



## MINUTES OF THE WINDHOEK MAYORAL BUSINESS FORUM



Date: 23 October 2019	Time: 09h00-12h00	Venue: GZ Functions
Scribe(s): Ms Ida Lamperth (CoW) and Ms Valme Kruger (NCCI)		
Present/Attendees:	(see Attendance Register attached)	
	Hon. Muesee Kazapua, CoW Mayor	
	Mr. R. Kahimise, CoW CEO	
	Hon. M. Amadhila, MC Chair & Councillor	
	Mr. P. Swartz, Central Procurement Board Chairperson	
	Mr. M. Shipanga, NCCIWB Chairperson	
	Mr. G. Kauta, NCCIWB Deputy Chairperson	
	Ms. C. Mwiya CEO NCCI	
Apologies:	(see Attendance Register attached)	
Attachments:	Attendance Register & Programme	
Programme:	(see Programme attached)	

### 4<sup>th</sup> WMBF THEME - PROCUREMENT

#### Moderator

**Mr. Kauta, NCCIWB Deputy Chairperson** was the MC for the meeting.

#### Welcoming

**Ms. Mwiya, NCCI CEO:**

- Opened the meeting and welcomed all present
- Advised that the forum should focus on addressing challenges facing local SMEs and how to improve the business environment for them to flourish
- Expressed concern that regulatory burdens remain a major obstacle for SMEs as they tend to be poorly equipped to deal with the problems arising from regulations, therefore reducing administrative and regulatory burdens would constitute a major improvement in the business environment for SMEs.
- Emphasised that access to information about regulations should be made available to SMEs and CoW must ensure that the compliance procedures are not unnecessarily costly, complex or lengthy.
- Stressed the need for intervention measures to maximise the chances of potential high-growth firms to develop, emphasising on the importance to see more local firms graduating than remaining SMEs for many years.
- Informed of the NCCI's Enterprise Development Program aimed at supporting the growth of SMEs
- Stated that all economies in the world are developed by locals, therefore collaboration by all stakeholders is crucial and called for patriotism to support local.
- Encouraged SMEs to come on board NCCI family to benefit from the organisation's service offerings

## **Mayoral Address**

### **His Worship Hon. Kazapua, CoW Mayor:**

- Pointed out that CoW fitness registration process has been reduced to 3 days
- That there are incentives for SMEs to engage in social issues  
Pointed out that CoW policies that obstruct implementation strategies will be checked and reviewed
- Acknowledged that the WMBF has grown
- Highlighted some sustainable developments in the City such as the Grove Mall and Hosea Kutako Highway
- Pointed out that there is a need to bring development to the western side of Windhoek in the Informal Settlement Areas i.e., ground breaking mixed development such as malls will create jobs for the people
- Advised that critical and strategic thinking is needed to implement the CoW Transformational Strategic Plan
- Further pointed out that water management is needed due to poor rainfall during the past few years
- Called upon residents to use water wisely
- ±500 SME's in the Northern side of Windhoek

## **Address**

### **Mr. Kahimise, CoOW CEO:**

- Informed all that CoW is open to constructive criticism since it is a public entity
- Pointed out that 1 out of 3 people in Windhoek reside in informal settlements
- Stated that CoW's capital budget is only approved by the line Ministry once CoW shows better spending patterns
- Provided detailed information on how and when the Ward Contractors agreements for streets cleaning were terminated. That they were terminated because it made few individuals millionaires while their employees were poorly remunerated
- Outsourcing will save CoW roughly 30% of N\$40 million allocated for street cleaning, without compromising on the quality of service
- A new street cleaning ward model was introduced where cleaners will be encouraged to register their own companies and apply to clean in the areas where they reside. Cleaners residing in Havana will clean there and also cultivate a sense of neighbourhood pride
- That the current design of water infrastructure as per demand was not planned, and we have pipe bursts due to aging infrastructure almost every day
- Provided highlights on social budget that covered public transport, emergency services, early childhood development, etc.
- Pointed out that 1/3 of citizens use public transport but that CoW only recoups 10% of the costs thereof
- Residents in informal settlements do not pay for Emergency and Disaster Services
- Mentioned that: CoW is busy electrifying the informal settlement areas in Windhoek
- Stated that Council took a decision to diversify on energy and water sources
- On-going PPP projects in terms of land delivery impacts property prices in Windhoek

## **Thematic Discussion – How can Local Businesses Participate in Procurement**

### **Mr. Shipanga, NCCIWB Chairperson:**

- Mentioned that national government should set the tone to create a framework for conducting business in order to stimulate the economy
- Although Government is a major player there is a need for private sector to play a role in the local economy

- It was pointed out that local commitment is a challenge
- Business people are interested in CoW budget, how it is deployed and who benefits
- Deployment of resources and infrastructure is important to Windhoek economic growth
- Policy development should focus on empowering people and institutions
- How do we create and stimulate job creation?
- University graduates face challenges on how to start businesses, how can their skills be utilised?
- Advised that graduates be funded so that they can create small scale industries
- Advised that CoW should motivate people to invest in the tourism industry and introduce incentives to stimulate growth which will result in investments
- Support for struggling businesses through capacity building
- Strategy/Tools need to be developed for graduate placements

**Mr. Patrick Swartz, Central Procurement Board (CPB) Chairperson:**

- Mentioned that Namibian registered companies sometimes don't meet simple bidding requirements
- Legal requirements are also sometimes not met e.g. good standing certificate
- Foreign bidders cannot provide the required documentations under our jurisdiction
- Draft specimens of documents are freely provided
- Technical capacity, adequate funding or access to funding commonly constrains SME's or Namibian companies
- Bidders are required to provide letters of intent or supplier credit notes
- Central Procurement Board decisions are placed on the website for transparency purposes
- DBN facilitates procurement process
- M & E Team is going around to check compliance of public institutions to Act
- Investors to focus on what they do best and should tender for said
- NCCI can engage CPB to provide tender training to the public
- The moderator advised businesses to define their niche market

**Questions & Answer Session**

**Various:**

Q: Mr. Ipumbu: What is the CoW doing with the infrastructure that is wasted?

A: Mr. Kahimise: There are incentives for special projects if criteria for special projects are met.

A culture survey was done and showed that there is a lot of wastage at CoW. The CoW is open for constructive proposals on what can be done differently in order to reduce waste.

Diversification and capitalising on fibre on underground infrastructure. City WIFI part of CBD revival project is underway and 150w energy projects.

Q: Republikein Representative: Why are the Himba people (vulnerable group) pushed out of the market in Independence Avenue by developments? What plan does CoW have for them?

A: Vendors are chasing markets, but CoW is busy with projects in the CBD to accommodate them.

Q: Harold Schutt: CoW is squeezing residents until they have nothing, while CoW has N\$191mil of unpaid fees? Advised the CoW to stop squeezing residents.

Why does CoW not have a building requirement that all building plans should have solar panels?

A: Solar water heaters - return on investment in terms of capital is very expensive. The energy sector is open and needs to reposition itself. Households financing is available to compensate according to market rates.

Q: Mr. Parastus Nepolo, NCCI Whk Exco member: Why is there no open tender for the supply of water

to CoW? What about Infrastructure for SME's? Why is Monitoring & Evaluation not conducted for SME's infrastructure in terms of graduating from said. Can NCCI facilitate a workshop for CoW's bidding documents?

A: We are a 3tier government and diversification is work in progress. At the moment CoW is doing what it can in its space. Water supply diversification is with Namwater and not CoW.

Q: Why does it take so long for government to pay for services/work done?

A: Mr. Swartz: payment to suppliers is to be made within 30 days. If entities have certificates of work completions in place they should be paid on time or otherwise they should charge penalties.

Q: A lady who works at the Office of the Labour Commissioner

Comments: GRN creates a conducive environment for labour. Jobs are created but poor quality work is done. It is good to have JV's with Chinese investors, but be vigilant not to be used by investors. If tenders awarded to locals are sold to others then there will be no capacity building for nationals. In such instance locals end up being paid only the minimum wage level while the rest of the money is taken out of the country. There is a need for building roads in informal settlement areas. Malls are killing smaller businesses and children cannot even go to school because parents cannot pay.

Q: CoW SME's system, do you monitor whether contractors are complying to the job creation criteria

A: No response provided

Q: Mr. Martin; does CoW have affordable housing and end-user financing scheme?

A: No response provided

Q: Johanna Shiweda: Why is it difficult for CoW to issue fitness certificates to Namibian companies while foreign companies get them easily? Proposes CoW build a state of the art Incubation Centre in the CBD.

A: No response provided to first question from Ms Shiweda.

Q: Directed to NCCI: Africa Russia Financial Summit. How many people confirmed their attendance?

A: Mr. Shipanga: The invitation to the Summit was received late by NCCI. The summit is scheduled for 30 October 2019 in Johannesburg (JHB). The initiative came from the Chairperson of NCCI and that of the Chamber of Commerce JHB, including the Namibian High Commissioner in South Africa. Business people are encouraged to attend. Trade facilitation is carried out by NCCI, but business people will have to pay for their air tickets and accommodation. Sufficient time is however needed to plan for such visits/trips.

Q: Can CoW please check the figures on affordable housing, estimated by market to be N\$200 000 and not N\$100 000.

A: CoW will check.

Q: Jacky, does CoW have a strategy to sell land according to certain salary brackets?

What is CoW doing with the run down houses? Can you cater for a safe haven or old age home?

A: More information is needed on these houses, how many there are and where they are located.

Q: What is CoW doing with regards to the Central Hospital Vendors as hygiene is very worrisome?

A: CoW is busy consulting with Central Hospital Management to resolve on the accommodation of the vendors in a safe and clean environment.

Q: Can CoW look at transporting UNAM/NUST students?

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A: CoW does not have the budget to cater for such an initiative. The CoW has allocated land for students' accommodation (villages) which should address transportation needs.

Comment: Malls in Katutura as per Mayors' speech, CoW was advised to be careful with the development of Malls in Katutura as they will kill small businesses there.

A: Mayor responded that he meant mixed developments with residential components and not only malls.

**Vote of Thanks**

**Ms Valme Kruger, NCCIWB Exco Member** gave the vote of thanks

**Closing Remarks**

**Mr. Kahimise, CoW CEO** closed and advised that the forum meet on a quarterly basis.

**Resolutions / Action Items:**

No.	Action Item	Lead Agency		Other
1	Assist with Water Management / Saving Awareness Raising	NCCI		
2	Abolish policies that obstruct implementation and develop policies that will empower people and institutions		CoW-CEO	
3	Share CoW budget with businesses community		CoW-CEO	
4	Promote investment in the tourism industry and introduce incentives that attract investors		CoW-EDD	
5	Support struggling businesses through capacity building & share information on the NCCI SME Development Programme	NCCI		
6	Strategy for graduate placements required	NCCI		
7	Proposals on how to reduce waste	NCCI		
8	Strategy to sell land and affordable housing / run down houses according to certain income brackets		CoW-HPMHS	
9	Provide figures on affordable housing		CoW-HPMHS	
10	Build roads in informal settlement areas		CoW-INFRA	RA
11	Provide funding or referrals for graduates so that they can create small scale industries	NCCI		
12	Tender/bid training for businesses	NCCI		CPB
13	Central Hospital vendors matter to be followed up		CoW-EDD	

**Conclusions/Way Forward:**

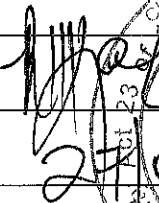
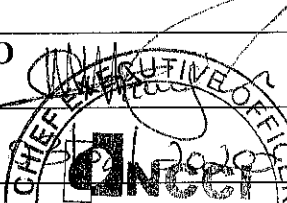

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	graduates so that they can create small scale industries			
12	Tender/bid training for businesses	NCCI		CPB
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**Conclusions/Way Forward:**

Upload feedback on WMBF Online Portal.  
Date for subsequent WMBF to be communicated as soon as agreed by stakeholders.

**Minutes Read & Approved by:**

CoW CEO		NCCI CEO	
Date	27/07/2020	Date	20/07/2020
Signature		Signature	