



OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY

THE MAYOR OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
OF WINDHOEK

HIS WORSHIP SAKARIAS UUNONA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL
MEETING

FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2026

Held on Thursday, 07 May 2026

17:30

Council Chambers

Your Worship Nangula Albertina Amutenya, Deputy Mayor of the City of Windhoek;

Council Member Austin Kwenani, Chairperson of the Management Committee;

All City Council Members Present,

Mr. Moses Matyayi, Chief Executive Officer of the City of Windhoek;

Fr Ignatius Nambondi, St Joseph Parish, Döbra, Roman Catholic Church;

Strategic Executives and Senior Officials present;

Windhoek Residents,

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you once again to our Council Chambers for the **Fourth Ordinary Council Meeting of the year 2026.**

From the onset, and in recognition of 01 May, which is globally celebrated as Workers' Day, I extend a belated but heartfelt appreciation to all employees of the Municipal Council of Windhoek. We acknowledge your dedication and service and pray that our Heavenly Father continues to bless the work of your hands. The presence of each one of you here today, alongside the important work before us, is deeply valued.

In reaffirming the Council's commitment to its workforce, I am pleased to report on the continued success of the Councillors Induction and Onboarding Programme – Departmental Visits (Phase 4), which is scheduled to conclude

on 11 May 2026. These engagements provide a meaningful platform for employees to interact directly with Council Members, strengthening relationships and reinforcing the pivotal role of human capital in the success of our organization.

Fellow Council Members, Dear Residents,

Allow me to express sincere appreciation to the residents of the City of Windhoek, particularly those who continue to honour their municipal obligations and those making a determined effort to reduce outstanding arrears. Your commitment is not only supporting service delivery, but also contributing directly to the economic stability and future development of our capital city. At a time when municipalities across the region are under increasing financial pressure, responsible civic participation remains essential to sustaining local governance and public confidence.

Council remains one of the largest drivers of economic activity and employment within the local economy, and stable revenue collection is fundamental to fulfilling this responsibility. In this regard, I am encouraged to report that the city's financial position has shown resilience since the beginning of the financial year, despite prevailing economic challenges affecting households and businesses alike.

As at 31 March 2026, the total debtors' book stood at N\$869 million, compared to N\$888 million at the close of the previous financial year on 30 June 2025. During the same period, arrears declined from N\$650 million to N\$626 million. These figures demonstrate gradual but meaningful progress

in strengthening financial discipline, improving revenue management, and restoring the municipality's fiscal sustainability.

On another strategic matter of national and local importance, Council has made meaningful progress in its engagements with central government regarding the debt and land swap arrangement linked to the government loan, which currently amounts to N\$716 million, with nearly half of this figure attributable to accumulated interest. The successful conclusion of this arrangement will not only improve Council's liquidity position, but will also create greater financial space for infrastructure investment, service expansion, and long-term urban development.

Importantly, the transaction is expected to improve Council's current ratio from N\$1.13 to N\$1.80 for every dollar of current liabilities, significantly strengthening the City's financial standing and institutional resilience. These developments place the City of Windhoek on a stronger and more sustainable footing to meet its obligations, protect essential service delivery, and advance a responsive, developmental, and economically resilient municipality for all residents.

Similarly, I am proud to celebrate the extraordinary resilience and innovation of our Windhoek City Police. We are not merely dreaming of a safer future; we are actively building it. Through its bold Smart Policing Strategy, the Service has transformed the capital into a hub of technological excellence.

As of April 2025, the Windhoek City Police successfully integrated a network of more than five hundred (500) high-tech surveillance cameras equipped with artificial intelligence and automatic number plate recognition technology,

ensuring a 24-hour protective shield over some of our most vulnerable areas. This progress has been driven by strong partnerships, including a recent N\$569 000.00 collaboration with FNB Namibia, as well as the donation of three (3) advanced CCTV cameras valued at N\$141 000.00 by the Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) Fund on 24 April 2026.

Another significant milestone was the successful conclusion of a three-year Memorandum of Understanding signed on 13 April 2026, between the Municipal Council of Windhoek, the Windhoek City Police, and Kosmos 94.1 Digital Namibia Limited. This agreement formalizes a long-standing partnership of fifteen (15) years aimed at strengthening public safety and community engagement in Windhoek. The partnership seeks to enhance transparency, accountability, and trust between the public and the police. In addition, the initiative will further strengthen the zonal policing model, bringing safety services closer to residents across the city's twenty two (22) operational zones. These strategic approaches are intended to improve road safety, enhance traffic monitoring, and reduce the high rate of road crashes on the city's roads.

Dear Residents, Honourable Council Members

As reported on previous occasions in this August House, the city requires approximately **N\$384 million annually** for road maintenance, for which no revenue is collected from the road users by means of tariffs or levies. Based on historical data, only 5 - 10 % is contributed from the Road Fund Administration (RFA), the RFA collects road user levies and charges from all users of Windhoek and Namibian roads. In addition to this annual maintenance requirement, the rain damage as a result of the 2024 - 2025 rainy

season escalated the maintenance cost requirements with an additional **N\$353 million**.

Not forgoing the above budgetary challenges, the City has made great strides in routine maintenance by attempting to permanently fix potholes with bitumen. To date, more than seventy six thousand (76 000) potholes have been repaired, covering in excess of fifty seven thousand (57 000) square meters of road deformities.

In addition, the rehabilitation of Eveline Street is nearing completion, and the City has recently appointed a contractor for the periodic maintenance on sections of Mandume Ndemufayo and David Hosea Merero Avenues. A contractor was also recently appointed by the City to continue with the phased programme for the upgrading of gravel roads to bitumen roads, Northern Suburb Phase 8, that includes certain roads in Wanaheda Extensions 2, 3 and 4. We are also busy with the procurement of a contractor for the resealing of minor streets in other areas of the City of Windhoek.

Dear Residents; Council Members

During this Financial Year, the City connected a total of three hundred and eighty three (383) informal houses to electricity, of which three hundred and eighty three (383) are switched on and the remaining one hundred and three (103) are in the process of being connected, pending signing of lease agreements by owners, but the poles to connect are installed. This is done in various townships.

Similarly, fifteen (15) High Mast Lights were erected across Windhoek's informal areas and constituencies of which four (4) High Mast Lights have

been switched on. The remaining eleven (11) are currently being connected to the electricity network before switching them on as well, over the next two (2) to four (4) months. The high mast lights are installed in the following areas:

On the international front, the City of Windhoek had the distinct honour of hosting a delegation from Berlin, Germany, led by Mr. Michael Biel, State Secretary of the Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises, Berlin, Germany. The visit, which took place from 27 to 29 April 2026, aimed to further strengthen the longstanding cooperation between our two (2) cities. A key highlight was the official the inauguration of the Windhoek Solar Centre, a significant milestone within the broader framework of Windhoek-Berlin sister cities partnership. The inauguration of this project, testifies the strategic importance of international relations and cooperation at municipal level.

Honourable Council Members, Dear Residents

We are once again approaching one of the highlights of our annual calendar - the /Ae //Gams Arts and Cultural Festival, which will take place from 08 to 09 May 2026 under the theme “*Nurturing Creativity, Growing Talents.*”

This vibrant celebration brings together cultures from all walks of life, embracing our identity while enhancing innovation, productivity, employee engagement, and business performance by bringing together varied perspectives and experiences. All residents are wholeheartedly invited to visit the /Ae//Gams Arts and Cultural Festival as we celebrate cultural diversity while showcasing artistic excellence. It also contributes to promoting tourism

and stimulating local economic development. The Windhoek /Ae //Gams Festival has become one of the most anticipated events on the city's arts and cultural calendar, bringing together creatives, performers, and communities in a vibrant celebration of art, music, culture, and heritage.

Dear Residents,

As part of our continued effort to reclaim Windhoek's status as the cleanest city in Africa, the 2026 Mayoral Clean-Up Campaign is ongoing as per the program. Let us all join hands in this concerted effort by cleaning our environment. Everyone is invited to this noble initiative, together, let us take responsibility for preserving the cleanliness and beauty of our city.

On this note, fellow council members, **Ladies and Gentlemen**, allow me to reassure Windhoek residents that this Council remains firmly committed to effective service delivery and improving the quality of life of all our people.

I thank you.