

***City of many faces***

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP CLLR MUESEE KAZAPUA, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK, AT THE OCCASION OF THE 11TH COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2016**

**DATE: 29 NOVEMBER 2016**

**VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**TIME: 07H00**

**Revered Matt Ludick of Immanuel Church,**

**Honourable Councillors,**

**Mr Fillemon Nangolo Hambuda, Acting Chief Executive Officer of the City of Windhoek,**

**Strategic Executives and senior staff of the City of Windhoek, Windhoek residents,**

**Members of the media,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

Good evening!

It is my honour and privilege to warmly welcome you to our Council Chambers and to our meeting of this evening.

I must indicate on the on-set that this is the last ordinary monthly Council meeting for year 2016, after which Council will be on recess from the 2nd December 2016 and will resume business on 16 January 2016. In the same vein, I would like to inform you that this meeting marks the end of the term of office of the 2016 Office Bearers; being the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor and the five (5) members of the Management Committee.

The elections of Office Bearers 2017, will take place at a Special Council meeting to be held on Thursday, 1st December 2016, at 10:00, followed by the inauguration ceremony at 11:00. As part of the inauguration ceremonies, I will as an outgoing Mayor, present the Mayoral Annual Report 2016; which is a summary of Council’s activities during the period under review. I would therefore like to use this opportunity to invite the residents of Windhoek and stakeholders to attend this very important occasion.

On the same note, allow me to express my sincere gratitude to members of this Council, the Acting Chief Executive Officer, management and staff of the City of Windhoek and indeed our residents, for the support rendered to us during our term of office. I also would like to extend my humble appreciation to the SWAPO Party for the opportunity that was granted to me to serve our people.

On the current affairs, I have recently attended the 4th Forum of Townships and Cities of Angola, held in Luanda on the invitation of our line Minister, Hon. Sophia Shaningwa, Minister of Rural and Urban Development. At this very important Workshop, I was requested to present a paper and share Windhoek’s experience of ***Local Financing and Local Development,*** which was well received.

Apart from sharing our experiences on the said subject matter, we have also learnt best practices in housing delivery, a subject matter that Windhoek and Namibia has been struggling to address.

It is important to mention Honourable Councillors that despite the strong historical and cordial relations that exist between our two Governments, it is saddening that there is no formal city to city relationship with Angola. Thus, to date none of the 54 Namibia local authorities have signed a twining or sister city relation with a City, town or village of Angola.

I am happy to inform you that following my visit with the line Minister, I have recently received a letter from the Vice Chairperson of the Province of Luanda, inviting me to lead a technical delegation to Luanda, to assume discussions on the strengthening cooperation between our two cities. Their key interests are amongst others solid waste management and revenue collection.

It is my strong conviction that networking with regional cities does not only strengthen south-south cooperation, but has also become a new approach of promoting innovation and competiveness in finding regional solutions on municipal service delivery.

**Honourable Councillors, dear residents,**

While significant achievements have been made during the course of the year, there remained other areas that still need to be improved on, in terms of service delivery, socio economic development and poverty reduction. The challenges remain; rapid urbanisation, land delivery, housing, water shortages, unemployment and budgetary constraints that limit Council’s ability to adequately deliver on its mandate.

However, in the face of all these mammoth challenges, Council continued to make efforts aimed at finding lasting solutions, including engaging central Government, which responded positively by availing resources to assist with the serving of residential plots. We are therefore grateful to our Government for coming on board, as we strive to realise the national dream of better housing for all.

**Honourable Councillors, dear residents,**

On the social responsibility front, Council continued to extend a hand of assistance to the destitute residents of our city, through the Mayoral Outreach Programme, as we contribute to our national commitment outlined in the Harambee Prosperity Plan.

In this endeavour, Council supported various social initiatives in the City; including a donation of solar powered lighting products to vulnerable groups, including learners living in our informal settlements. We also built water infrastructures, electricity substations and waste management facilities around the City.

I must mention that during this rather short period of time, I have met wonderful hard working people; working for the betterment of the communities of Windhoek. I have also had the opportunity to attend many events and meet so many people – in other words, it has really been an honour.

As contemporary leaders, we believe in the principle of ‘leading together’, instead of a one man’s show type of leadership. It was therefore through this principle that we managed to carry out our tasks with enthusiasm and meticulousness during the period under review

I am therefore pleased to mention that we have accomplished many successes, as we endeavored to live by our promise of enhancing the quality of life of all our residents. The account of the achievements registered and impediments met during the year, will be documented in my annual report that I will table before this August House on 1 December 2016.

**Esteemed Residents,**

Honourable Councillors, this meeting also marks the beginning of the festive season. As a tradition, I also wish to invite you to join me at the switch-on ceremony of the City lights, marking the beginning of the festive season that will be held in the Zoo Park, Wednesday, 7 December 2016 at 19:00.

At the same time, I call upon Windhoek residents to be crime vigilant and report any criminal activity to the City Police. I appeal to a crime free festive season filled with happiness and hope for the New Year, 2017. Similarly, I urge our residents to use water sparingly as we look forward to the new rainy season.

Finally, allow me once again to extend to you my sincere thanks for the support rendered to Council during the course of the year.

**I thank you.**