

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT BY HER WORSHIP CLLR
AGNES MPINGANA KAFULA, AT THE MONTHLY
COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2014,
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, 18:00**

**Pastor Fred Joseph from River of Life Church,
Cllr Muesee Kazapua, the Deputy Mayor,
Alderspersons and Honourable Councillors,
Mr Niilo Taapopi, Chief Executive Officer of the
City of Windhoek,
Strategic Executives and Senior Officials,
Esteemed Windhoek Residents,
Members of the Media,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Good evening.

It is amazing to notice how time flies. Just few months ago it was January, now in one month time December will be here. Naturally, December's arrival signals the beginning of the festive season; a period during which we take off to be with our loved ones.

However, it is just not yet that time. We have to push on with our duties until that time comes. Let me therefore welcome you all at this month's Council meeting, as we

gather in this August House, to deliberate on issues of concern to our residents.

Alderspersons, Hon Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In continuing with service delivery to our residents, Council inaugurated the new Ujams Waste Water Treatment Plant, located in the Brakwater area, on 7 October 2014. This plant, although not meant to reclaiming potable water, the waste water being treated is fit for economic use; such as irrigation, landscaping, and industry usage.

The plant is upgraded with new technologies, with the ability to treat waste water to a standard that it is not harmful to the ecosystem and the environment.

We have invested in the technologies that will not only improve the quality of water, but also the quality of air by addressing the bad smell that for many years emitted from the old plant.

On the social level and participatory governance, we have continued to engage our communities on a number of our projects and platforms and we have felt the powers of our residents during the Public meetings held from late

September to the beginning of this month. So, whatever progress we make could be attributed to the active participation of our people. I therefore once again urge Windhoek residents to continue attending public meetings, as this is the platform where we could exchange on developmental issues.

Nonetheless, I wish to use this opportunity to once again reiterate my conviction on governance, that our democracy must bring its material fruits to all, particularly the poor, marginalized and the vulnerable. As local authority leaders we are bound to recognize the hardship faced by our people raging from the provision of basic municipal services to food and nutrition security. It is for this reason that on 16 October 2014, we joined the global community in commemorating the World Food Day at a ceremony held at Otjomuize.

Together with other development partners we distributed free meals to 7 Centers of destitute communities around the City. It also remains our hope that with the support of our cooperate partners and Government, the establishment of Food Banks and Urban Agriculture through community gardens, will be realized.

We have set ourselves an ambitious agenda, so we should all work together to achieve these goals. Therefore our belief in the common good should ultimately translate into a deep concern for those that suffer from deprivations of any kind.

Dear Residents,

As we all know, on 28 November 2014 we are all expected to go to the polls to elect leaders of our choices; for Namibia's 5th Parliament and Namibia's 3rd President. It is therefore important to remind you that H. E. Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia, has declared 28 November 2014, as a Public Holiday. This was done with the purpose of allowing all registered voters an opportunity to go exercise their right to vote, in the Presidential and Parliamentary elections scheduled on that day.

Alderspersons, Hon. Councillors.

Speaking about elections, I am pleased to inform you that one of our Hon Councillors, Alderwoman Elaine Trepper, has just returned from the Commonwealth Observers Mission, on the Presidential, Parliamentary and Provincial Elections in the Republic of Mozambique. This is a

milestone for our City, and I believe we deserve a round of applause!

It is important to emphasize that, elections are major events in democratic processes, and equally part and parcel of public participation. As we prepare for our own elections on 28 November 2014, let us refrain from negative tendencies and underrate what we have achieved so far; in establishing a stable and progressive democracy; building national unity and creating a culture in which we increasingly respect dignity for all.

In this context, I would like to call upon the entire registered voters of Windhoek, to go out in numbers and vote for their preferred presidential and parliamentary candidates.

On a different note Ladies and Gentlemen, This Council meeting is convened at a time when the current Office Bearers being the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 5 members of Management Committee is approaching the end of their term of office on 2nd December 2014. The elections of new office bearers will take place at a Special Council Meeting to be held on 1st December 2014. This is a legal requirement in conformity with the Local Authority Act; 23

of 1992, which states that the Office Bearers will serve for a period one year.

I also wish to inform this August House and the public at large that a vacancy has occurred on this Council, following the resignation of Honourable Benestus Kandundu from the NUDO Party, on 09 October 2014. The concerned party has already been notified and a substitutive new Councillor, will be sworn in at a Special Council meeting of 01 December 2014. Equally important to inform you, is the fact that Council will go on recess 02 December 2014 and resume business on 18 January 2015.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to express our gratitude for having been enjoying your company at all our Council meetings throughout the year, a scenario indicative of your commitment and interest in the affairs of your City. Go and Vote and may God bless!

I Thank You!