



The Gateway to Endless Opportunities

**STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR OF WINDHOEK, DR. JOB SHIPULULO
AMUPANDA ON THE OCCASION OF THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

“BLESSED IS THE HAND THAT GIVETH THAN THE ONE THAT TAKETH”

DATE: THURSDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY 2021

TIME: 17H30

VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBERS

YW, the Deputy Mayor

Chairperson of Management Committee

Honourable Councillors

Bishop Ndozi Henry Okia, from the Model Prayer Ministries

Acting CEO

The Executive Team

Officials of the Municipal City of Windhoek

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening,

Towards the end of March 2009, Judge Seun Moshidi of the South Gauteng High Court, sentenced Sifiso Mhlanga, Julius Ngxowa and Mbuti Mabe to life imprisonment. They were sentenced for the October 2007 killing of the South African reggae star, Lucky Dube, in Johannesburg. Lucky Dube belonged not only to South Africans but to the entire African continent. In Southern Africa, he was comparable to none.

I vividly recall attempting to come to Windhoek in the 2000s, when he came to Namibia. I was not allowed to fulfil my wishes as a teenager. Lucky Dube left a beautiful song for us in which he

repeatedly tells us that; ***“blessed is the hand that giveth than the one that taketh.”***

The hands of Sifiso Mhlanga, Julius Ngxowa and Mbuti Mabe will be known for nothing but taking. Their bloodied hands, now rotting in jail for life, will never be blessed. However, the solemn hands of Lucky Dube remain blessed. Indeed, Lucky Dube’s name is cast in gold, in our hearts and souls, as the people of this great continent.

February 2021 marks our third month in office as leaders, who represent the masses of our people. We hit the ground running, with two inductions hosted by the City and our line ministry. These were necessary exercises, for the purpose of orientation and understanding inter alia the internal dynamics, processes, policies, and challenges inside the City and the broader sector of local government.

I am confident, and can indeed see, that these inductions proved worthwhile. It is important, and we must realise, that one never stops learning. Sometimes the ‘education’ (read induction) is meant to produce a particular outcome. This is affirmed by one of the greatest educationalists, Paulo Freire who clarified to us, in his seminal text, ‘The Pedagogy of the Oppressed’, that, *“there’s no such thing as neutral education. Education either functions as an instrument to bring about conformity or freedom.”*

What we must be cautious of, as Freire adds, is this; *“The more students work at storing the deposits entrusted to them, the less they develop the critical consciousness which would result from their intervention in the world as transformers of that world. The more completely they accept the passive role imposed on them, the more they tend simply to adapt to the world as it is and to the fragmented view of reality deposited in them.”*

We must be clear that induction on bureaucratic processes and procedures and an orientation on existing laws is not synonymous with scientific and ideological orientation on the thesis, anti-thesis and the synthesis of the major questions facing Windhoek.

It is evidently clear that to change Windhoek, there is a lot of taking to be done. **From the corrupt**, we must take away their opportunity to steal, loot and corrupt. **From the thugs and criminals**, we must take away their freedom to terrorise and harass. **From the lazy** we must take away their opportunity to idle and posture. **From the greedy** we must take away the very machinery that allows them to accumulate, at the expense of the poor masses of our people. **From the conservatist defenders of the oppressive status quo**, we must take away their very framework and comfort from which they seek to dominate our society, based on old formulas which perpetuate the suffering of our people. Indeed, **from the authors of the**

suffering masses of our people, we must take away the very pens and inks used to author the pain and misery of our people.

While the above is in order, let us be reminded of the powerful and soothing sounds of Lucky Dube; *“blessed is the hand that giveth than the one that taketh”*. For every economic opportunity we take, we must provide 10 more opportunities. From a drug dealer, we must cultivate **an honest entrepreneur**. From thugs we must subsequently see **a community leader**. From the greedy, we must one day, see **a generous resident**. From the conservatists we must, in a final analysis, produce **a transformer of Windhoek**.

Where our efforts take away from our residents, we must at all times endeavour to add in one way or the other. As Lucky Dube told us, blessed is the hand that giveth than the one that taketh. This requires of us all to learn, unlearn and relearn because an exercise of giving, rather than taking, is not easy nor is it one that this City is used to.

It is a clarion call for our collective leadership to be transformative. A leadership that meets the needs of our residents at their point of need. If we commit to this path, we must equally be ready to engage our society on the path we have chosen. We must resolutely communicate our determination in words and matching action and

follow in the footsteps of warrior Hendrik Witbooi who in his 27 September 1886 missive to Louis Nel, the representative of the German Imperial Commissioner wrote this; *“with this I close, and ask one thing. When you read this letter, read it aloud to all who have power and understanding. Also give it to the dignitaries, let them know my intention and resolute will.”*

It is with the same resolute spirit that I hereby encourage all of us to give more than we take, by demonstrating exemplary and collective leadership, as we deliberate during our second Ordinary Council Meeting, for the benefit of our residents.

Let’s do this. We can do this. We got this!!

I thank you.