



*The Gateway to Endless Opportunities*

**SPEECH BY DR. JOB S AMUPANDA, MAYOR, ON THE OCCASION OF PUBLIC LAUNCH OF THE WINDHOEK URBAN STRUCTURE PLAN ALSO KNOWN AS THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK (SDF)**

**DATE: TUESDAY, 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021**

**TIME: 14H00**

**VENUE: UPPER PARKING ARCH OF WEST & EAST WINGS, NEW BUILDING**

**YW, the Deputy Mayor**

**Chairperson of Management Committee**

**Honourable Councillors**

**Acting CEO**

**The Executive Team**

**Officials of the Municipal City Windhoek**

**Members of the Media**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Good afternoon,

The City of Windhoek faces many serious challenges: some stemming from the pre-independence dispensation and others, due to urban migration trend and related socio-economic needs. Council now bears a significant responsibility to adapt and plan for a more sustainable future, to ensure a better quality of life for our residents.

Windhoek's spatial form remains fragmented both pre- and post-independence. Population pressure is mounting with informal settlement expansion thereby creating a lag in land delivery and serviced land. The high unemployment rate coupled with the need for long-term financial and environmental sustainability, are indicators for Council to address the needs of our residents and transform towards a more developmental state, that presents opportunities in all sectors for inter alia economic development, growth, employment creation and investment.

To this end, the Windhoek Municipal Council of Windhoek has commissioned the preparation of an Urban Structure Plan for the city and its diverse inhabitants. A Structure Plan is a long-term spatial development and policy framework that guides the development of the city, by defining the future development and land use patterns and, dictating policies and frameworks to achieve a better future for all its inhabitants.

Legally, the preparation of Structure Plans in Namibia is guided by the provisions of the Urban and Regional Planning Act (Act 5 of 2018). Therefore, as a statutory document, the Structure Plan is legally binding. In terms of the law it enables Council to accelerate planning processes towards development and land delivery once the status of an Authorised Planning Authority is achieved. In essence, the Structure Plan is a comprehensive study with a three-phased approach that strategically **REVIEWS** the current status of development in the city, **CONSULTS** on where we want to be and **PLANS** on how we want to arrive at our end state....

Therefore, it is imperative to embark on widespread public consultation and active participation of our residents, to successfully define a future for Windhoek.

The project is now at the phase of consolidating the aims and objectives of the plan to be formulated. This involves an extensive public consultation process whereby residents, individually but, through stakeholder groups, are consulted and afforded the opportunity to share issues, ideas and, visions for Windhoek's future. The consultation process is continuous and facilitated through various platforms such as, the local media, dedicated meetings, the project website,

Facebook and Twitter, by way of engaging conversation with the public and key stakeholders.

Today's launch marks the first of many public engagements to which your inputs are welcomed. As an advocate for change, progress and active participation, I stand before you today, not only as Mayor but, a fellow resident and implore you to take every opportunity to participate in shaping the future of Windhoek and informing the crucial contents of this strategic document, in the spirit of directing and promoting economic growth with industrialisation as a main focus. Let us also consider other countries' experiences (e.g. China, Japan, Mauritius, Botswana) as models of developmental states against we can draw inspiration as we join hearts and minds in shaping the kind of city we would like to live, work and play in and create a legacy for future generations to build upon and innovate for decades to come.

As your leaders, Council looks forward to sharing this home, we call Windhoek, so let us inspire each other, assume our collective roles and responsibilities as leaders and architects and leaders of our own destiny so that we may reap the benefits of a modern, vibrant and inclusive city at both local and international levels. I am confident that the necessary skills, creativity exist amongst us and I look forward with great excitement to tomorrow, next year and indeed the next decade and beyond, to unlock Windhoek's full potential.

Let us innovate and develop a city that we can all be proud of.

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

I thank you.