



**STATEMENT BY H.W. THE MAYOR,
ALDERMAN I. WILFRIED AT THE
ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON 29 JULY 2020
KUISEBMOND COUNCIL CHAMBER
WALVIS BAY**

Fellow Councilors

Chief Executive Officer and Municipal Staff

Members of the Public and the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

I have the honour once again to address you this evening on the occasion of our Ordinary Council Meeting. Unfortunately, the circumstances are not the most pleasant at the moment.

While our thoughts and prayers are with the families of Twaloloka, especially the family who lost their baby in the recent fire, we need to remain resilient in order to confront the mounting challenges. We have lost a dear colleague, Chandler Plato, whose legacy of hard work and compassion for others will always serve as inspiration for us to create a better world. Apart from him, seven other individuals from Walvis Bay fought bravely to the end, before succumbing to coronavirus disease. I would like us to honour the memory of all those who have lost their lives during these recent events, by observing a moment of silence.

Our biggest enemy continues to be Covid-19 and the best defence at the moment is to keep to the basic protocol of masking up, maintaining social distancing and washing hands or sanitising. We cannot emphasise this more than enough. Regrettably, some people are still not taking it seriously and display the most outrageous behaviour you can imagine, and in some cases even deliberately so.

Currently we are hard at work to decongest certain areas, and the first priority is to temporarily relocate the most affected residents to the area given to us on loan by NHE, and portions of Farm 37. Some of these areas will be ready by mid-August, and as the Honourable Governor, Neville Andre, said this morning the affected residents must be patient and wait for the appropriate announcements to be made in due course.

Again, we would like to express our gratitude to all those who have opened their hearts and wallets to address the plight of our people, including a huge amount of assistance by Government. We will continue to rely on this kind of generosity for a long time to come. However, despite all the tragic events and the continued misery caused by Covid-19, we are not defeated.

Let us remain even more responsible now by adhering to the regulations that are in our best interest. I would like to repeat what I said at an earlier occasion today, I am confident that we will rise from the ashes, ready to rebuild our community with strength and resilience. Amongst the doom and gloom, there is also hope and light at the end of the tunnel.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to take a moment to also thank those behind the scenes, whose efforts are visible but not always appreciated, but who make sure that plans are devised and executed. I am thinking of those who make sure that the food and clothes reach those who need it the most, those who make sure that supplies are ordered, those who dig the trenches and flatten the dunes for services to be provided, those in management positions who sometimes have to endure the verbal attacks from the political leadership who want to see progress at the speed of lightning, and so I can continue along an endless list. The point is, we may sometimes disagree and will continue to disagree on many fronts, but at the end of the day we are in this together and will do the best we can for Walvis Bay, and Namibia.

On that note, Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you for all your efforts and let us continue the struggle for the good of all.

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