

**Official Statement by the Mayor of the City of Windhoek Sade Gawanas at the Monthly Council Meeting held on 01 February 2022, Council Chambers, at 17:30**

---

**Pastor Sidney Boois,  
Your Worship Cllr. Uapingene,  
Cllr. Ndesihafela Larandja, Chairperson of the Management Committee,  
Honourable Councillors,  
Acting CEO and Officials of the City of Windhoek,  
Members of the Media,  
Windhoek Residents,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Good evening.**

It is an honour and privilege for me to welcome you all to our Council Chambers this evening; for the 1<sup>st</sup> monthly Council meeting of the year 2022.

First and foremost; I would like to extend New Year greetings to all the residents of the City of Windhoek, while at the same time wishing you a rewarding year 2022. I hope you have all rested well and looking forward to facing the challenges and opportunities of the year ahead with vigour and determination.

When I reflect back on 2021, I see a year of striking contrasts. On the one hand, we faced seemingly difficult municipal issues that were exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic; while on the other

hand, I believe, we have worked with the same dedication to dispense our duties.

I must say with a sense of admiration that we never lost sight of the great mandate we hold, from the electorate, and the commitment we have made, to improve the quality of life of all our people.

However, **Honourable Councillors, Acting Chief Executive Officer and Strategic Executives**, we need to look back and see where we have done well, and where we have failed; improve and correct the negatives for the better. I, therefore, call for our re-commitment and re-dedication to the duties entrusted to us by the residents of this beautiful City. This year we should accelerate the pace of service delivery with the City's vision and mission statements in mind, as continuous reminders of the commitment we have made to our residents. We should therefore focus our agenda this year on people-centered municipal service delivery.

We should strive to build a culture which is clearly recognizing that we have to deliver on basic services such as water and electricity; and continuously find innovative ways and means; of enhancing our service delivery.

Increasing urban growth, coupled with rising urban poverty, unemployment, droughts and flood incidences affecting rural agricultural production and urban migration, we should continue to increase local government attention and commitment to address the urban dimension of food insecurity and nutrition.

Adequate tackling of housing and urban food insecurity requires new thinking and innovative ideas. The acute shortage of housing and serviced land in the City, for both housing and commercial development is a challenge that requires Council's special attention and stakeholder's involvement.

While strengthening our programmes around job creation and economic development, we should as well, intensify our efforts on urban agriculture initiatives and food security systems. I was briefed that during the past years Council adopted the Windhoek Food and Nutrition Security Systems; which gave birth to the allotment of land for urban agriculture, now spearheaded by activities at Farm Okukuna. I was also briefed that Council previously has had on its structure, an Advisory Committee on Urban Food and Nutrition Security. I thus request this August House to resuscitate this Committee, to provide political impetus and lead the agenda and activities of urban food security.

Our employees are the backbone and important assets. We should therefore continue to invest in them through skills development, performance recognition and staff engagement initiatives.

I therefore call on our staff members to work with Council, redouble their efforts on service delivery as we strive to achieve our common vision.

You will agree with me; that working together as a team will enable us to rid ourselves of the trials and tribulations akin to local governance. We should therefore pledge to strive together, sparing neither strength nor courage to achieve our goals.

We should further continue to work with our communities through stakeholders' consultation and scheduled public meetings; in order to obtain inputs to developmental plans and programmes.

I have noticed with concern that the City is becoming filthy, especially in the CBD and at some shopping centers. We should intensify clean-up campaigns, for our city to reclaim its title as one of the Cleanest Cities in Africa and beyond. Our programs around ***“my waste, my responsibility”***, should be strengthened by engaging stakeholders in the public and business sectors, employees, schools, alike.

On a positive note, yesterday Windhoek and its sister city Bremen, signed a Project Agreement with grant funding from the European Union Commission. This is a flagship project, in the history of the City of Windhoek sister cities cooperation. The signing of the agreement fundamentally marks the commencement of the project implementation activities which will run for the period 2022-2025. We are therefore looking at a period of 4-years of hard work.

As alluded to earlier, our priority focus will be on accelerating land delivery, affordable housing, urban agriculture and urban food and nutrition security, clean city, economic development and provision of basic services in the low-income areas of the City. I am mindful of the limitation of resources at our disposal, but I equally believe that the little that we have; should make a positive impact on the livelihood of our communities. Above all, we should all along continue to mobilize central government and development partners' support to ensure sustainable municipal service delivery.

To Windhoek Residents, my pledge to you, for 2022 is a straightforward one: That; this Council will keep faith with your trust in us, keep abreast with your present-day realities and live up to our promise of creating a better standard of life for all.

With these few words Honourable Councillors, ladies and gentlemen, allow me once again to wish you renewed strength, good health and a prosperous 2022.

Thank You.