

OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK, HIS WORSHIP COUNCIL MEMBER SAKARIAS UUNONA, AT THE MONTHLY ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

29 OCTOBER 2026, AT 17:30

- **Pastor Joel Fikeipo, Hosiana Parish;**
- **Your Worship, Albertina Nangula Amutenya, Deputy Mayor of the City of Windhoek;**
- **Fellow Council Members;**
- **Mr Moses Matyayi, Chief Executive Officer;**
- **Strategic Executives and other Officials of the City of Windhoek;**
- **Esteemed Windhoek Residents;**
- **Members of the Media;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good evening and welcome to our Council Chambers for our 10th Ordinary Council meeting of the year 2026.

Before I proceed with my remarks, I kindly request all Honourable Councillors, officials, and guests present to rise and observe a moment of silence in honour of the late Penehupifo Pohamba, former First Lady of the Republic of Namibia, whose passing has saddened the nation.

Madam Pohamba will be remembered for her humility, dignity, and unwavering support to national development during her tenure as First Lady. She dedicated her life to the service of the Namibian people and

leaves behind a legacy of compassion, patriotism, and commitment to the welfare of communities across our country.

On behalf of the City of Windhoek, I extend our sincere condolences to former President Hifikepunye Pohamba, the Pohamba family, and the people of Namibia. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

Honourable Council Members, Esteemed residents,

October has ushered us with the rain bringing increased rainfall across the city. Some part of the city experienced temporary flash floods that caused damaged to some houses and also affecting road users. With the commencement of the rainy season signs going forward, I therefore urge the residents to exercise cautious and to take the necessary precautions measures.

On our current affairs, we have witnessed a number of exciting events that have kept the City busy. The City hosted the commemoration of International Fire Safety week, which was successful, aimed at raising public awareness about fire prevention, preparedness and safety. The week-long event brought together various stakeholders and exhibitors showcasing a wide range of fire safety equipment, technologies and emergencies response solutions. Residents, businesses, schools and community had opportunity to visit various exhibition stands to learn and experience face to face information and practical. Furthermore, the City also joined the global community in commemorating the International

Disaster Risk Reduction, reaffirming its commitment to building a safer, more resilient and disaster prepared city.

I therefore call upon all stakeholders, including government agencies, community organisations, educational institutions, businesses and development partners to strengthen collaborations in disaster risk reduction initiatives. Through partnership, shared resources, public awareness campaigns and capacity building programmes, communities can become more resilient and better prepared to withstand natural and human induced disaster. The day was commemorated at Otjomuise, on the 13 October 2026.

Honourable Council Members, Esteemed residents

In line with Council's commitment to supporting economic development and creating sustainable trading opportunities, Council continues to make progress in the regulation, formalization, and development of informal trading facilities across the city. During 14 and 15 October 2026, traders operating at the China Town market were successfully profiled and registered. In addition, registration and relocation arrangements are currently underway for traders operating along the B1 Road corridor.

I am pleased to report that at the China Town market site, the cleaning of the area and the removal of rubble have been completed. However, additional infrastructure preparation is required before traders can fully

utilize the site. This includes the importation, placement, and compaction of a minimum 150mm layer of gravel.

The filling and compaction works are expected to be completed during November 2026, at an estimated cost of **N$1,8 million**. Upon completion, the site will be able to accommodate approximately **80 traders**.

These initiatives demonstrate Council's commitment to creating orderly, safe, and economically viable trading environments while supporting small businesses and promoting inclusive economic growth in the City of Windhoek.

Equally, I am pleased to inform Windhoek residents of an exciting initiative that reflects the City of Windhoek's commitment to urban beautification, cultural enrichment, innovation, and the promotion of our local creative industries, under the project titled, ***Powering Windhoek Through Art: Public Art Programme***. This initiative marks the Council's first-ever official public art commission, through which selected municipal electrical infrastructure, including substations, mini-substations, pillar boxes, stubbiest, and distribution station buildings, will be transformed into vibrant public artworks.

A key objective of this initiative is to empower local visual artists and strengthen the creative economy. The Municipal Council of Windhoek has therefore invited local artists, from diverse backgrounds and artistic

disciplines, to submit original, site-specific designs under the theme ***"Powering Windhoek Through Art."***

The expected artworks should reflect Windhoek's identity, history, environment, cultural diversity, and aspirations. The call for artists closes on **16 November 2026**, and application guidelines are available in the official Call for Artists notice.

The success of this programme will depend on the cooperation of our residents and other stakeholders. I therefore encourage communities to support participating artists by facilitating safe access to designated sites and helping to protect completed artworks against vandalism and damage. Public art is a shared investment, and its sustainability requires collective ownership and responsibility.

In the same vein, I commend the Department of Electricity and the Department of Economic Development and Community Services for their collaboration on this project and encourage eligible artists to submit their proposals before the closing date.

Together, we can create a city where infrastructure meets creativity, public spaces reflect our shared identity, and local talent contributes to Windhoek's development.

Honourable Council Members, Esteemed residents

Rapid urbanization continues to place immense pressure on the City's ability to provide adequate housing, serviced land and access to water and sanitation. While these challenges remain significant, Council is steadfast in its commitment to addressing them.

Even with limited resources we are working tirelessly to fast track the servicing of land and extend access to water and electricity in informal areas. Our goal is to ensure that all residents regardless of where they live have access to basic services and opportunities that contribute to a dignified quality of life.

In conclusion allow me to take this opportunity to renew Council's commitment to the enhancement of the quality of life of our people.

I thank you