



**STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,  
CLLR TREVINO FORBES,**

**AT THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING,**

**28 APRIL 2021, 18:00**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**WALVIS BAY**

Cllr 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

I have made it a point to have my speeches reflect the realities of what is going on in our town and to be honest and transparent no matter how harsh this honesty might be.

We hear those who elected us to power complaining that the coalition isn't doing anything. I would like to assure everyone that, whether you chose to vote for the current council members or not, we are all hard at work to address your needs. It is important to note that proper planning is essential for execution to yield the required results.

There is a saying I like very much: ***“Don’t plan for the people, plan with the people”*** In applying this saying, Council has embarked on the Strategic Planning process and this process will be completed with input from you, our residents. One might ask, what exactly is strategic planning? Why is it important and why do we need to do it? Strategic planning allows us to work with measurable targets towards

our vision. These measurable targets hold us accountable internally and you as the public can also hold us accountable by evaluating our strategic plan. We have been working tirelessly through consultation with administration in this regard and our public engagement meetings are due to commence soon.

Council has tentatively scheduled the public meetings for 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2021 in the different Community halls. The purpose of these meetings is to create a platform where Council can engage the public on areas they wish to see addressed. At the first public meeting for 2021 Council would like to engage the public in the discussion regarding the 2021/2022 budget.

With this said, it has come to our attention that a lot of people are still unhappy with the conditions of sales that are applicable to the erven that have been put out for sale by Council. Council received a letter that had an undertone insinuating that there might be corrupt

practices in the erven put up for sale. I would like to clarify that eight (8) erven namely:

- Erf 6327
- Erf 6347
- Erf 6362
- Erf 6410
- Erf 6486
- Erf 6674
- Erf 6630
- Erf 6693

Are municipal general residential erven that are currently occupied by illegal squatters. These eight erven formed part of the first initial list that was advertised last year in December 2020. Council saw it fit to remove these general residential erven and allow Council time to rezone them into single residential and also to give Council enough time to ensure that proper procedures are followed in removing the illegal squatters. I would like to clarify that Council, in no way condones these practices of illegally grabbing land, but we can also not obviously proceed in selling land where people are residing and creating an environment for future chaos. Once Council has found a lasting solution, the said eight erven will be up for sale.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I should emphasize that council cannot keep putting the sale of erven on hold as the need for land is a pressing issue in Walvis Bay and country wide. Council is also finalizing the logistics around putting up approximately 90 houses build under the mass housing project up for sale as these have remained unclaimed until now. It is envisioned that this sale will take place in July which is the new financial year.

I would also like to assure residents that Council is in the process of procuring more prepaid water meters to assist with debt alleviation. Currently procurement approved the procurement of 1000 prepaid meters with a combined value of 2.4 million dollars. These prepaid meters will be installed on Council owned properties, low-cost housing, as well as at properties with extremely high-water bills and who's occupants/owners are in no position to make

payments toward their debt. Council is confident and positive that this will be the beginning of assisting residents in managing their water consumption and debt.

Ladies and gentlemen

I am sure you all are aware that this week we are celebrating National Youth week which was launched by the National Youth Council of Namibia (NYC) under the theme 'Youth ignite zero-tolerance towards gender-based violence' on Friday.

As the chairperson of NYC said, the reality of sexual and gender-based violence in Namibia is undeniable. As of last year, between January to October, 3 900 cases of sexual and GBV were reported to the GBV unit.

Planned activities that focus on both genders will form part of the weeks activities in order to discuss related issues,” I urge the youth to take part in these activities

where possible in order to be well informed and well prepared and hopefully in this manner we are also in a better position to prevent future GBV cases.

My believe is that unemployment is a huge contributing factor to the increase cases of GBV amongst the youth. It is with this in mind that the office of the Mayor is passionate about youth development especially in the areas of early childhood development and tertiary education. With limited funds and assistance from Freddy's Fish Processors we were able to assist:

- 21 Topnaar students with accommodation at NIMT
- 8 students from different institutions of higher learning with their tuition fees for the year.
- 2 early childhood centers in Kuisebmond that takes care of children ranging from 3 months to 7 years.



- A group of 10 individuals to received training in poultry farming.

The office of the Mayor would have been unable to assist the community in this manner without the private sectors intervention and we are thus grateful for the consistent support that the private sector has been rendering to our office and by extension the people of Walvis Bay.

Before I close off, I would like to remind everyone that the Mayoral suggestion box is officially open for the public as off today. There will be a Mayoral suggestion box at each Municipal office for the convenience of the public. I would like to urge everyone to make appropriate use of these suggestion boxes and may it be a tool that will help guide the Council as to the needs and most pressing matters for our people.

I thank you