



OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY:

HER WORSHIP, QUEEN OMAGANO KAMATI,

MAYOR OF THE CITY WINDHOEK

ON THE OCCASION OF

THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD

ON

29 August 2024

17:30

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 of the Emmanuel Lutheran Parish in Freedomland;
Strategic Executives and Senior Officials, Present;
Windhoek Residents;
Members of the Media;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

GOOD AFTERNOON, and welcome to the August Session of our monthly Ordinary Council Meeting.

I hope that all our residents enjoyed a safe and thoughtful Heroes Day on the 26th of this month. The day was commemorated under the theme “Honouring Our Martyrs (Heroes and Heroines),” and my hope is that we, as patriotic and free Namibians, will continue to remember those brave men and women who sacrificed greatly for a brighter future for all of us.

Honourable Council Members, Windhoek Residents,

As we come to the end of winter, I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who contributed to the Mayoral Winter Drive 2024. Earlier this month we donated 503 winter jerseys valued at N\$55,000 to various schools around the City, an initiative by the Windhoek Residents Mayoral Trust. With the help of our partners and our own staff members from the Department of Urban and Transport Planning, and from the External Relations and Networking Division, we could again this year reach out to our young learners stay warm during winter, and stay focused during lessons. The new winter jerseys that we have collected and handed over, represent

a collective support and investment in our children's future. Together with our partners, we did not merely provide clothing, we fostered a supportive environment where every child's aspiration can flourish.

DEAR RESIDENTS

This month we conducted the first Local Stakeholders Engagement Workshop on Waste Management in Windhoek. The workshop part of the EU-funded project ***“Improving Solid Waste Management in Windhoek,”*** which is being implemented under the framework of the Windhoek-Bremen sister cities partnership. The workshop brought together public and private sector experts to explore opportunities in the transformation of waste into business and job opportunities. The partnership between Windhoek and Bremen, supported by the EU, places emphasis on circular economy and empowerment of communities.

This year our engagement with stakeholders in Waste Management started on 1 June 2024, when I launched the Mayoral Clean-Up Campaign in the Tobias Hainyeko Constituency under adopted slogan: ***“My Waste, My Responsibility”***. The aim of the campaign is to engage and educate our residents at community level to change their behaviour and take full responsibility for the waste that they generate in their households and businesses.

In same vein, a few weeks ago, I conducted various site visits to several trading locations, to assess the level of cleanliness at open markets. During these site visits, I observed that we are failing to maintain the cleanliness at some of the areas. Some of our traders had encroached upon roadways, and some have taken over parking areas and are operating unhygienic spaces.

I therefore wish to call our traders to take the responsibility of maintaining clean trading environments. We will continue to engage our informal traders to discuss issues of mutual concerns and benefits. In response to various challenges, the City will expedite the implementation of the recently approved Market Development Masterplan with the aim to alleviate market congestion and provide structured trading spaces in Windhoek.

In the area of crime prevention and public safety, I am pleased to mention that the City of Windhoek has made good progress in the installation of advanced surveillance systems featuring motion detection and flexible camera controls. These systems, cover key hotspots, including Groot Aub, and are managed from the City Police CCTV Command Centre for precise monitoring. During a joint City Police - Namibian Police Force operation this month, I had the opportunity to familiarise myself with these new technologies, which will no down impact our crime prevention efforts. I invite our residents to work with us to stamp crime out of Windhoek. Report criminal activities to the City Police or the Namibian Police, and do not get involved in unlawful acts under any circumstances.

On the provision of basic services front, I am pleased to inform you that Council during the past five years supplied electricity to about 4,000 households in Windhoek's informal settlements. I have no doubt that we can all agree, that access to energy is essential for promoting both economic and human development. Not only does energy help to enhance our daily living circumstances, such as health, and education, but it also helps to stimulate economic activity and create wealth. Electricity also makes internet connectivity possible, and allow children to attend

school more regularly, because they are not required to spend hours fetching firewood for lighting.

As part of Council electrification projects, a list of crime hotspots in informal settlements has been identified, with the goal to install high mast lights to enhance resident safety and security. Four high mast lights have already been installed as part of this endeavor during June 2024, and we plan to install fifteen more during the current Financial Year with funding from MURD, MME and KRC. Project activities on the provision of electricity to the neighbourhoods of Okatunda, Okuryangava, Kilimanjaro, Havana Extensions 1, 2, and 3, and Okahandja Park, amongst others, is ongoing.

However, the provision of electricity to our informal settlements has not been without challenges. Residents are required to sign lease agreements with the City to allow for the orderly development of their neighbourhoods, including the provision of electricity. However, it has come to our attention that some of our residents are unwilling to enter into these lease agreements with Council, leading to obstruction and delays in the completion of electrification projects.

Another challenge is that some of the lessees are not currently situated on plots allocated to them, while others are situated in approved road reserves. These residents must first be relocated, before our contractors can start with the installation of electricity networks.

Unfortunately challenges like these hamper the progress of the electrification of informal settlements and I call on all stakeholders, including community leaders and residents, to assist the City in mitigating these challenges for the sake of effective and efficient service delivery.

As we reflect on achievements and acknowledge our challenges, I want to express my gratitude to each of you for your dedication and hard work. Our collective efforts continue to drive positive change in our communities, and it is through our shared commitment that we make progress.

Let us remain focused on our goals, support one another, and continue to strive for excellence in all that we do. Together, we are building a brighter future for Windhoek.

I thank you

**Queen O Kamati
Mayor**