



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 MAY 2026

Held on Thursday, 04 June 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;

Reverend James Fredericks, General Secretary of the Council of Churches in Namibia;

Strategic Executives and Senior Officials present;

Windhoek Residents,

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

It is with great pleasure and a deep sense of privilege that I stand before you today to warmly welcome you once again to our Council Chambers for this Fifth Ordinary Council Meeting of the year 2026.

Dear Residents,

I am pleased to report that the Municipal Council of Windhoek has made significant progress in developing its first People-Centred Smart City Strategy. Developed with UN-Habitat, through the support of the UNITAC Project, this roadmap will guide our efforts to become a more inclusive, innovative, resilient and sustainable city. The strategy prioritises citizens in digital transformation, using technology and data to improve service delivery, enhance citizen participation, strengthen urban governance, and raise residents' quality of life. Now in its final stages, the strategy reflects extensive

engagement with internal and external stakeholders through surveys, workshops, technical assessments, and consultations. Once adopted, it will provide a clear framework for leveraging smart solutions to address urban challenges and promote sustainable development, positioning Windhoek as a leading smart city in Africa.

The Municipal Council of Windhoek has made substantial progress in commercialising its municipal fibre optic network. The first phase of the Fibre Optic Commercialisation Project, completed with specialised advisors, has mapped sustainable business models and identified key market opportunities. These steps have prepared the network to become a commercially viable, future-ready digital platform. As a result, municipal revenue streams are expected to grow, connectivity has improved in pilot areas, and Windhoek is better positioned to implement the People-Centred Smart City Strategy. The upgraded infrastructure has attracted new digital service providers and fostered innovation, advancing Windhoek as a smart city hub.

Fellow Council Members, Dear Residents,

Safety and security are essential to a thriving, sustainable city. Recent crime statistics from 1 January to 31 May 2026, show encouraging progress, with overall reductions compared to last year: house break-ins reduced by 27 %, business break-ins by 1 %, theft by 7 %, robberies by 22 %, murders by 14 %, and attempted murders by 10 %. These improvements reflect strong collaboration between law enforcement and communities.

The drop in house break-ins is largely due to increased security awareness, active neighbourhood watch groups, and the use of technology under the Safer

City Strategy. However, incidents still occur, often linked to unattended properties and inadequate security measures. Many theft and robbery cases also remain opportunistic, highlighting the need for continued vigilance. However, challenges remain. Theft from motor vehicles increased by 4 %, often due to valuables left in plain sight. Armed robberies rose by 10 %, frequently targeting individuals in isolated areas, especially at night. Assault cases involving grievous bodily harm increased by 19 %, largely linked to alcohol abuse, domestic and gender-based violence.

These trends highlight that public safety requires ongoing vigilance and coordinated action. While progress is evident, addressing root causes - such as substance abuse, social challenges, and opportunistic crime remains essential.

Esteemed Residents, Dear Council Members, Over the past three (3) years, groups of children, sometimes accompanied by adults, have been observed at intersections, shopping centres, and other public spaces in Windhoek. While they initially sold traditional items, they are now largely no longer trading and instead approach motorists and pedestrians to request money, food or assistance.

This situation is a serious concern from both a law enforcement and child protection perspective.

Council previously partnered with stakeholders to repatriate some of these children and adults to their countries of origin, on multiple occasions. However, many have returned and resumed living on the streets, highlighting

that the issue goes beyond enforcement and requires a coordinated, multi-stakeholder response.

A key concern is that children are often accompanied by parents or guardians, who remain nearby while sending them to beg from the public. In some cases, any money or food received is taken by the adults, raising serious concerns about the welfare and potential exploitation of these vulnerable children.

Council has identified several factors contributing to this trend, notably the giving of money by members of the public. While well-intentioned, this practice unintentionally encourages children to remain on the streets.

The presence of these children in public spaces has raised safety and nuisance concerns. Reports include persistent begging, blocked sidewalks, interference with traffic, and loitering near businesses. Motorists are often approached at intersections, increasing accident risks, with some children already injured in such incidents. Businesses have also reported customer complaints and potential impacts on trade, while littering and waste buildup add pressure on municipal services.

The most affected areas include key intersections, shopping centres, the CBD, and several service stations. Some groups also sleep in nearby areas, leading to sanitation concerns.

Beyond these issues, the condition of the children is of serious concern. Many appear vulnerable, poorly clothed, and in ill health, with signs of skin

conditions and possible malnutrition - indicating an urgent need for social welfare, healthcare, and child protection support.

The observed activities contravene several municipal regulations, including those related to pedestrian obstruction, loitering, littering, public nuisance and unregulated street trading. They may also conflict with the Road Traffic and Transport Act, particularly where solicitation occurs near busy roads and intersections.

While the city remains committed to enforcing municipal by-laws, enforcement alone is not sufficient. The issue requires a balanced approach combining law enforcement, child protection, and immigration management.

The city calls upon all stakeholders to work together to find sustainable solutions that protect the best interests of these children, while maintaining public safety and order.

Members of the public are urged to support recognised welfare institutions by donating directly to shelters rather than to children on the streets, ensuring assistance reaches those in need, while discouraging exploitation.

The Municipal Council of Windhoek remains committed to protecting the dignity, safety and wellbeing of all residents, especially vulnerable children.

Through compassion, cooperation and responsible action, we can address this challenge, while safeguarding both our communities and these children's future.

A Motion to this effect is tabled by Council Member Ignatius Semba on today's Council Agenda, for consideration.

Dear Windhoek Residents;

The status on road repairs currently taking place around Windhoek are eighty five thousand and seventy four (85 074) mid-sized potholes (less than 900mm diameter) and covering a square area of sixty eight thousand seven hundred and sixty five point forty (68 765.40) square meter of patch work for larger potholes (greater than 900mm diameter) which is covering the period 01 February 2025 to 31 May 2026.

Contractors have been appointed in line with the Public Procurement Act, 2015 (Act 15 of 2025) (as amended). Pothole repairs are carried out according to scheduled timeframes across various suburbs and all planned repairs are implemented in line with the established pothole repair program.

Council Members, Dear Residents, the Municipal Council of Windhoek procured thirty five (35) skip containers in January 2026 of which five (5) were distributed across different areas in Havana. The procurement process is currently underway to procure additional fifty (50) skips during the next financial year, and the focus will be Havana with around twenty (20) skips envisaged to be distributed around Havana. There is a growing need of additional skips in different suburbs across the city.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, and on behalf of the Council, I wish to extend our heartfelt birthday greetings to Council Member Jesaya Ikali, who celebrated his

birthday on 23 May 2026. We wish him a year ahead filled with continued joy, good health and enduring wisdom.

On behalf of Council, allow me to congratulate the City of Windhoek Municipal Sports and Recreation Club members for winning the overall title at the 15th NALASRA Games in Grootfontein. Your achievements are commendable - well done, and keep up the excellent work!

Dear Residents, Let us move forward united in purpose, inspiring one another and working collectively to build a thriving, prosperous and vibrant future for our city -where every voice matters and every effort shapes a better tomorrow.

I thank you.