



**STATEMENT BY H.W. THE MAYOR,
ALDERMAN I. WILFRIED AT THE
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 26 MAY 2020
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC CENTRE,
WALVIS BAY**

Fellow Councilors

Chief Executive Officer and Municipal Staff

Members of the Public and the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure once again to address you this evening on the occasion of our Ordinary Council Meeting.

Due to the most astonishing circumstances the world has been facing as a result of Covid-19, we have all been severely affected. While the best minds around are still trying to predict the different scenarios we are likely to face, the simple truth is we just don't know. What we can do however, is to protect ourselves as best we can.

Despite some opinions snubbing the use of masks, the overwhelming view across the globe now is that it is absolutely essential to wear them in order to prevent infection. It is therefore very disappointing to notice that so many people are still not taking this directive seriously.

Let us all assume a collective responsibility to reprimand those who do not heed this call. Let us also continually remind ourselves to adhere to the other basic protocols such as sanitising surfaces and objects, washing hands with soap regularly, and maintaining safe distances between each other. If you cannot avoid confined spaces, make sure that they are well ventilated.

These procedures should be ingrained into our system by now and should be practised without second thought. With the number of cases in Namibia slowly on the increase, we cannot relax our efforts at all.

Although the health of our people comes first, the protection of our economy is also foremost on our minds. As jobs and income levels have been reduced, hunger and poverty will increase.

Those who are able to share resources have adopted a greater sense of generosity the past few months. We have seen how people have been opening their wallets by donating food items to the needy and vulnerable members of society. We are most grateful for these donations and are hopeful that more individuals and businesses will follow suit.

The widespread thinking I've been able to observe is that we now have a chance to do better than before. As the saying goes, let us not allow a good crisis to go to waste. I am hopeful that Namibians can band together, and together with other nations overcome the monster called Covid-19.

At this time of the year, we are usually in the process of tweaking our Budget for the next financial year. Some projects have had to be delayed, due to Covid-

19, and unfortunately we could also not have our public sessions this time. Residents will however have an opportunity this coming Thursday to have some insight into the 2020-2021 Budget when it is tabled for Council approval. After this process, it will be submitted to the line Ministry for final approval.

We will therefore wait until Thursday when some important announcements will be made in terms of the Budget and tariffs for the next financial year.

Thank you Councillors, Ladies and Gentlemen for your attention.

I would now like to proceed to the next item on our agenda.