



OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY

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

ON THE OCCASION OF

THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF MAY 2025

**5 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 Gunter Swartz;

Strategic Executives and Senior Officials present;

Windhoek Residents;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good evening.

Fellow residents of Windhoek, as we reflect on the month of May 2025, I stand before you inspired by the energy, collaboration, and commitment that our capital city continues to display across many spheres. From community participation to international partnerships, this has been a month that reaffirmed our city's spirit and purpose.

In a momentous exchange, I paid a courtesy call to the Vice President, Her Excellency, Lucia Witbooi on 14 May 2025. Accompanied by City officials, I used this timely engagement to raise issues impacting our people:

- The rise of vaping and hubbly bubbly among the youth: These substances are undermining our education efforts. I have called on the national leadership to tighten regulations and safeguard our children's futures.
- 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.
- Sustainable Early Childhood Development (ECD): The City's ECD centres in Rocky Crest and Okuryangava, once supported by international partners, are now solely funded by the municipality. We call for ministerial collaboration to ensure these centres continue to nurture our children.

I am pleased to report that the Vice President pledged her support, echoing the urgency of these matters. Her leadership and empathy reaffirmed that we are not alone in our efforts.

Dear residents,

On 13 May 2025, I led a crucial stakeholder consultation with Windhoek's Central Business District (CBD) property owners and City officials to address the revitalisation of Windhoek's Central our CBD and the delayed Special Rating Area Regulation (SRAR), currently under review by the Ministry of Justice. We need to work together to finalise the regulation to unlock investment and enhance urban renewal through safety, cleanliness, and stakeholder collaboration. The SRA

model is vital to revitalising our CBD, not just in look, but in livelihood. We cannot allow the heart of Windhoek to wither. The voices of our business community are clear: Act now. Council is committed to continue to highlight this issue at a national level.

Staying with economic development initiatives, Council is happy to report that from 19 to 23 May 2025, the Economic Development Division successfully trained 18 unemployed youth in Groot-Aub during a 5-day entrepreneurship programme. The training equipped participants with essential business and financial skills to foster innovation, self-reliance, and economic participation, contributing to job creation and community development. Looking forward to later this month: on 11 June we will run the Oshetu Market Clean-Up Campaign with our tourism stakeholders and on 25 June 2025 the City will present the 8th Windhoek Mayoral Business Forum.

Dear Residents,

This past week, Team Windhoek, our organisational sports teams proudly flew our city's flag high at the annual Namibia Local Authorities Sports and Recreational Association (NALASRA) Games 2025 in Katima Mulilo. With determination, discipline, and heart, our athletes showcased their talents in football, netball, volleyball, and traditional games like Owela and Ringboard. Their resilience reflects not just athletic excellence, but also the unity and drive that define Windhoek. Council congratulates them as they embody the best of who we are.

Still with sport, on 24 May 2025, more than 4 000 runners took part in the third Vivo Energy Windhoek Marathon. What began as a test of endurance quickly became a celebration of community, compassion, and hope. This event, which benefits the Windhoek Residents Mayoral Trust Fund, directly supports vulnerable members of our society. I applaud every participant and thank them for their contribution to a worthy cause. It is heartening to report that last year's proceeds supported the construction of a Sanitation Hub in the Mix Settlement - a testament to how sport can uplift lives.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the spirit of diplomacy and cooperation, I had the honour in May of engaging with several dignitaries and delegations who share our vision of inclusive and sustainable urban growth.

On 09 May 2025, we welcomed a delegation from the Berseba Village Council, led by Chairperson Felicia Motinga. We discussed support for their upcoming Fundraising Gala Dinner, which will raise funds for the 5th edition of the Berseba Goat Expo - an initiative that celebrates local innovation, rural development, and agribusiness. These conversations reinforce our ethos of Ubuntu - that our strength lies in how we uplift one another.

On 21 May 2025, I welcomed the Local Organizing Committee of the African Union Sports Council Region 5 Youth Games, who briefed us on the upcoming July event that will bring over 2 500 young athletes

from 10 countries to Windhoek. This is more than a sporting event - it is an opportunity to elevate our city on the regional stage and strengthen inter-city collaboration in key service areas.

I also had the privilege of meeting His Excellency Rahul Shrivastava, High Commissioner of India, to explore ways to position Windhoek as a textile manufacturing hub. With India's expertise and Windhoek's ambition, we see immense potential to breathe new life into the Ramatex facilities, stimulate job creation, and drive industrial innovation.

On 20 May 2025, I received the Association of Diplomatic Spouses (ADS). Their unwavering commitment to education and charitable initiatives is both commendable and inspiring. The City of Windhoek looks forward to partnering with the ADS on the 2026 Diplomatic Charity Bazaar and assisting in the identification of education-focused projects to benefit from this year's proceeds.

I also welcomed Professor Earle Taylor, Jamaican Consul in Namibia, to deepen our cultural ties under the Windhoek-Kingston Sister City Agreement. As we work to revitalise our central business district, Jamaica's success in using cultural expression to attract tourism and restore civic pride offers valuable lessons.

It was also Council's honour to host His Excellency Rui Carmo, Ambassador of Portugal, where we explored possibilities for future cooperation in areas such as renewable energy, urban regeneration, and

cultural preservation. Portugal's deep ties to Namibia - through language and education especially - offer fertile ground for a mutually beneficial partnership.

Finally, Council attended the 18th Lüderitz Crayfish Festival, further demonstrating Windhoek's commitment to regional economic cooperation. Events like these do more than promote tourism - they connect communities and stimulate development. We must continue investing in one another.

Dear viewers, Council Members,

During May, in Okahandja Park and Babilon, I followed up on complaints of unused, unhandled-over toilets. Some residents have lived over ten years without clarity or functionality of these facilities. This is unacceptable. We will investigate, repair, and most importantly, we will collaborate. Accountability begins with us all. I remind every resident that your voice matters, and we hear you.

The month of May also saw the training of our neighbourhood committees in informal settlements on solid waste management. These men and women are the custodians of community cleanliness. As I told them: You are the eyes and ears of your communities. Let us all rally behind the upcoming Mayoral Clean-up Campaigns and restore Windhoek's pride as the cleanest city in Africa.

Dear residents,

In May, the City handed over N\$9.7 million worth of vehicles and equipment to sister local authorities including Okakarara, Rundu, Rehoboth, and Berseba. By empowering others, we multiply the strength of our entire nation. As one of the beneficiaries aptly said: Your generosity will not be in vain.

At the COSAFA U17 Girls' Football Championship in Windhoek last month, which I had the pleasure of attending, I witnessed something truly moving - young girls standing tall on the pitch, with dreams far bigger than the field. We remain steadfast in supporting girls in sport, youth empowerment, and gender equity in every sphere of life.

In closing,

As custodians of our city and its future, I invite every resident to join us as from today, 5 June 2025, for pivotal engagements around the theme: "Ending Plastic Pollution in Windhoek." Let us confront the urgent issue of plastic waste with bold ideas, sustainable innovation, and policy-driven action. Our shared environment demands not only awareness but decisive leadership from each of us.

As we move forward, let us do so united and guided by shared purpose, clear reasoning, and compassionate leadership. The Municipal Council of Windhoek cannot do everything at once, but with your continued trust, participation, and voice, we can, and we will, build the Windhoek we deserve.

I conclude by wishing a warm Happy Birthday to Council Member Juergen Hecht who celebrated his birthday on 31 May 2025. We thank you for your continued service and wish you joy and health in the year ahead.

May the month of June bring us all renewed hope, cleaner streets, stronger partnerships, and deeper compassion.

Together, we are Windhoek. Together, we rise.

Thank you.

Council Member Ndesihafela Larandja

Mayor of Windhoek
