



**STATEMENT BY H.W. THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN IMMANUEL WILFRIED,  
AT THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
25 AUGUST 2020, 18:00  
CIVIC CENTRE COUNCIL CHAMBER**

FELLOW COUNCILLORS & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC  
MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA  
MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS

I have the pleasant task once again to deliver a statement to this august house, especially during the month when we are celebrating Heroes Day. Even though there will not be any public gatherings this year to commemorate our past heroes, it would still be appropriate for all of us to take a moment and reflect on the role they played in our emancipation and the gains we enjoy today.

This time of the year is usually reserved for events such as prize-giving ceremonies at schools and matric farewells. Sadly, some of our learners will never experience those occasions and will probably feel that they have missed out on something very special.

However, in years to come the Covid-19 pandemic will also show that these children were part of an experience that would have tested their strength of character in so many ways. It is our responsibility as adults to help them cope in these times to emerge stronger than ever before. We need to provide them with the best possible tools and solutions to deal with a post-Covid society. We must make sure that they become our next heroes, starting today.

Heroes are our shining stars, and many of them do not enjoy official recognition. These are people that wouldn't ordinarily want to be singled out for their thoughtfulness, courage or fearlessness, despite the ever-present danger of diseases such as coronavirus lurking around. These are the people that would do anything to assist those in need of medical care, food or shelter.

Some of them are no longer with us today, having paid the highest price for answering the call of duty to keep us safe, in our hour of need. As Namibians, we are fortunate to be surrounded by such exemplary citizens.

Although we are grateful for all the assistance thus far, we would still need lots of hands on deck to weather the Covid storm. We are currently in the process of decongesting certain areas where living conditions are very challenging to say the least.

As we said before, the most vulnerable members of society will enjoy first priority when the actual relocation takes place. One of our biggest hurdles in this process has been the availability of machinery and equipment, hence the somewhat slower than expected progress.

The good news, however, is that some bids for the work to be done in terms of servicing the pieces of land in question, and the construction of temporary living units, will be awarded within the next few weeks. Some work has already commenced as far as the levelling of the ground surface is concerned.

Some private companies and individuals have enquired how they could avail their services without charge, and we are overjoyed at their generosity. On behalf of the community, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

I must also caution our residents and fellow Namibians that not everyone seeking our assistance has honourable intentions. On top of that, there are those who would do anything to exploit the current situation for their own personal or political gain. When citizens are in doubt about such individuals, they are always welcome to verify any doubtful information with the relevant authorities in charge. I can also assure our public that whatever we receive and distribute to our needy residents can be accounted for.

Ladies and Gentlemen let us not be distracted but remain focused on the task at hand. Let us continue the fight against all constraints inhibiting our progress.

Thank you for your attention.