximately N\$300 000. Dear residents, and all visitors to our beautiful Windhoek, I encourage you to register for this year's Vivo Energy Windhoek Marathon, scheduled for 24 May 2025, knowing that your contribution will go towards a worthy cause - the upliftment of Windhoek's vulnerable communities!

Also in February, as part of the City of Windhoek's 2024/2025 financial year rollout of communal services, and in our continued commitment to enhancing service delivery and improving residents' quality of life, the City installed new communal water taps in the Khomasdal- and Samora Machel Constituencies. The installation of these communal water points was done at a cost of approximately N\$200 000, which also included the installation of 270 meters of water pipelines. This is part of a project to install ten (10) additional communal water points across multiple informal settlements.

Last week, as part of the City of Windhoek's Five-Year Electrification Plan 2023 to 2028, we successfully connected over fifty (50) households to the

electricity grid. As work in this regard continues, we remain true to our mandate, improving the quality of life for all our residents through efficient and effective municipal services.

In conclusion,

I extend a friendly invitation to all to join us next month, on 25 and 26 April 2025, as we come together to celebrate our rich cultural heritage through art, music, and food during the popular Windhoek /Ae //Gams Arts & Cultural Festival.

Last, but not least, my warm congratulations to the following Council Members who celebrated their birthdays in February:

- Council Member Bernardus Araeb; and
- Council Member Sade Gawanas

Honourable Council Members, a happy belated birthday to you both; we wish you good health and success in all of your future endeavours.

May God bless the City of Windhoek and all its residents, and I thank you for your trust and support.

Ndeshihafela Larandja

Mayor