aloe
CITY OF Windhoek

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS ISSUE 1 JANUARY 2010

Compliments for the new year

Windhoek –Shanghai City to City engagement, first official encounter for 2010

The City to City international diplomacy remain one of the key strategy in addressing social and economic development challenges at the local level. The Cities of Windhoek and Shanghai (China) have been partners, collaborating in addressing common challenges such as worldwide urbanisation and seeking solutions for sustainable development as well as best usage of cultural heritage. It is thus by no surprise that the first official encounter of the year on the City of Windhoek's Mayoral calendar was a courtesy call by the Political Counsellor of the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, Mr Yiming Zhang. Mr Zhang delivered an invitation from the Mayor of Shanghai, Mr Han Zheng who is also the Vice Chairman of the National Organising Committee of the World Expo 2010, inviting his counterpart Mayor Shikongo, to the World Expo in Shanghai. Mayor Shikongo thanked his counterpart for the invitation and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity presented through this Expo which the City of Windhoek and Namibia as a country will exploit to promote Namibia as a tourism destination of choice to millions of Chinese and the world at large as well as promote people to people contacts. In his invitation Mayor Zheng noted, *"after the reform and opening up agenda was launched, the City of Shanghai has impressed the world with its dramatic economic and social progress, and its ever changing urban landscape"*

The invitation follows the Namibian Government's decision to participate in the World Expo 2010 in China, which will take place from May 2010. The conceptual theme under which the Namibia pavilion will represent the country is *"Experience living diversity"*. It will aim to demonstrate



Mr Zhang delivering an invitation to the 41st World Expo

various factors of Namibia, and to promote our country with the use of three sub themes namely: Explore – Tourism, Culture and Natural diversity. The overall theme of the World Expo is *"Better city, better life*, hence the City of Windhoek has been actively participating in the national arrangement pertaining to this important word event, which includes the National Preparatory Committee under the Chairmanship of Ambassador H Asheeke, the Commissioner General of Section. So far preparatory work for the World Expo is well on schedule. Namibia's participation in the Expo was officially launched by the Minister of Regional and Local Government, Housing and Rural Development, Honourable Jerry Ekandjo, last year. About 193 countries and 49 international organisations are said to have officially confirmed their participation to date.

2009: THE YEAR THAT WAS, MAYOR SHIKONGO

Mayor Matheus Shikongo, at the final Council Meeting of 2009 acknowledged that, 2009 was a difficult year, filled with a number of formidable challenges operationally, politically, socially, economically and financially. In elaborating further, he highlighted that poverty, unemployment, slow economic growth, rapid influx, HIV / AIDS and population growth, and other forms of social deprivation continued to derail the City's efforts to give content to the democratic commitment of a better life for all. *"This is the year when the global economy went through a worse recession coupled with a crunch in the world financial market, to which the City and Namibia were not spared"* he said.



The City also adopted the most challenging budget that received critical public interpretations from most quarters of the community, an indication that "as Council, we have reached the cross road, and can no longer sustain service delivery solely on rates and taxes", Shikongo noted. He assured the residents that the City continues to engage Government for subsidies so that tariffs increases could be minimized, he stated while looking forward to an improved outcome during 2010.

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From the editor



Ndangi Katoma

A warm welcome to Windhoek,

The much talked about year 2010 has just dawned on us. We at the City of Windhoek welcome you all, our residents, businesses, tourists and visitors. We hope you have had a deserving festive break and we wish you good health and a productive new year.

The year 2010 promises to be a rewarding and exciting year in many respects. Among the many reasons, we shall not only celebrate that Africa in general and Southern Africa in particular will be hosting the FIFA Soccer World Cup 2010 in South Africa but also, that the African Cup of Nations has just kicked off in Angola, albeit with some unfortunate incident involving the Congolese soccer team.

On the global economic front, it is acknowledged that our financial sector was not adversary affected by the recent subprime-induced world financial crisis, thanks to our prudent regulations. While some argue that there are positive signs of recovery from the economic crisis (that resulted from the financial crisis), others feel that the debate actually begins here. For one, Terry Bell, a writer, editor and columnist in political and economic matters in South Africa argues that we face a transformed world with which few in politics or business have yet to come to grips. In his view, the consequences of surplus capacity and surplus production-and the credit boom that sustained its development and disguised its danger-are challenges that must be confronted.

At a local level however our duty remains that of providing basic services to all those living in our City as well as those visiting our City and country. Our commitment to do this and keep the deserving honour of Windhoek as the cleanest City in Africa remains intact despite the challenges. Windhoek remains a destination of choice for those dear tourists and visitors that will want to escape the soccer activities directly while being close to this world event in the African continent. The culturally diverse residents, relaxed atmosphere and the welcoming spirit of the Namibian people await our visitors to this safe city and country. If you are overseas, our national airline, Air Namibia is ready to bring you here. Welcome to our City, the City of many faces.

Despite the aforementioned challenges, the City continues to be true to its Vision to improve the quality of lives of all its people. To that end, it embarked upon specific development projects. Provision of basic services to all residents and creation of economic development opportunities remained at the centre stage of the City's agenda throughout the year, he added.

The City's commitment and efforts toward creating job opportunities and an enabling environment for both formal and informal business, with the emphasis placed on nurturing small and medium enterprises made a greater impact on the lives of many Windhoekers. The City of Windhoek therefore will continue to support national development plans through the allocation of jobs to small business on most of its capital projects, Mayor Shikongo assured the residents.



On the international relations, the Mayor proudly emphasised that Windhoek has become an inspiration to many. *"We already have an international city and we should just enhance this image even further.* There has been a growing interest in Windhoek on the international arena and Windhoek has hosted a significant number of foreign delegations last year, such as those from the partner City of Vantaa in Finland, two delegations of Parliamentarians from Uganda, two delegations from South Africa's Buffalo and Sendibeng Municipalities, a delegation of Kenyan local authority associations, and a high powered delegation from Abuja, Nigeria amongst others.

Amongst other municipal issues the Mayor noted, he said, *"I am proud to mention that the world is interested in knowing the secret behind our waste management strategies, our City policing approaches and are willing to work with us".*

The year 2009 has also seen the City's increased participation on issues of global agenda. This entails City Councillors and officials contributed to implementation of initiatives seeking for global local government solutions. Shikongo highlighted that they participated and shared experiences at international conferences on cities against racism and discrimination, urban health, conference of Mayors of capital cities of Africa, just to mention, but a few.



On the social level and participatory governance, the Capital City continued to engage its communities on a number of projects and platforms and have felt the powers of the residents. The Mayor thus urged Windhoek residents not to disregard public forums hosted by the City and to continue attending public meetings, saying *"this is the platform where we could exchange notes on developmental issues".* Mayor Shikongo once again reiterated his conviction on governance, that *"our democracy must bring its material fruits to all, particularly the poor, marginalized and vulnerable. Our belief in the common good should ultimately translate into a deep concern for those that suffer from deprivation of any kind. We have set ourselves an ambitious agenda, so we should all work together to achieve these goals"* he concluded.

TWO NEW COUNCILLORS JOINED THE WINDHOEK CITY COUNCIL

1. Cllr. N. BURTZE



Cllr Burtze, representing the Congress of Democrats (COD) joined the Council recently. He was previously elected as Chairperson of the "Katutura Community Organisation For Social Welfare and Poverty" in the year 2000. He voluntarily got involved with the community and interacted with leaders on matters related to local government. This entailed involvement on issues related to housing and municipal bills. He replaced former COD Councillor, Mr Herbert Schultz.

2. Cllr. T. GAESEB



Cllr Gaeseb, representing the Republican Party, started his political ambitions in 1987. In 2006, he joined the Republican Party as the Political Advisor of the Party President. He was later appointed as an Acting Secretary-General of his party in 2007. During the same year, he served as the political head of the party and continued serving as the member of the Administrative, Management and Executive Committee of his party. During the recently held Congress, he was elected as the Vice-Chairman of his party and also appointed as the Chairman of the Councillors' Committee, which represents his party at various sub-national governments such as the village councils, town councils and municipalities. He replaced former Republican Party Councillor, Mr Nico Smit.

CITY OF WINDHOEK CELEBRATES WORLD AIDS DAY



The City of Windhoek joined the rest of Namibians and celebrated the World Aids Day under a befitting theme *"Break the Cycle, Stick to One Faithful Partner". This is* to help the City address challenges associated with the issue of multiple concurrent partnerships as guided by the national response to the HIV / AIDS epidemic.

Guided by its internal and external HIV / AIDS strategies, the City initiated and successfully implemented the various actions over the years in collaboration with other stakeholders such as: NABCOA, MOHSS, NAMPOST to name a few.

- raised awareness, knowledge and understanding of its workforce and residents about the AIDS epidemic through our awareness programmes and campaigns;
- focussed attention on pertinent issues either to contribute to the spread, or to reversing the epidemic such as stigma and discrimination; voluntary counselling and testing; treatment, care and support.

The City further provided support to a number of households and in turn enabled them to cope with the burden of caring for and supporting children and adults made vulnerable by AIDS. The City successfully fed over four hundred children at City supported soup kitchens for the past three years and continues to provide for the basic needs of **about forty** children orphaned and made vulnerable by AIDS on a monthly basis.



Speaking at the event, the City Mayor Matheus Shikongo announced that "of all our contributions to the fight against HIV / AIDS, the most tangible contribution was made possible by our esteemed employees through voluntary donations collected by way of purchasing t-shirts".





Mother Christmas comes bearing gifts.

"City brings Christmas cheerfulness"



Cheerful and old gathered on the 1st of December in the Zoo Park for the annual switching on of the Christmas lights. The lights are switched on every year at the same place as the residents of the City get ready for the festive season.

Speaking at the occasion Councillor Hileni Ilonga said *"the City of Windhoek will remain committed to the social well being of all the Windhoek residents as we vowed to enhance the quality of life of all our people."*

Councillor Ilonga, dressed as Santa Clause, switched on the Christmas lights, that brighten up independence Avenue, much to the delight of the children present. She also distributed gift packs to the students of Môreson Primary school and various other orphans and vulnerable children. She said *"we are aware that there are many other vulnerable citizens around the City who due to our limited resources could not benefit from these donations. I therefore call upon corporate Namibia to extend a helping hand to the less fortunate people in our City so that they could also enjoy the basic human needs, especially at Christmas."*

The City continued spreading the Christmas happiness, by arranging a special lunch on the 3rd of December 2009 for the elderly of the Katutura Old Age Home. The 22 residents were treated to a mouth watering feast followed by gift packs, that were handed out to them. Officiating at the event, Cllr. Ilonga had this to say *"We hope this small gesture puts bright smiles on the faces of our senior citizens. It is a unique gesture of our appreciation of the value they have brought to our community and society.* The eldest resident, Mrs Alma Jagger aged 96 could not hide her joy as she received her gift pack saying that it makes her very happy to see the City caring for the elderly.

At the same event Councillor Ilonga noted *"many of us know, our elders are the custodians of very valuable information and wisdom to whom we owe respect. They are libraries and reservoirs of knowledge that we must tap. I therefore appeal to all of you, to inculcate in our communities, especially the youth, the respect of older persons. We must not allow our older citizens to feel un-wanted, or abandoned".*





They are very special. The City of Windhoek cannot shy away from such responsibility and work.









CITY RECOGNIZES BEST PERFORMERS IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The City's Emergency Management division held its annual award ceremony in November 2009 at the Emergency Management Head Quarters. This award ceremony is held to acknowledge the role of firefighters. Tribute is paid to the courage, commitment and sacrifices of the City of Windhoek firefighters who serve selflessly, to make the City of Windhoek a safe city. Their families were also honored at this event.

Speaking at the event, the Mayor highlighted some statistics to help understand why the city really appreciate these men and women, and therefore recognize their work.

There are 105 Firemen and Firewomen serving a population of over 300 000 residents.

> This calculates to about one firefighter per every 3300 residents, where ideally, the ratio should be one firefighter to every 1 000 residents.

> There are six fire engines, three Rescue and salvage units, one forest fire unit plus four small utility vehicles, one hazmat vehicle, ten ambulances plus one turn-table ladder and three fire stations servicing ten municipal areas.

During the 2007 and 2008 financial year alone, 5638 ambulance calls were attended to, 102 structural fires were engaged, 109 informal dwelling fires were attended to, 111 rescue and extrication operations were conducted, 445 veld fires were extinguished and 107 Special Services were conducted. This brings the number of incidents to 6552 calls.

The fireman of the year award sponsored by Bio Dynamics and Drager South Africa went to **D. Makgone.**

Aloe congratulates all the winners.

BEST CONTROL ROOM ATTENDANT

Trophy sponsored by MTC Namibia



This award honors good-natured and calm attendants for excellence in operating a control room during emergencies.

Recipient: Simata Khama

BEST OVERALL STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Trophy sponsored by Namibia Breweries



This award recognizes the best overall achievements by students who participated in the training program at the Windhoek Emergency Management Training Center, with specific focus on discipline, attendance, leadership and overall impression.

Recipient: Allister Kotzee



Seen on the picture on the right with S. Khama and A. Kotzee is the recipient of the Fireman of the Year Award **Damian Makgone.**

The City is reducing the number of Newsletters printed monthly. It is important that you complete the form on page 7 to receive the Aloe electronically and return to the address provided for, before 19 February 2010

Crime prevention hints for the community on housebreaking

Although Windhoek is by and large a save city, criminals dent this image from time to time. Many burglars who steal domestic items sell them to obtain money. The causes for this criminal behaviour include social factors such as poverty, unemployment, pressure from friends and social status. Environmental factors may also contribute to housebreaking. Residential areas where residents do not care about neighbours offer favourable crime opportunities. The role of acquired behaviour especially becomes evident in different methods of housebreaking.

Light delivery vans and removal trucks are used to remove property from effected homes. This is mostly successful in parts of the city where neighbours do not have contact with each other. Even if a neighbour should notice such an action he/she would have the opinion that the other person was moving and would therefore not take further notice. Another method to remove property from homes without being noticed is by using a business vehicle, for example electrical repairs vehicle, then the removal of electrical appliances seems a logical explanation.

Housebreakers observe houses, and therefore know when residents are absent. A tendency that is on the increase is that of offenders pretending to be gardeners. Many home owners make use of gardening services. Therefore it is difficult for neighbours, who are not aware of each other's activities, to distinguish between a real and fake gardening service.

Research projects indicate that houses situated at corners, near highways, next to open fields, near shops and cafes, where people flock together, and houses without security measures are more vulnerable for housebreaking. An explanation offered is the availability of different escape routes and an easy opportunity to commit crime.

HOW DO WE PREVENT THESE CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES?

The following hints are some of the prevention measures:

- People should not allow light delivery vans or taxis removing furniture from houses without questioning.



- People must know the general indications of resident's absence, to which burglars pay attention to. By obviating these indications the burglar could be misled. General indications are: open/close windows, the absence of vehicles and a neglected garden.
- Residents of houses situated at street corners, next to highways, near shops or café's should intensify their watchfulness. The installation of prevention measures is a further step to reduce the vulnerability of these houses.

Keep safe!

APPLICATION TO RECEIVE MONTHLY BILL OR THE ALOE OR BOTH VIA E-MAIL FACILITY

Dear Valued clients of the City of Windhoek,

The City of Windhoek is proud to inform its clients that in our endeavor to improve our services in order to serve you better, we are continuing to look for opportunities to give you optimum satisfaction. We are now able to introduce the e-mailing of municipal statement as well as the monthly newsletter, Aloe at your desk. Should you be interested to get your statement or the Aloe or both via e-mail, kindly complete the form below and forward to Enquiry@windhoekcc.org.na for updating your records.

City of Windhoek

I want to receive my statement ☐ Aloe ☐ or Both ☐

Name & Surname:.....

ID Number: .....

Account Number:.....

Erf Number: ..... Township.....

Street Name & Number: .....

Electricity Prepaid Number: .....

Electricity Meter number:.....

Water Meter number: .....

E-mail Address: .....

Postal Address:.....

Cellphone number: .....

Telephone number :.....(W) .....(H).....

Next of Kin:.....

Contact Number: .....

Fax Number:.....

Current employer:.....

Client signature ..... Date:. .....

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WHAT AND WHERE IN WINDHOEK

FEBRUARY 2010

REGULAR

Every Tuesday
Windhoek Harriers Road Running Club, all runners and walkers are invited to attend time trials commencing at 17h45 every Tuesday from United Sports Club in Olympia. Beginners and advanced runners and walkers are welcome. Races are held on a monthly basis. Charles Gordon can be contacted at Tel: +264 (0) 811 249471

EXHIBITIONS

09 February 2010
Jeremiah Petrus presents *"What Nature Provides"* Exhibition at the National Art Gallery of Namibia, corner of John Meinert & Robert Mugabe Avenue. Tuesday-Friday, 08h00-17h00, Saturday 09h00-14h00, Entrance Free.

10 February 2010
The Franco Namibia Cultural Centre (FNCC) presents Film Maker Choice, Screening: Empire of the Sun. Venue: FNCC Cinema Theatre, Entrance Free.

23 February 2010
Park Talk: *Recent Progress & the future of the Transfontier Conservation.* Venue: FNCC Cinema Theatre. Free Entrance.

25 February 2010
La nuit de l'ecrit: *(Focus on the art of Oratory)* FNCC, Free entrance.

Until 30 April 2010
John Muafangejo Art Exhibition. Venue: National Art Gallery of Namibia, c/o John Meinert & Robert Mugabe Avenue. Tuesday-Friday 08h00-17h00, Sat 09h00-14h00

MUSIC PERFORMANCE

19 February 2010
ZON/ SOPOAK, Electro Concert with Zon featuring from the Reunion Island featuring Qonja. Venue: La Dee Das, N$ 60-00 advance purchase & N$ 100-00 at the door.

SPORTS

6 February 2010
VOLLEYBALL FOR ALL COMPETITION, Venue: DTS Club Olympia. Time: 08h00-18h00. Visit Website for more information: www.namibiasport.com.na

Please Pay your Municipal Account-Our Banking Details are:

Bank Name: First National Bank
Branch Name: Windhoek Corporate Suite
Account Number: 555 000 336 13
Branch Code: 00-28-18-72

When making payment please do not forget to indicate your reference number, which is your client number / account number that appears on your bill.
This account number is to be used for all monthly municipal services and loan Account payments made through an ATM, internet and direct deposit at any FNB branch

For those paying through internet banking, you can forward the electronic confirmation to:
paycon@windhoekcc.org.na

PLEASE READ THIS AND ACT

City of Windhoek

INTRODUCTION OF DEBIT ORDER ACCOUNT PAYMENT SOLUTION

The City of Windhoek is proud to inform its clients that in our endeavour to improve our service, we are now able to introduce the Debit Order Payment Option to our exsting account payment options.

If you are interested, please obtain an application form from our enquiries and ensure that your application is accompanied by the following:

- **A copy of a cancelled cheque;**
- **A letter from the bank confirming account details;**
- **The necessary signatories if it is a non-residential account.**

And submit the completed application form to the enquiries desk again.

We trust that you will make use of this payment option to avoid having to queue in our Cash Halls.

CITY OF WINDHOEK

DIVISION: BILLING AND REVENUE COLLECTION