



The Gateway to Endless Opportunities

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY HER WORSHIP CLLR FRANSINA
NDATEELELA KAHUNGU, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF
WINDHOEK, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SECOND
MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING**

DATE: 27 FEBRUARY 2020

TIME: 18H00

VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBER

Your Worship Cllr Ian Subasubani, Deputy Mayor of the City of Windhoek;

Honourable Moses Shiikwa, Chairperson of the Management Committee;

Honourable Councilors;

Reverend Haruna Goroh of Jesus Centre;

Mr Robert Nandaa Kahimise, Chief Executive Officer;

Esteemed Windhoek Residents;

Members of the Media;

Officials of the City of Windhoek;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening!

Allow me, at the onset, to welcome you all to our monthly deliberations, which are always aimed at finding lasting solutions to the socio-economic challenges affecting our communities, with an ultimate goal of improving their livelihoods.

As I stated during our first council meeting, it is important that we work together as a team, as I believe, it is only through

teamwork that we will be able to achieve the goals and objectives that we have set ourselves for this year, and live by our mission of *enhancing the quality of life for all our people, by rendering efficient and effective municipal services.*

Honourable councilors, dear residents,

As you may recall, at its special sitting on the 19th of this month, Council approved the Mayoral Action Plan 2020, which is predominantly derived from our Transformational Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022. This plan contains projects and tasks that we, collectively, agreed to implement this calendar year.

I would therefore like to implore you that we commence with the implementation phase now! We cannot afford to waste a single second, because every second counts against us.

Henceforth, as the overall supervisor, I will kick-start the implementation, after which I will start demanding constant feedback on progress, both formally and informally. This is important for us to keep abreast of our progress, and to enable

us to take immediate corrective measures, in cases where implementation of projects and tasks are lagging behind.

At the same Special Council I just alluded to, Council approved the revised Council Advisory Committees. The general objective of Council Advisory Committees is to provide political leadership impetus and ease co-ordination of work between the political leadership and civic administration on developmental initiatives.

I would therefore like to implore upon chairpersons of the Council Advisory Committees and the Secretariat to ensure that committees meet regularly. Honourable councilors should ensure maximum participation in the committees' activities, in order to positively influence the Management Committee and Council agendas, with the view of enhancing the quality of life of the community.

Therefore, **honourable councilors**, without further delay, committees must meet to deliberate on the content of the

Mayoral Action Plan 2020, which falls within your respective mandates and direct the implantation thereof.

Honourable councilors, dear residents,

Section 18 of the Development and Upgrading Policy, which was approved by Council in July last year, advocates for the establishment of the Informal Settlement Development Committee, with a main function to facilitate efficient and effective implementation of informal settlement upgrading projects and advise the Management Committee and Council accordingly.

If we are to succeed with the implementation of the Mayoral Action Plan 2020, the active participation of the communities in all our implementation activities is of paramount importance. We must therefore ensure their participation, at all times, through the establishment of the Informal Settlement Development Committee. In fact, this is a requirement of the policy! So, colleagues, let us accelerate the establishment of this important committee.

Another important provision of the Development and Upgrading Policy is the **Social Compact Agreements**. Section 7 of this policy states that: *“To ensure community ‘ownership’ of land development projects, target communities must be involved in the maintenance of services installed. For every land development project, the City of Windhoek shall sign a Social Compact Agreement with the community to give a clear delineation of responsibilities.”*

The development and signing of these agreements must also be accelerated in order to give effect to the involvement of the concerned communities in the maintenance of services installed, which will greatly alleviate Council from the burden of maintenance work.

Hon councilors, ladies and gentlemen,

In order for us to successfully implement the Mayoral Action Plan 2020, one of the most important factors is the availability of funds. Currently, as we all know, Council does not have sufficient funds to cover all the implementation costs. This state obligates us as Council to introduce cost cutting measures, in

order to save and use such savings to provide the much needed services to our residents

To start with, we need to examine the following:

- a) Whether the funds spent on food and drinks at every event, including council meetings are justifiable
- b) Measures to regulate overtime and examine whether it is vulnerable to abuse.

As we implement these cost cutting measures, we are pleading for cooperation from all our employees and stakeholders alike, because we are doing this to find funds to provide services to the residents, which is the main reason for our existence.

Communities are crying for services and, as their servants, we must be responsive to their cries. Already, my office has received two petitions: one from Moses //Garob Constituency and another, which I just received today, from Samora Machel Constituency. We must therefore be proactive in searching for

solutions, including sources for funds, to tackle the socio-economic problems facing our people.

Honourable councilors, esteemed residents,

It is gratifying to note the amount of rain we have received in the past days. I am sure this has alleviated the fear of the past years' devastating drought repeating itself. This is very encouraging, because the good rains have helped to increase the levels of some of our water reservoirs to near full capacity. According to Namwater, the Von Bach Dam near Okahandja, which is one of the main surface reservoirs that supply water to Windhoek, approached the 90% level of its capacity, as inflows continued yesterday. The Swakoppoort Dam, another major reservoir that supplies water to Windhoek, was at 40.5% yesterday, with inflows continuing. The inflows into these dams are, indeed, a source of relief, because it assisted to avert water rationing in Windhoek, which was about to start.

For this, we would like to thank God, the Almighty for this treasured relief, and to ask for more of this precious

commodity, in order for us to be able to ensure continuous provision of potable water to our esteemed residents.

However, the receipt of good rains does not mean we should stop with the water saving measures that were put in place. Council will continue to encourage our residents to continue to use water sparingly, as we do not know what will happen next year, in terms of the rain forecast. Let us therefore take care of one of our most scarce resources, so that we are assured of uninterrupted supply.

Honourable councilors, esteemed residents,

This year, Namibia celebrates 30 years of independence on 21 March. This is a day in which we reflect back on what transpired on that historic day of 21 March 1990. On that day, a new nation was born! The entire Namibian nation and the progressive nations of the world broke into jubilation, as we witnessed our motherland becoming independent.

This year's celebrations will also be special, as it will mark the beginning of the second and last term of His Excellency Dr Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia.

As patriotic Namibians, I would therefore like to request you to join the rest of the Namibian people at the Independence Stadium, on the morning of 21 March 2020.

With these remarks, honourable councilors, officials and esteemed residents, let me once again welcome you to our chambers,

I thank you!