



*The Gateway to Endless Opportunities*

**WELCOMING REMARKS BY HER WORSHIP, CLLR  
SADE S GAWANAS, ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PARLIAMENTARY STANDING  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS AND PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATION ENGAGEMENT, WITH THE  
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF WINDHOEK**

**09H00-14H00  
14 September 2022  
Council Chambers**

---

Director of Ceremonies, Mr. O'Brien Hekandjo, ACEO of the City of Windhoek;

Hon. Natangwe Ithete (Head of Delegation for the National Assembly Parliamentary Standing Committee of Economics and Public administration),

Members of Parliament,

Your Worship, Cllr. Joseph Uapingene, Deputy Mayor;

Cllr. Illse Keister, Chairperson of the Management Committee;

Honourable Councillors;

Ms. Charity Mwiya, CEO of the NCCI;

Representatives of the Business Community;

Strategic Executives and Officials, present;

Members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning

I am delighted to welcome everyone to this unique engagement between Council, the private sector and the National Assembly Parliamentary Standing Committee on Economics and Public Administration. The opportunity to simultaneously host members of the National Assembly and the private sector, has not presented itself before. Therefore, it is a great honour to facilitate the programme over the next two days with such distinguished guests.

The COVID-19 Pandemic left a significant economic impact on us all. Governments, Councils, businesses and individuals felt the negative effects of the pandemic and continue to do so, even now. The pandemic also hindered the implementation of our objectives in the previous strategic plan (2017-2022). However, Council's intent and commitment remains strong and we are currently finalising our new strategic plan.

I believe that effective co-operation and co-ordination

between stakeholders and partners serve as a great model for strengthening shared visions, capabilities, and strategic partnerships. As mentioned earlier, the COVID-19 Pandemic left in its wake, significant economic and financial challenges for many sectors: one only needs to consider the highs and lows of inflation between 2020 to date, to appreciate the volatile the cost of living over the past three (3) years. In addition, the Bank of Namibia reported an annual low average inflation rate of 2.2% on all items in 2020 and forecasts an overall annual inflation of 6% for 2022. Furthermore, lower levels of Government spending, less foreign direct investment into the country and city and a reduction in tourism activities for the larger part of 18 months, all affected our local economy.

That said Ladies and Gentlemen, all is not doom and gloom! Indeed, a number of departments collaborated and approached Council to assist in closing the gap on revenue lost by households and the private sector. Council [with Resolution 234/07/2020], ensured measures to mitigate some of the financial burden triggered by the COVID-19

lockdown such maintaining existing payment arrangements with the Department of Finance, until the end of the State of Emergency.

Council acknowledges that the private sector plays an integral part in the local economic landscape of Windhoek as the capital city and thus contributes significantly to the national economy through the implementation of development projects, to stimulate and support business creation, retention, expansion and ultimately, employment creation.

Over the next two days, we have the opportunity to inform and discuss mutual efforts towards stimulating more economic activities within the Central Business District areas-some of which we will be touring. If we agree - and I believe we do - that the private sector is a catalyst in post-Covid economic recovery, then I encourage us to listen attentively to the presentations and proposals made as part of our two-day itinerary.

Every city is a work in progress and must remain responsive to the ever-changing needs and environments within which it operates. Our efforts are to make Windhoek better with every decision we take and with every strategic partner (public and private). Thus, my call on everyone here today is to join hands in this post-Covid journey and break barriers, innovate and forge new frontiers in economic development, for the benefit of all our residents.

In closing ladies and gentlemen, allow me to acknowledge the time everyone has set aside to be part of this important 2-day engagement. I am very optimistic and excited about such engagements, and I extend my warmest welcome to you all. I trust that the next two days serve as inspiration, two-way communication and learning for us to then integrate into implementable development solutions.

With these few words, please feel at home and let the fun and adventure begin.

**I THANK YOU!**