



The City of Many Faces

**STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP CLLR MUESEE
KAZAPUA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK, AT
THE OCCASION OF THE 6TH ORDINARY COUNCIL
MEETING**

DATE: 29 JUNE 2017

TIME: 17H00

VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBERS

**Hon Laura McLeod-Katjirua, MP and Governor of the
Khomas Region,
Your Worship Cllr Fransina Kahungu, Deputy Mayor of
the City of Windhoek,
Hon Councillors
Bishop Erns //Gamxamub, of the Evangelical Lutheran
Church in the Republic of Namibia;
Mr Robert Kahimise, Chief Executive Officer and the
Strategic Executives;
Esteemed Windhoek Residents;
Members of the Media;**

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good evening!

I am honoured and privileged to welcome you all to our Council Chambers this evening. In particular, I would like to welcome our guest; Hon Laura McLeod-Katjirua, our Governor, for gracing this meeting with her presence. We are greatly honoured to have you in our midst at this very important Council meeting.

Tonight's Council meeting is very noteworthy, in the sense that Cllr. Matheus Amadhila, the Chairperson of the Management Committee of the City of Windhoek, will later during our proceedings present before this August House, Budget Estimates for the Financial year 2017-2018 for deliberations and approval.

Hon Governor, Hon Councillors, Esteemed Residents,

In keeping with the City's vision of enhancing the quality of life of all our people, we are challenged to continuously ensure the provision of basic services to those who have no access to such services. We are mindful of the scarce resources and the high demand of municipal services, such as serviced land, water, electricity and sanitation amongst others.

In the same the prevailing economic recession and factors such as unemployment and inflation have adverse impact on our ability to deliver adequate and affordable services. Coupled with the aforementioned; is the expectation of municipal services by the new Windhoek residents;

within the extended boundaries; such as Groot Aub and the Mix Settlements.

Surely, there will be a need to secure alternative funding; to enable us to provide services to residents in both Mix and Groot Aub Settlements. I have already requested the Chief Executive Officer to put together costs and resources needed; on the City's takeover of Groot Aub, to enable us to mobilize resources from relevant authorities. I am informed that the Budget 2017/2018 is watershed; and we have a rather daunting task ahead of us.

However, while acknowledging the challenges ahead of us; we are confident that the 2017/2018 Budget Estimates that will be tabled this evening represent the Council's commitment to service delivery and accelerating development in this rather challenging macro economic environment.

Honourable Members, Windhoek residents,

The basis for the way forward therefore lies in our collective and integrated leadership of the City, driven through partnerships between the City of Windhoek, other spheres of

government; the corporate sector, civil society and the community at large.

In this view, participatory budgeting has become a key strategy in serving our communities, as it provides guidance on the major capital development in the City.

It is for this reason that during the initial preparation stage of the City's Budgets, we engaged our communities and key stakeholders, through the relevant structures.

Therefore, as we present our Budget for the financial year 2017-2018 this evening, we do so with confidence that our people will appreciate that we cannot do everything at the same time, but our commitment to deliver within our means remains our guiding philosophy. We believe that with this principle in mind, we will not only be able to succeed in attaining a stringent fiscal discipline, but also, commitment from both Council political leadership and our technical administration.

Hon Governor, Esteemed Residents,

Another aspect that makes this Council Meeting unique is that this evening, everything being equal, Council also discuss separately the City of Windhoek Transformational Strategic Plan for the period 2017 – 2022.

The completion of this plan is a culmination of the extensive work by Hon Councillors and Management, which has been going on since September 2016, after the first session was held at Heja Lodge. It is therefore gratifying to see that your hard work has paid off and I hope Honourable Councillors will apply their minds on the documents, before the official launch in the next few days.

The Transformational Strategic Plan for the period 2017 – 2022 is not only an innovative and visionary approach by yourselves as leaders and officials of this organisation, but it sends out a clear indication of our commitment to ensure resourcefulness and seriousness in contributing to the achievement of objectives as laid-out in the various National and Pan-African strategic documents, including our Development Plans (NDPs), Vision 2030, Agenda 2063, the SWAPO Party Manifesto and the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

Hon Governor, Hon Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a well-documented fact that Local Authorities in Namibia are faced with many challenges that range from lack of financial resources, inadequate skilled manpower, scarcity of affordable serviceable land,

as well as challenges relating to potable water, sanitation, housing, unemployment, crime and challenging administrative structures.

This Transformational Strategic Plan is therefore engineered to tackle these socio-economic challenges head-on, so that come the year 2022, we would have registered significant strides, in our quest to alleviate poverty and other social inequalities from our communities.

Furthermore, part of the transformational plan for the period 2017–2022, is the restructuring of the organisational operational systems, to make them compatible to the Transformational Strategic Plan.

This is also a very crucial exercise, because if the organisational structure is not speaking to the Strategic Plan, the whole work may go to waste and we may not achieve what we would like to achieve in the end.

Finally, I would like to call upon our residents to bear with us, while we are putting our systems in place, to start delivering on the promise made in the Transformational Strategic Plan document.

Our resolve is irreversible and our determination is 'cast in stone'. We are determined to implement drastic; but positive measures, to make tangible changes, particularly in the north-western suburbs of our Capital City.

With these announcements, Honourable Governor, Honourable Councillors and our esteemed residents, once again welcome to our Council meeting.

I thank you.