



**STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,
CLLR TREVINO FORBES,
AT THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING,**

16 DECEMBER 2021, 18:00

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

WALVIS BAY

Honourable Regional Councilors

Fellow Honourable 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

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to deliver my end-of-year address as Mayor of Walvis Bay. On all fronts, 2021 has been a very challenging year, more so because of the Covid-19 pandemic and its unprecedented socio-economic impact.

As we look back on the year we are reminded that it was not easy. A fire ravaged through the remaining part of what used to be Twaloloka. All twenty-seven shacks were destroyed, and the occupants had to be housed in tents in an open area. Unfortunately, for as long as people are living in shacks, we should always be prepared for calamities such as these. It presents us with yet another reason to focus our energy and resources on finding a lasting solution to the housing shortage and making Walvis Bay shack free.

Periodical land grabbing has reared its ugly head in Walvis Bay again. I want to make it clear that land grabbing is illegal and this Council will not endorse such lawless behaviour. A strategic meeting with all stakeholders was held to discuss how such acts should be approached, and the police force has been assured that it has Council's support to remove any illegal structures erected on municipal land.

The Twaloloka/Otweya Housing Project initiated by central government through the office of the Prime Minister was completed in October and the houses were handed over to the residents of Otweya. The project is funded by the government and is now in its final stage of having electricity installed. The project in many ways has provided a blueprint of how central government and the local authority can work together to improve the lives of our citizens. It's not the first such collaboration, and certainly won't be the last. The set of old and new challenges faced by our country calls for collaboration across all sectors. We look forward to strengthening our engagements with various stakeholders in 2022.

THE WAY FORWARD

The next four years for Council will very busy and challenging. We have identified a number of strategic objectives that will guide our operations during the rest of our term. Although the new strategic plan will be announced officially during the early part of the new year, I would like to give our residents a snapshot of what to expect. In no particular order of importance, these strategic objectives are:

- To create a conducive business environment, including an improved service delivery strategy, to attract investment, increase employment, and support youth development.
- To provide serviced land and infrastructure for housing and businesses, at affordable prices, to cater to the needs of a growing population.

- To ensure that Council's staff are Capable, Committed, Competent, Compactable, Compassionate and who can operate Cost-effectively.
- To ensure good corporate governance through the development of an integrated Management Information System (MIS).
- To ensure financial sustainability by increasing revenue streams through new initiatives, improving revenue collection, and adopting effective debt management and cost cutting strategies.
- To improve public safety and community resilience to disasters through a disaster risk management system.

- To ensure a healthy public living space to increase quality of life for all and contribute towards economic development.
- To provide, maintain and improve municipal infrastructure and assets to sustainable standards.

I believe that if we are able to deliver on these strategic objectives, as a council, we will be able to transform Walvis Bay into an outstanding city and improve the quality of life of our residents. Everything we've achieved over the past year, and everything we'll achieve in the future, comes from our community pulling together.

Ladies and Gentlemen

The festive season is synonymous with travel, family time and participation in large gatherings. Our COVID-19 infection numbers over the past few days have started to increase dramatically. I would like to remind all of our residents that the virus does not move on its own, but it's moved by people. Let's continue to stay safe and adhere to the new COVID-19 regulations as given through by His Excellency the President earlier this week.

So, as I come to a close tonight, I want to say thank you to the people of Walvis Bay for all the hard work and support. Let us continue on the same path going forward.

God bless!