



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 JULY 2026

Held on Thursday, 30 July 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;**
- **Vicar Elastus Handiba, Ephesians Lutheran Parish;**
- **Strategic Executives and Senior Officials present;**
- **Windhoek Residents;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good afternoon!

It is with great pleasure, privilege and honour that I welcome you once again to our Council Chambers for the Seventh Ordinary Council Meeting of 2026.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge the successful continuation of the networking visit by the Right Honourable Prime Minister, Dr Tjitunga Elijah Ngurare on 27 and 28 July 2026. Such high-level engagements provide valuable opportunities for knowledge exchange, partnership building and the strengthening of relationships between different spheres of government and development stakeholders. The visit reaffirmed our collective commitment to addressing the socio-economic challenges facing our communities and identifying practical solutions that can improve livelihoods and service delivery.

Dear Council Members and Esteemed Residents,

I furthermore wish to highlight the importance of the recent courtesy visit to Honourable Sankwasa James Sankwasa, Minister of Urban and Rural Development on 15 July 2026. This engagement underscored the need for a strong working relationship between local and central government and provided an opportunity to discuss critical developmental priorities affecting our residents. Through continued collaboration and open dialogue, we can secure greater support for infrastructure development, housing initiatives and service delivery interventions that directly benefit our residents.

Dear Council Members, Esteemed Residents,

The informal economy in Namibia is estimated to represent approximately 26.5 % of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and provides employment for 58 % of the national workforce. In Windhoek, the swift expansion of informal trading can be attributed to high levels of unemployment and poverty. We acknowledge that informal trading provides income for many households and contributes significantly to economic activity within our municipality. To date, the Council has developed a total of eighteen (18) open markets, which includes one (1) communal car wash and four (4) semi-developed markets that supports the livelihoods of an estimated forty four thousand two hundred (44 200) people.

Despite these provisions, there remains a significant demand for additional trading spaces to accommodate the numerous traders operating at various locations within the city. As part of the implementation of the approved Market Development Masterplan, the Municipal Council of Windhoek has sanctioned a total of twenty (20) sites where informal traders may operate temporarily under minimum hygienic conditions, pending the formalisation of these markets with more permanent facilities.

These sites approved by Council require the provision of basic services and facilities, such as water, electricity, ablution, and under-roof structures for

shading and storage. To implement the development of these markets, the Council needs to explore multiple funding and development models, including PPPs and land exchange models with the private sector.

By implementing controlled measures such as site demarcation, infrastructure provision when funds become available, and the registration of traders, this will also enable Council to monitor compliance and collect relevant levies from the sites earmarked for temporary trading to aid the rollout of future market infrastructure development projects.

By supporting informal traders, Council aims to empower thousands of residents to responsibly support their families with dignity while contributing to the development and prosperity of our city.

While Council has demonstrated its support for informal traders, these activities must be managed within the parameters of our laws in order to facilitate a conducive environment and prosperous city for all its residents.

Esteemed Windhoek Residents,

Another significant milestone is our continued commitment to the electrification of informal settlements across the City of Windhoek. Access to electricity is far more than a basic service. It is a catalyst for social and economic development, empowering communities through improved public safety, enhanced educational opportunities, increased economic participation, and a better quality of life for residents.

Since the inception of the City's Informal Settlement Electrification Programme in 2018, the City of Windhoek has successfully electrified eight thousand and fourty five (8045) households to date within the informal and previously underserved communities over a period of approximately eight (8)

years. This achievement represents a cumulative investment of approximately N\$157.5 million, funded primarily through grant allocations from the Government of the Republic of Namibia. Through this partnership between national and local government, thousands of residents have gained access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity, transforming communities and creating opportunities for sustainable development.

Our commitment further continues through a new generation of electrification projects currently under implementation as reported during the previous Council Meeting held on 25 June 2026. In April 2026, the City appointed twelve (12) electrical contractors to execute twelve (12) electrification projects across Okuryangava, Goreangab, Otjomuise, Mix Settlement and Morning Star, with an implementation period of seven (7) months. These projects will provide electricity to an additional one thousand three hundred (1 300) households at a total investment of approximately N\$33.5 million. Work is progressing well on most sites, with excavation, pole erection, conductor installation and ready-board installations already underway. Several projects have reached various levels of completion, while the Mix Settlement project has already completed connections and ready-board installations for the first households. Once completed, these projects will significantly expand access to electricity in some of the City's most vulnerable communities.

In addition to household electrification, the City has made substantial progress in improving public safety through strategic public lighting investments. Since the commencement of the High-Mast Lighting Programme in 2018, the City has erected a total of thirty seven (37) high-mast lights across the city at a cumulative investment value of approximately N\$13.85 million. These

installations have been strategically located in informal settlements, public spaces, transport corridors and areas with high pedestrian activity, improving visibility, reducing safety risks and enhancing security for residents.

Building on these achievements, the City officially commenced its comprehensive Streetlight Survey Project on 15 July 2026. The project represents an investment of approximately N\$12 million and will be implemented over a period of twenty eight (28) months. For the first time in the City's history, more than seventeen thousand (17 000) municipal streetlight poles will be physically inspected, digitally mapped and incorporated into a comprehensive asset management system. To support implementation, the City has created thirty four (34) Fixed-Term Employment opportunities, with thirty (30) personnel already recruited and inducted into the project.

Importantly, this project is not merely an asset verification exercise. As survey teams move through the city identifying faulty streetlights, damaged poles and defective infrastructure, repair and maintenance activities will be undertaken simultaneously. Rather than waiting until the survey is complete, restoration work will occur continuously throughout the project period. This proactive approach will progressively reduce unlit areas, improve road safety and strengthen community security while ensuring immediate benefits for residents.

Taken together, these investments reflect an unprecedented commitment to improving access to electricity and public lighting in Windhoek.

As we continue this important journey, let us remain steadfast in our commitment to building a municipality that is inclusive, resilient and responsive to the needs of all residents. Through strong partnerships with the Government of the Republic of Namibia, strategic investments, sound governance and effective service delivery, we are steadily moving closer to our vision of a city where every household has access to electricity, every community benefit from reliable public lighting and ultimately, where no dark corner of Windhoek remains unlit.

Fellow Council Members, Dear Esteemed Residents

As we gather here today, we do so with a shared responsibility to provide visionary leadership, strengthen good governance and advance the developmental aspirations of our residents. This meeting presents another important opportunity for us to deliberate on matters of strategic importance, review our progress, address challenges facing our community and make decisions that will contribute to the sustainable growth and prosperity of our city.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all Council Members, Management, and stakeholders for your continued dedication, commitment and service. Together, let us approach the business before us with unity of purpose, professionalism and a steadfast commitment to improving the quality of life of all our residents.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Before I conclude, and on behalf of Council, I wish to extend our heartfelt birthday greetings to Council Member Austin Kwenani Kwenani, who celebrated his birthday on 27 July 2026...*May you continue to*

be blessed with abundant joy, excellent health and the wisdom to face the year ahead with grace, resilience and every success.

Dear Residents and Council Members,

Together, let us continue working towards sustainable development, improved service delivery, economic empowerment and a better quality of life for all.

Once again, I warmly welcome you and wish us all a productive and successful meeting.

I thank you.