



The Gateway to Endless Opportunities

WELCOMING REMARKS BY:

**CLLR NDESHIHAFELA LARANDJA ON BEHALF OF HER
WORSHIP QUEEN O. KAMATI,
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK**

ON THE OCCASION OF THE:

**21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AGM OF THE NAMIBIAN
ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFICIALS (NALAO)**

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 20 NOVEMBER 2024

TIME: 09H00

VENUE: NIPAM CAMPUS

**PROGRAM DIRECTOR, MR. CHRISTOPHER EITA; MANAGER:
EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND NETWORKING,**

**HONOURABLE ERASTUS UUTONI, MINISTER OF URBAN AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT**

**YOUR WORSHIP CLLR LEONARD HANGO, PRESIDENT OF
THE NAMIBIAN NATIONAL MAYORS' FORUM,**

**YOUR WORSHIP THE MAYORS FROM OTHER LOCAL
AUTHORITIES PRESENT**

**HONOURABLE WINDHOEK CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS AND
OTHER LOCAL AUTHORITIES' COUNCILORS PRESENT,**

**MR. MOSES MATYAYI, PRESIDENT OF NALAO AND CEO OF
THE CITY OF WINDHOEK**

MS. KAROLINA DAMASEB, NALAO VICE PRESIDENT,

**ESTEEMED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND CAPTAINS OF
INDUSTRIES**

OFFICIALS FROM ALL LOCAL AUTHORITIES PRESENT,

DISTINGUISHED PARTICIPANTS AND INVITED GUESTS,

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA;

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

GOOD MORNING!

It is with great pride and heartfelt gratitude that I stand before you today, representing the Municipal Council of Windhoek, to welcome you all to the 21st Conference and Annual General Meeting of the

Namibian Association of Local Authority Officials (NALAO). This occasion marks not only a celebration of NALAO's enduring commitment to local governance but also a unique opportunity for collaboration and learning.

We are deeply honored to co-host this significant gathering alongside NALAO. This event unites distinguished leaders and practitioners from across the public sector under the powerful and timely theme, *“Inspiring Excellence in Public Sector Leadership for the Attainment of Sustainable Development Goals.”*

As the capital city of Namibia, Windhoek is keenly aware of the critical role those local authorities play in shaping resilient, inclusive, and sustainable communities. Local authorities are often the first point of contact between government and citizens, and our ability to deliver on this mandate directly influences the quality of life in our cities, towns, and villages. This conference provides an invaluable platform for introspection, collaboration, and innovation as we collectively seek to refine our approaches to public service delivery.

The chosen theme, which focuses on inspiring excellence in leadership, is not only relevant but essential. Public sector

leadership forms the backbone of progress toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These global goals challenge us to tackle poverty, inequality, and climate change while fostering peace, justice, and sustainable economic growth. To meet these challenges, we need bold, transformative leadership that embraces innovation, prioritizes inclusivity, and upholds the principles of good governance and accountability.

In this regard, this conference could not be more timely. As public sector leaders and decision-makers, we are tasked with finding solutions to increasingly complex issues. From managing rapid urbanization and resource scarcity to addressing socio-economic inequalities and ensuring environmental sustainability, the challenges we face are profound. However, they are not insurmountable if we act collectively, leveraging our shared knowledge, expertise, and vision.

Over the next three days, I urge you to participate actively in the discussions, workshops, and networking opportunities this conference offers. Share your experiences, exchange ideas, and forge partnerships that will continue to inspire excellence in public sector leadership long after this event concludes. Your voices, insights, and contributions are vital to shaping a future that aligns

with the aspirations of our communities and the principles of sustainable development.

I am confident that the deliberations and outcomes of this conference will not only strengthen the Namibian public sector but also serve as a model for excellence across the Southern African region and beyond. By working together, we can create a ripple effect of positive change, building institutions that are more responsive, resilient, and accountable to the people they serve.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to NALAO for their unwavering commitment to fostering professional growth and collaboration within local authorities. I also extend my deepest thanks to each of you for dedicating your time, expertise, and energy to this important cause.

I wish you a productive and inspiring conference, and I hope you take a moment to experience the warmth and vibrancy of our beautiful city, Windhoek.

Thank you, and once again, welcome!