



**STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP CLLR MUESEE  
KAZAPUA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK, AT THE  
OCCASION OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JUNE  
30, 2015, COUNCIL CHAMBERS,**

**17H30**

**Mr Edward Kawesha, the Acting Chief Executive Officer,  
Pastor Miriam Omonigbehin, of the Kingdom Life Network of  
Ministries,**

**Alderspersons and Hon Councillors, both Regional and Local  
Authority present,**

**Strategic Executives and other staff of the City Council,**

**Members of the Media,**

**Esteemed Windhoek Residents,**

**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 guests; the Khomas Regional Councillors. We are greatly honoured to have you in our midst at this very important Council meeting.

I should mention at the onset that this evening's Council meeting is rather significant, in that Cllr Moses Shiikwa, the Chairperson of the Management Committee of the City of Windhoek, will present before this August House, the Budget Estimates for the Financial year 2015-2016, later during this evening's proceedings, for considerations.

**Alderspersons, Councillors, Windhoek Residents,**

Without pre-empting the Chairman's speech, I would like to emphasise the point that, in preparing this budget, Council was guided by the City's vision of *enhancing the quality of life of all our people*. In other words, all our efforts are aimed at the betterment of the living conditions of our residents,

while at same time we strive to economically empower them to ensure that they are integrated into our main economic stream.

While significant achievements have been made during the course of the previous financial year, there remained other areas that still need to be improved on, in terms of service delivery, socio economic development and poverty reduction. The challenges remain; rapid urbanization, land delivery, housing, unemployment and budgetary constraints that limit Council's ability to adequately deliver on its mandate.

As a Council, we are challenged to continuously ensure the provision of basic services to those who have yet to 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.

However, we are confident that the 2015/2016 Budget Estimates that will be tabled by the Management Committee Chairperson this evening represent the Council's

commitment to service delivery, accelerating development and improving the quality of life of our people in this rather challenging macro-economic environment.

**Alderspersons, Hon Councillors,**

On the water supply, the severe drought that the whole country is experiencing has had a negative impact on the supply of water to the City. I would therefore like to caution our esteemed residents to make every drop of water to count, as the situation has become very dire. Although we have made budgetary allocation towards the improvement of the water infrastructure, this allocation is far from the required amount, to ensure the adequate and uninterrupted provision of water to the residents of the City of Windhoek.

However, we are encouraged by our Government, through our Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Forestry, for assuring our citizenry, that they have measures in place, to ensure that no one of us will go thirsty, should the current drought persists longer than expected.

**Alderspersons, Councillors and Windhoek residents,** the basis for the way forward lies in our collective and integrated leadership of our City, driven through partnerships between the City of Windhoek, other spheres of government; the corporate sector, civil society and the community at large.

On the international arena, the city continues to engage in international local government discussions as a strategy to share in best practices that would ultimately improve our operations in delivering municipal services. Two weeks ago, I led a delegation to the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) 2015 Conference held in Gaborone, Botswana.

The conference discussed issues related to the growing need of strengthening linkages between local government and national planning, and budgeting systems for effective localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals. A report in regard will be submitted to this August House in due course.

In the same vein, the Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Hangapo Veico also joined other African Mayors at the African Capital Cities Sustainability Forum held in Pretoria, South Africa, last week.

The opportunities to address the sustainability imperatives arising from the current and numerous challenges facing African cities are tremendous; hence the importance of participation in these international and continental dialogues cannot be overemphasized.

I am therefore inclined to mention that; supported by appropriate policies, innovation, technical proficiency, robust implementation mechanisms and adequate infrastructural investments, our cities can reach high levels of quality of urban life, improving drastically their environmental footprints while reaching highly competitive economic prosperity in the medium to long term.

Finally, I wish to reiterate my call, for our residents to desist from occupying land illegally and follow the official procedures available on land allocation.

With these few announcements, allow me once again to welcome you to our Council meeting.

**I thank you.**