



**STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,  
TREVINO FORBES, AT THE FIRST ORDINARY COUNCIL  
MEETING FOR 2021,  
26 JANUARY 2021, 18:00  
KUISEBMOND COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
WALVIS BAY**

Councillor Saara Mutondoka, Deputy Mayor of Walvis Bay,

Honorable Regional Councillors

Fellow Honorable Councillors

Mr. Frans !Gonteb, *Acting* Chief Executive Officer of the Municipality of Walvis Bay

Members of Management and staff of the Municipality of Walvis Bay

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

It is with a huge sense of gratitude that I address you all this evening in my capacity as the Mayor of Walvis Bay at the first Ordinary Council meeting for 2021. We are grateful to have made it this far, for good health and to be in a position to be part of a team that is able to bring about positive change to a community I deeply care for.

I think I speak for everyone in this room when I say that we all have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have lost colleagues, family members and friends. Unfortunately, the pandemic is not going away anytime soon and as a community we need to adapt and learn to live with it. I know that we had an extremely difficult year last year and it is in our hands to make this year better.

Being a new Council will require us to acquaint ourselves with how things are done, but I can guarantee you that we all have one thing in common. Each and every one of us on this Council is ready to

serve the community that has elected us to these positions. On the top of our priority list is housing, job creation and improve service delivery within Walvis Bay. As I have mentioned before, we are committed to working closely with central government to find a long-term solution for the town's housing dilemma.

I am sure we are all aware of the fire that ravaged through the remaining part of what used to be Twaloloka. All remaining twenty-seven shacks were destroyed, and the occupants had to be housed in tents on an open area close by. Unfortunately, for as long as people are living in shacks, we should always be prepared for calamities such as these. Thus another reason to focus our energy and resources to finding a lasting solution to the lack of housing and making Walvis Bay shack free.

Fellow Councillors, ladies and gentlemen

The recent showers over Walvis Bay have once again revealed the vulnerability of our infrastructure. In some locations the houses were flooded and the pumping of water out of the road puts pressure on the already overloaded sewer system. Council pleads with the community to be pro-active and have sandbags at hand when rain is forecasted to help reduce the amount of water getting into their houses. The community can call the Fire brigade regarding obtaining information on the acquisition of sandbags and Roads and Building Control for the pumping of rainwater at 064 / 201 3111.

I would also like to express my gratitude towards Mr. !Gonteb and his Administrative team. Your willingness to assist, inform, and guide us has been unmatched. To the business community (The Round Table and the Namibian Community Trust in particular) who have been donating and assisting the Office of the Mayor to provide food parcels and gift vouchers to the old people, those in hospital and fire victims, Council

would like to express its appreciation for your generosity.

Fellow Councillors, ladies and gentlemen

Because things are different, we now also need to do things differently. We need to put livelihoods and people's dignities first. It is a learning process that we all have embraced in terms of how we do things politically and administratively. We promise to be transparent, fair, and not make commitments that we are unable to keep. We are aware that people are tired, people want answers and solutions, yet we ask the community to practice patience and allow for the development of strategic negotiations between Council and the relevant stakeholders such as central government in order to bring about long-term solutions.

With this said, I would like to welcome everyone back from their holiday. I am confident that this will be a productive year for Council. I ask that we continue to adhere to the COVID-19 regulations as communicated through the Minister of Health and Social Service. These restrictions are not to punish us but more so to keep us safe and reduce the spread of the pandemic.

Lastly, with the opening of schools today, I would like to wish all the learners as well as the teachers a productive school year ahead.

I thank you.