



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 JUNE 2026

Held on Thursday, 25 June 2026

17:30

Council Chambers

- **Your Worship Nangula Albertina Amutenya, Deputy Mayor of the Municipal Council of Windhoek;**
- **Council Member Austin Kwenani, Chairperson of Management Committee;**
- **All Council Members Present;**
- **Mr Moses Matyayi, Chief Executive Officer of the Municipal Council of Windhoek;**
- **Pastor Ricardo Rhynie Ganchab, NamAfrican Village Church Windhoek;**
- **Strategic Executives and Senior Officials present;**
- **Windhoek Residents;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon!

It gives me enormous pleasure and honour to welcome you once again to our Council Chambers for the Sixth Ordinary Council Meeting of the year 2026.

Dear Residents, as a caring and compassionate city, Council will today consider an item relating to donations from various good Samaritans, aimed at supporting the most vulnerable citizens, our elderly, within our community. Let us continue to honour and care for those who dedicated their strength, resilience and sacrifices to building a better future for generations to come. Was it not for the contributions and sacrifices of our elderly citizens - irrespective of social standing - the freedoms, opportunities and sense of belonging that we enjoy today would not have been possible. We owe them a debt of gratitude and must remain committed to ensuring that they are treated

with the dignity, respect and care they so richly deserve. We express our heartfelt appreciation to all our generous donors whose contributions continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Fellow Council Members and Residents; As we enter the dry winter months, we officially commence our high-risk grass and veld fire season, which persists through to October. In our unwavering commitment to enhance public safety, we urgently request all property owners to clear overgrown vegetation around their premises. This proactive measure is a legal necessity under Regulation 56, Part 4 of the Windhoek Fire Brigade Service Regulations, governing safety requirements on premises. Creating these critical firebreaks minimizes combustible materials, actively prevents the rapid spread of blazes, and serves as our frontline defense in safeguarding lives, local properties, and our fragile environment. I strongly urge every resident to take immediate action and maintain clear zones around their homes.

In an effort to Transform Fire Safety in Our Communities, please be informed that during 2025, we witnessed the immense success of our Smoke Detector Roll-out Initiative in the Informal Settlement Areas. Building on that momentum, Council, through the Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Unit, launched the **Community Fire Safety Education Programme** for 2026. This vital initiative operates under our Integrated Community Education and Risk Awareness Campaign (ICERAC) which spread across various internal stakeholders.

Data from the past six (6) months reveals a harsh reality. The communities most heavily affected by devastating informal dwelling fires are:

- **Moses //Garoëb Constituency;**
- **Samora Machel Constituency; and**
- **Tobias Hainyeko Constituency.**

We are not leaving these communities behind. We have prioritised these areas for urgent, targeted interventions. Our focus is clear: fire prevention education, early detection awareness, and building stronger collaborations between communities, businesses, and safety stakeholders.

I am proud to report that our community engagement is already yielding great results. During recent activations in the Moses //Garoëb Constituency on 17 and 24 May 2026, incredible grassroots leadership was displayed. Out of twenty four (24) community chairpersons, seventeen (17) actively participated. With their immense help, the City engaged a massive number of community members at Ondjelekela and the Ombili Community Hall. Residents actively asked questions, voiced concerns and received life-saving basic fire training and ten (10) smoke detectors were handed out.

Building on that success, the City just concluded the latest round of engagements in the Tobias Hainyeko Constituency on 14 and 21 June 2026, and the following are highlighted:

- **Leadership Expansion:** Thirty (30) structural chairpersons were identified.
- **Strong partnership:** Seventeen (17) dedicated chairpersons answered the Call to Action.
- **Strategic Venues:** huge crowds gathered at Rank 80 and the Maxuilili Fire Station.
- **Interactive Sessions:** Residents engaged face-to-face with municipal teams.
- **Emergency Readiness:** Families learned how to prevent and fight domestic fires.
- **Critical Protection:** Another ten (10) smoke detectors were distributed to high-risk homes.

We are not stopping here. True progress means leaving no constituency behind. Next month, in July 2026, our teams will move into the Samora Machel Constituency to continue this vital work. All Samora Machel Chairpersons and residents are encouraged to prepare, show up and participate. Together, we are making Windhoek a safer place for every single family.

Dear Residents, As we are extending our reach to Groot Aub, on Saturday, 20 June 2026 around midnight, our Emergency and Disaster Risk Management Team acted swiftly following a devastating fire incident at Groot Aub, providing the affected family with a tent, mattresses, blankets and essential relief items to shield them from the harsh winter weather. I want to

extend my deepest gratitude to our officials from the Fire Brigade, Disaster Risk Management and City Police for their prompt, tireless efforts in assisting the victims. Faced with a challenging emergency, these teams demonstrated outstanding professionalism, bravery and empathy, exemplifying the core values of Council when our residents need it most.

Dear Council Members, Dear Residents, The City of Windhoek residents are requested to carefully consider the long-term consequences of cutting down trees and removing grass because the City's topography, climate and environmental conditions make green spaces essential for sustainable urban development.

Windhoek is characterised by hills, valleys, and sloping terrain. Trees and grass help stabilize soil through their roots systems, preventing erosion during heavy rains. Removing vegetation can increase runoff, causing gullies, damaged roads, and sedimentation in drainage systems.

Residents are encouraged to report all de-bushing activities to the City of Windhoek's Parks Division, for action. The City, through the Environmental Act, 2007 (Act 7 of 2007), is prioritizing the preservation and expansion of trees and grass rather than their removal. Properly managed urban green infrastructure is an investment in environmental sustainability, public health and long-term resilience of the City.

Esteemed Residents, Dear Council Members, During June 2026, the Economic Development Division conducted two (2) Youth Entrepreneurship Training Programmes aimed at empowering young people with practical business skills and fostering self-employment:

- 03 - 05 June 2026: A total of seventeen (16) youth were trained in *Generate Your Business Idea (GYB)*, focusing on opportunity identification and business idea development.
- 15 - 19 June 2026: A total of eighteen (18) youth participated in *Start Your Business (SYB)* training, equipping them with foundational knowledge on business planning and start-up processes.

These interventions are critical in addressing youth unemployment in Windhoek, by enabling young people to create their own employment opportunities, build sustainable livelihoods and actively contribute to the local economy. The trainings form part of the City of Windhoek's ongoing commitment to Local Economic Development, supporting the growth of a vibrant and inclusive SME sector. The Economic Development Division continues to implement such capacity-building initiatives on a monthly basis, ensuring continuous access to entrepreneurial development opportunities for the youth of the city.

Esteemed Windhoek Residents, Council has appointed twelve (12) Local Electrical Contractors to electrify around one thousand three hundred (1 300) households in various informal areas around Windhoek. These projects are funded 100 % by Central Government, through the Ministry of Industries, Mines and Energy. The number of households to be electrified, per constituency, are four hundred and ninety two (492) in Tobias Hainyeko Constituency, two hundred and seventy nine (279) in Khomasdal Constituency, two hundred and sixty (260) in Moses /Garoëb Constituency, and two hundred and sixty seven (267) in Windhoek Rural Constituency.

The appointed electrical contractors have commenced with construction works. The overall project progress to date is 40 % completed and the project is expected to be completed by end of October 2026. The appointed contractor will also finalise the power supplies to nine (9) High Mast Lights in various informal settlements around Windhoek in order to improve public lighting aimed at reducing crimes in the informal settlements.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Before I conclude, and on behalf of Council, I wish to extend our heartfelt birthday greetings to Council Member Werner-Meck Tjihuiko, who celebrated his birthday on 06 July 2026. May he be blessed with continued joy, good health and the wisdom to navigate the year ahead with grace and success.

Let us be reminded that unity of purpose and teamwork are the foundations of our success, for it is through working together that we can realise our shared Mission which is to *Enhance the quality of life for all our people by rendering efficient an effective municipal services.*

Let us continue to work in partnership and with a shared sense of purpose to achieve far greater success and deliver a lasting impact for the benefit of our community.

I thank you.