



**STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,
ALDERMAN IMMANUEL WILFRIED,**

**AT THE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 28 JANUARY 2020**

TIME: 11:00

VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE

Your Worship the Deputy Mayor
Chairperson of Management Committee
Fellow Councilors
Mr. Muronga Haingura, Chief Executive Officer
Members of the Executive Management and Staff of the
Municipality of Walvis Bay
Distinguished Invited Guests
Members of the Media
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Morning!

I am pleased to address you this morning on the occasion of our first Ordinary Council Meeting for the year 2020, and to welcome you back after the recess. I trust that you have had a well-deserved break and are in the position to tackle the tasks ahead with renewed energy and enthusiasm.

You will probably notice that this first Council Meeting is a little unusual in some respects. Firstly, instead of the usual time of 18:00 in the evening, it is taking place at 11:00 in the morning. The change in time has been necessitated because some colleagues will be travelling to Windhoek in the afternoon.

The second reason for it being a somewhat unconventional meeting is the fact that no submissions will be considered. Thus, the main reason for convening this meeting is to formally announce that the recess period has come to an end, and that Council's formal business has resumed for 2020.

From a personal point of view, I will probably view and experience the world in a slightly different manner since I became a pensioner at the start of this year. Although I'm going to miss the excitement of being a radio technician, the upside of being a retiree is that I will be able to dedicate more time to my role as Mayor. My secretary is in the process of drawing up schedules to see how I can set aside more time for the elderly, for example. I look forward to making some positive announcements in this regard in due course.

Last year ended on a note that didn't invoke a great deal of national pride. While there are court cases and investigations going on, one stark realization emerged: The Namibian nation needs to knuckle down and prove to the world that we can solve our own problems.

At the local level, we will do our part to ensure that everything possible is done to enhance the prospects of growth and service delivery.

We are already in the process of revising and compiling all our budgetary needs for the next financial year, which will focus entirely on affordability. In other words, nice-to-have projects will not be considered at all, but sufficient provision will however be made for the maintenance of existing infrastructure.

In these tough economic times, it is essential that we set priorities as precisely as possible and allocate the right attention to the right things. Then we need to act as quickly as possible. We need to be on the same path by understanding how to make change happen, assign accountability, make those key decisions, delegate where necessary and make sure that teams work well together.

Our doors will continue to remain open to anyone who is willing to participate in this journey together. Our only criterion is for our

partners to share in our vision and to keep in mind the bigger picture, namely the welfare of everyone who lives here.

Fellow Councilors, ladies and gentlemen

As I said many times before, we are exceptionally privileged to lead this remarkable place called Walvis Bay. We are the vehicles for delivering crucial services, and we are responsible for promoting social equality and building good relations with our various communities. We have been able to rise above our challenges before and we can do so again, while continuing to build a prosperous Walvis Bay.

In conclusion, I would like to wish everyone a very successful 2020 and may all our efforts reflect that we have the best interests of our city and all its inhabitants at heart!

I thank you.