

MEDIA RELEASE

APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF WINDHOEK 2016/17

WINDHOEK - 04 July 2016: In "The Namibian" Newspaper of 04 July 2016, under the heading "Windhoek rinses residents dry", are two errors that we would like to correct as follows:

1. Firstly, allow me to make a correction on the amount erroneously stated in the budget under the operational budget (Allowances - Mayoral and Councillors). The amount as stated in the budget is **N\$10 001 712.00**; however the correct figure should be N\$ 7.8 million. To put it into perspective, it should be noted that the 7.8 million must be considered for the different designations within Council structure.
2. Secondly, the writer incorrectly added up all individual tariff increments and claimed that the City has increased its total tariffs with 77% i.e. **Water basic tariff 10%; Water consumption 15%; Rates and taxes 10%; Refuse removal 10%; Solid waste management 10%; Water Communal standpipes 12%; Property tax tariffs 10%.**

The addition of the total percentages to 77% is astoundingly inaccurate and leaves one to wonder whether this was simply an elementary arithmetic error or a malicious intent to sensationalise the story. These calculations should have been done through the weighted average method, which then translates to 14% increase for the monthly bill of the City of Windhoek's residents as was provided in the budget speech.

Despite all platforms created to engage the media houses after Council meetings and regular press conferences, this daily continued to publish distorted and inaccurate stories about the City of Windhoek and its staffers.

The City of Windhoek is a public institution and members of the public including media houses are encouraged to use available channels to have access to information and dealings at the City of Windhoek. However, The Namibian newspaper continues to publish unverified facts that are meant to cause serious reputational damage to the City of Windhoek.

It is regrettable that the City of Windhoek should regularly expend public resources to rectify inaccurate stories that are deliberately published with intentions only known to the writer.

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