



The City of Many Faces

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP CLLR
MUESEE KAZAPUA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF
WINDHOEK, ON THE 4th MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING**

DATE: 27 APRIL 2017

TIME: 17H30

VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Your Worship Cllr. Fransina Kahungu, Deputy Mayor of the City of Windhoek;

Honourable Councilors;

Rev. Clem Marais of Dutch Reformed Church in Namibia;

Mr. Robert Nandaa Kahimise, Chief Executive Officer of the City of Windhoek;

Strategic Executives and Officials;

Esteemed Windhoek Residents,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Evening!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this August House, for our 4th Ordinary Council meeting for the year 2017.

Let me therefore thank members of the public and other stakeholders present here for their continued interest in our deliberations, which interest serves as an encouragement for us to continue with the search for durable solutions to multi-faceted developmental challenges facing the City and indeed our communities.

However, our search for solutions to these challenges will be fruitless if we do not receive the necessary cooperation from our residents. Surely, the absence of cooperation will derail developmental efforts by Council, particularly when it comes to the illegal occupation of developable Council land.

Council has identified this illegal occupation of land as one of the major obstacles that impede the fast-tracking of the provision of affordable housing to our residents. This is because the same land that some of the residents are illegally taking occupancy, is the land that Council plans to service to make it available for housing development and other orderly uses.

As it was widely reported in both the print and electronic media, some of our residents took Council to court, when we acted to uphold the law by removing the illegal structures they erected on Council land. The law took its course and after the hearings, the independent court ruled in favour of

Council, condoning our actions to have been done within the confines of the law. On this note, allow me to quote Judge Shafimana Ueitele, when he delivered judgement on this matter. **(And I quote)** “The deplorable conditions, in which many poor Namibians are living, cannot be accepted as an excuse for land grabbing”.**(End of quote)**

I would therefore like to make it categorically clear that it is not Council’s intention to remove our residents’ houses! All Council wants is the **ORDERLY and LEGAL OCCUPATION OF COUNCIL LAND**. To this end, I would like to, again, appeal to our residents to discontinue this illegal practice once and for all, to allow Council an opportunity to service land and make it available at an accelerated pace.

Honourable Councillors, Esteemed Residents,

Despite all the challenges we are facing as a City, I am pleased to inform our esteemed residents that according to the latest Mercer Quality of Living Survey, Windhoek is ranked as the 4th best city in Africa for overall quality of living, after Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg. This is

indeed good news and I believe that you, as the residents of this great city, share the same sentiments, as the world continues to recognise our continuous efforts to improve the standard of living in the city

As Council, we take this favourable rating not as a certificate to go around boasting, but rather as an encouragement to work even harder, so that we realise the dreams of the thousands of our residents, who are still under served.

Honourable Councillors, Esteemed Residents,

The country in general, including the Central Areas of Namibia, was blessed with some good rains during the past rainy season. This has resulted in a fair amount of inflow into the main supply dams operated by NamWater from which the city receives the bulk of its supply. Although this has, to a large extent, alleviated the effects of the drought experienced over the last three years, it is unfortunately not the end of the water woes for the City of Windhoek and other consumers in the Central Areas of the country.

The reality is that the inherent supply shortage in the area remains, and in fact is likely to worsen over the next few years, as the demand continues to grow, until such time as an additional supply source can be brought on line. A strong appeal is therefore directed at the residents of Windhoek not to abandon water savings practices in lieu of the rains received. Residents are urged to remain vigilant in their savings; efforts to ensure that adequate supply can be managed and maintained in the foreseeable future.

In this regard, the City of Windhoek, in conjunction with NamWater as the bulk supplier wish to give its assurance that it will continue to manage the limited water supplies available in an optimised approach to the advantage of all consumers in the area.

Equally important to sensitise our esteemed residents, is the issue of electricity consumption. As the winter approaches, we would like to encourage you to save electricity. This is

because the electricity is purchased at a much higher rate in winter than in summer, due to the increased demand.

Kindly make a few changes, although small, that can add to savings in your electricity bill. Some such immediate changes under your control that do not require any money spent can be considered. These include; switching off unnecessary lighting, taking a shorter warm shower, allow natural sunlight into your home during the afternoon to delay the time to switch on your heater in the early part of a cool evening, washing your dishes and clothes with cold water, unplugging electronic devices not in use, and many more methods, that Council intends to share with in the coming days.

Esteemed Residents,

The City of Windhoek is a strong believer in the concept of *'Live Globally, Act Locally'*. As a result, the City has adopted an International Relations Policy, through which it engages various development partners across the globe. As part of this policy, we continue to share our experiences and tap into best practices from sister cities and towns, both locally and internationally.

As a result of this policy, I am pleased to announce that this evening we have in our midst a delegation from the City of Kampala, the Capital City of the Republic of Uganda, led by Honourable Okello Kennedy, Chairperson of Council Committee on Engineering and Technical Services, who are here on a benchmarking mission.

We feel very honoured to host you as our brothers from the African continent. These kinds of visits are of vital importance, as they are in line with the African Union Policy on continental integration and the ideals of AU agenda 2063. Therefore feel welcome, as Windhoek is your home away from home.

With these remarks, Honourable Councillors, Esteemed Residents, Ladies and Gentlemen, once again welcome to our Council Meeting.

I Thank You