



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

**AT THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING,**

**08 JUNE 2021, 18:00**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**WALVIS BAY**

Reverend Elsa Kaanjosa

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 heavy heart that I address you at today's Council meeting. The whole nation has been watching with concern as the COVID-19 infection rate has been increasing at an alarming rate all across the country with Walvis Bay being no exception. I do not know if it's negligence from our side as residents, but what I do know is, we need to step up our precautionary measures and do better. Keeping this virus contained should be the responsibility of each and every resident in this town and not just the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

I would like to encourage everyone who qualifies to take the vaccine, to do so as swiftly as possible as it offers the most significant form of protection against this dreaded virus. Covid-19 does not discriminate, and it affects all of us in a broad sense as it wreaks havoc in our social and economic lives. I myself was diagnosed with Covid-19 four weeks ago and only returned to the office last week Monday. I am now

waiting for my 14 days to lapse before I am eligible to get vaccinated.

Ladies and gentlemen

In accordance with internationally accepted guiding principles, the Mayor is the first citizen of the municipal area of a town or city. It also follows that the Office of the Mayor represents all citizens in such jurisdictions, irrespective of their colour, tribe or political affiliation. It further goes without saying that certain events by their very nature would therefore involve the presence of the Mayor in his or her official capacity. When such protocol is ignored, either through ignorance or clear disdain, in our municipal area, the general public may interpret this as a sign of disrespect towards the people of Walvis Bay. I therefore appeal to individuals, companies or government entities to engage with the Office of the Mayor when organizing activities of an official nature. My staff and I would be more than happy to assist

where necessary in order to ensure the success of such events.

With this said, I would like to move my attention to the fishermen who have lost their jobs due to the 2015 strike. The whole of Walvis Bay, if not the whole Namibia, is aware of the plight of these fishermen. I have wanted to get this off my chest for a very long time. The fact that these members of our community have been in this situation for so long, unable to provide for their families due to the greediness of a few, leaves one emotionally drained.

We are grateful to the odd fishing company that has absorbed a great number of these fishermen in their structures, but we are still hopeful that the nearly 300 who are still destitute can also be accommodated. I also want to take this opportunity to commend the said fishermen for their patience and orderly behaviour during these trying times.

I thus call upon the business community to please get in touch with my office to decide on a plan to assist them in the meantime, while we await their employment confirmation with Hangana Seafood (Pty) Ltd.

Thank you for your time, Ladies and Gentlemen.