



13 May 2015

MEDIA BRIEFING

1. REOCCURRING ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF LAND IN THE INFORMAL SETTLEMENT

The City of Windhoek is faced with continuous proliferation of informal settlement as a result of land invasion, particularly of the periphery of the urban area. Most of these informal settlement areas have developed on the City's owned land which is reserved for future residential, institutional and business developments.

This un-procedural occupation of the City's land makes planning and service delivery by the City of Windhoek very difficult if not impossible. For example, such incidents tend to delay land delivery, which is intended to eventually improve the living standards of the low-income earners. The un-procedural settlements further compound the challenge of orderly development of land and the delivery of residential land and commercial services in undeveloped settlement areas where there is no provision for roads and other infrastructures.

In reference to this, is the recent land grabbing on **Erf: R/4008, Kitchener Street Otjomuise**. **The affected Erf R/4008, Otjomuise is zoned "public open space"** and is ± 1.47 hectare in extent. Some members of the public are claiming that they "thought" that it is a free land. It should be well noted that, the City of Windhoek understands the predicament in which our residents find themselves due to lack of serviced land to meet the high demand. And we are not denying the housing need in the City, but we need to follow proper procedures on how to acquire land and not illegally settle anywhere.

The municipality cannot allocate un-serviced land, and thus the importance of servicing land before formally allocating it. The Municipality by-laws are very clear and anyone who is found contravening them will be dealt with. It is illegally to settle on Municipal land without it being allocated to you and thus contrary to that, the law enforcement will continue to enforce the by-laws as required at all times. In this case, to prevent and remove the illegal incomplete and un-occupied structures, and those occupied, seek for court orders to remove them.

We have recently had an unfortunate example of the impacts that illegal settlement have on the wellbeing of our people especially when it comes to the provision of rendering services.

A family of four (4) that put up their structure in the mountainous areas of the City, their structure caught fire at mid-night and although our emergency services were alerted about the incident, unfortunately they couldn't render any assistance due to the fact that, the area was inaccessible.

With all that said, it is pertinent to note that our Central Government has been keeping an eagle's eye on the predicament, and appropriate Ministries have been tasked to join hands with Local Authorities throughout the country and facilitate with the introduction of practical and affordable Land Delivery Systems, including Flexible Land Tenure Systems.

2. CON-ARTISTS CLAIMING TO REGISTER BUSINESSES

The City of Windhoek hereby warns the public about the swindlers defrauding the public claiming to assist them and demanding payment to speed up the business registration process. The business owners are therefore hereby cautioned not to pay any individuals for business registration, as the City has not contracted any intermediaries to carry out its business registrations functions.

Business owners should register and renew their registrations annually with the City of Windhoek at the Business Registration Counter in the Customer Care Centre, c/o Sam Nujoma Drive and Independence Avenue and make payments directly to the City of Windhoek's Cashiers (at the municipal offices) after which they will be issued with a receipt.

The public should also note that, the inspections on the premises is only carried out by City of Windhoek employees, and that applications submitted are approved after all inspections are conducted as per set legislations and other municipal by-laws.

Once the application has met all requirements and payment is done, a Certificate of Fitness/Registration will be issued which is valid for a year and it is renewable on a yearly basis.

It should be noted that, contravention of GN 202 of 2006 carries a penalty upon conviction of a fine not exceeding N\$2000.00 or imprisonment for a period not exceeding six (6) months or both.

3. WINDHOEK FACED WITH A CRITICAL WATER SHORTAGE

The bulk water supplier, Namibia Water Corporation Ltd (NamWater) has informed us that, due to insufficient flow of water into the catchment areas of the three (3) dams supplying Windhoek during the last rainy season, the Omatako, the Von Bach and the Swakoppoort levels are appreciably very lower compared to the same time, the previous rainy seasons.

The City of Windhoek has been on record on numerous occasions cautioning Windhoek residents about the critical water shortage we are facing if not enough water is saved. It is therefore disappointingly to note that despite all those numerous pleas to save water by drastically cutting down on excessive water usage, there was not enough water saved as the consumption demand continues unabated.

It should therefore be well-noted that this is a critical situation that needs to be taken seriously by all of us in Windhoek. Some argues that they are responsible for their own accounts in settling their bills, which is undisputed factor, but the water shortage situation is no longer about affordability (who can afford) but about the availability of the water from the sources, in this case the three dams serving Windhoek which we heavily rely on for about 65% of water consumed in the City.

Let us all take the responsibility of saving as much water as possible wherever we find ourselves.

THANK YOU ONCE MORE!

ISSUED BY:
City of Windhoek
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Corporate Communication, Marketing, Tourism and Customer Care
Tel.: +264 61 290 2365/2044
Fax: +264 61 290 2344
E-mail: communication@windhoekcc.org.na