



OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY

**HER WORSHIP THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF THE
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK
COUNCIL MEMBER CLEMENCIA C HANASES**

ON THE OCCASION OF

THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF MARCH 2025

27 March 2025

17:30

Council Chambers

Honourable Council Member Illse Keister, Chairperson of Management Committee,

Honourable 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.

Good afternoon and welcome to our Council Chambers for the third Ordinary Monthly Council Meeting for the Year 2025.

On the on-set, allow me to tender an apology from Her Worship the Mayor of the Municipal Council of Windhoek, Council Member Ndesihafela Larandja, who due to other equally important official assignments could not preside before this August House in person.

However, as the Deputy Mayor of the Municipal Council of Windhoek, it is indeed an honour for me to preside over this Council meeting.

Honourable Council Members, Windhoek residents,

Please join me as we reflect on the following noteworthy events that transpired nationally in particular and locally in the City in general, since our last Council meeting.

As part of Council commitment to accountable governance, transparency and participatory democracy, the Mayor of the Municipal Council of Windhoek engaged the local media at a media Briefing held under the theme: “*Setting the Tone for Windhoek: The Path Forward*” on 12 March 2025.

In her address, the Mayor emphasised that her holding of Office as the Mayor will not simply be a position of political representation; it is an apex function as enshrined in section 11 of the Local Authorities Act, 1992 (Act 23 of 1992) (as amended). Council is an arm of government, as guided by Article 102 and Article 111 of the Constitution of Namibia, meaning her office must ensure alignment with central government, private sector, civil society, and community structures into a unified framework of execution. This is the foundation upon which she intends to build our “*Partnering Framework*” - a model that will drive governance through collaboration, trust-building, and measurable economic results.

The Mayor further underlined that 12 March 2025 marked the beginning of a new approach - one that acknowledges the systemic challenges we face, one that speaks to our City's potential, and one that outlines how, working together, we will turn Windhoek into a known model of governance excellence, investment attraction, and sustainable urban development as provided for in our policies and strategies and guiding interventions.

On **19 March 2025**, the City hosted the Mayoral 35th Years Independence Celebration Lunch in honor of the Elders of Windhoek across all ten (10) Constituencies of the Khomas Region. This event was deliberately organised to celebrate thirty five (35) Years of Independence as a Nation and also to recognise the contribution made by our elders to the development of our City and reservoirs of wisdom. The events that took place concurrently in all constituencies and brought together a total of more than five hundred (500) elders not only to celebrate our country's biggest achievement in history, but to honour the knowledge, resilience and contributions of our elders, who have played an invaluable role in shaping the history and progress of our beloved nation.

The 2024 Presidential and National Assembly Elections secured Professor Job Shipululo Amupanda a seat in Parliament. In recognition of the contribution he has made to the development of our City, on Tuesday, **18 March 2025**, the City paid tribute to Council Member Professor Job Shipululo Amupanda, our colleague and dedicated young leader, who has been a revered Member of this August House. Prof. Amupanda, as we fondly called him, embarked upon a new role in Namibia's political landscape. Prof. Amupanda, alongside all of us, were sworn in as Council Member on 02 December 2020; and was elected as the Mayor of Windhoek at inception on 02 December 2020.

This was a time characterised by the global turmoil of the COVID-19 Pandemic and economic downturn. Despite these limitations, Prof. Amupanda demonstrated perseverance and unwavering commitment to the call of duty, in managing Council's affairs and ensuring the City's resilience. He had been instrumental in navigating through many complexities of his Mayoral tenure, and we are profoundly grateful for his steadfast dedication. His service and contributions to the Windhoek Municipal Council and at local government level had been invaluable. We wish Professor Amupanda every success as a Member of Parliament and look forward to working with him in his new capacity.

Furthermore, the Municipal Council of Windhoek is proud to congratulate Honourable Indileni Daniels, on her well-deserved appointment as Minister of Environment and Tourism. Honourable Daniels has been an integral part of the administration of the Municipal Council of Windhoek, who served with dedication as Section Head: Early Childhood Development, in the Department of Economic Development and Community Services, for a period of twelve (12) years. It was a period she served with passion, integrity and an unwavering commitment to improve the lives of all our residents, particularly in the areas of early childhood development and community empowerment. As she steps into this significant role, the city is confident that her leadership, vision and passion will have a transformative impact on the Namibian nation. Having had the privilege of witnessing her remarkable journey, we wish her success, strength and wisdom as she embarks on this important new chapter.

Another notable achievement in the history of the Municipal Council of Windhoek is the appointment of Ms Trudy Geises, the former Section Head: Youth Development who has been appointed as the President of the Health Professions Council of Namibia. The appointment of Ms Geises comes at a pivotal time following the implementation of the Health Professions Act, which seeks to strengthen healthcare regulation and uphold the highest professional standards. The Municipal Council of Windhoek is

immensely proud to see one of its own officials assuming a critical leadership role in shaping the future of Namibia's healthcare sector. Her passion for community development and advancing professional excellence makes her a fitting choice to steer the health sector.

Similarly, the City warmly congratulate Honourable James Sankwasa for his appointment as the new Minister of Urban and Rural Development. As our line Minister, the Municipal Council of Windhoek look forward to collaborating with the new leadership to advance sustainable urban development, economic growth and the well-being of our residents. May the leadership of Honourable Sankwasa bring unity and success to all local authorities in Namibia.

We celebrate these well-deserved achievements and wish them all success, strength and Godly wisdom in their new chapters of public service delivery.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Municipal Council of Windhoek hosted an Agricultural Forum under the theme “Urban Agriculture in Windhoek Amid Water Scarcity” On 19 March 2024. The forum brought together fifty nine (59) key stakeholders in the agricultural sector to explore innovative solutions for sustainable urban farming. With a growing urban population and increasing water scarcity, innovative solutions are needed to ensure food sustainability in Windhoek. The urban

farmers face challenges such as water shortages, limited land, and lack of financial support.

Moving forward, the City is committed to strengthening urban agriculture through policy development, land allocation, capacity building, financial support, and smart farming technologies. By integrating urban farming into city planning, Windhoek aims to create a sustainable food system that benefits all residents. Through collective efforts, urban agriculture can thrive, creating job opportunities, improving livelihoods, and ensuring food security despite environmental challenges.

Ladies and Gentlemen!

On **21 March 2025** Namibia did not only celebrated her 35th Anniversary of Independence but also made history with the Inauguration of our 5th President of the Republic of Namibia, Her Excellency, Dr Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, President of the Republic of Namibia as the First Female Leader of the Land of the Brave. The Municipal Council of Windhoek wish to join the Namibian Nation in particular and the world at large in congratulating Her Excellency, Dr Nandi-Ndaitwah on her inauguration. This signifies the rise of women in leadership positions. The appointment of Her Excellency Lucia Witbooi as Vice President of our Country, eight (8) female ministers is another milestone achievement which deserves praise. Apart from

Namibia having a Woman President and Woman Vice President, and young women have been affirmed, we can only rest assured that the future is bright with Motherly Leadership.

Honourable Council Members, Dear residents,

The Municipal Council of Windhoek will again host the Annual Windhoek Karneval (WIKA) for the 71st Edition of WIKA to embrace the spirit of Namibia, which is characterised diversity and unity of purpose. This serves as a powerful reminder of the determination and positivity that strengthens our collective identity. All Windhoek residents and visitors are invited to join the WIKA Karneval by witnessing the street parade along Independence Avenue on Saturday, **29 March 2025** which will end with the Mayoral Reception at the Upper Deck Parking of the City Hall, at 10:00 where the Mayor will hand over the Key to the City to the Royal Couple.

Honourable Council Members, Dear Residents!

On a different note, I would like to inform our residents that following the good outpouring of rain across Namibia during this month, the Municipal Council of Windhoek acknowledges the increasing number of potholes on our roads due to the ongoing rainy season. We understand the inconvenience and safety concerns this may cause for motorists and pedestrians. In response, our teams are actively monitoring affected roads and conduct temporary repairs to improve drivability.

However, permanent repairs using bitumen will only be carried out once the rainy season ends to ensure long-lasting and effective restoration. We urge all motorists to exercise caution, reduce speed and remain vigilant while driving, especially on roads prone to water damage. Your patience and cooperation are greatly appreciated as we strive to maintain safe and accessible road conditions for everyone. Thank you for your understanding. For any urgent road concerns, please contact the Municipal Council of Windhoek Customer Contact Centre at Tel: 061 290 3777.

The City would further like to inform the public and families whose loved ones are resting in peace at Gammams Cemetery that the heavy rainfall between 17 and 21 March 2025 has caused significant damage to some of the graves memorial works/tombstones. We therefore encourage families to visit the cemetery to assess any potential damage and arrange for necessary repairs. This remains a deeply emotional matter and Council extends its sympathies to the affected families. Furthermore, the ongoing weather conditions have significantly affected burial operations. Waterlogged graves and soil instability have presented unexpected challenges requiring additional resources and logistical efforts to maintain uninterrupted burial services to the communities. Council is making every effort to ensure that services continue without any disruptions. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation during this time. For further

information or assistance please contact our Funerals and Cremations Section at 061 290 3544.

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

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