



**STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,**

**CLLR. TREVINO FORBES,**

**AT THE COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON 08 MARCH 2022**

**VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KUISEBMOND**

Your Worship the Deputy Mayor

Chairperson of Management Committee

Fellow Councilors

Mr. Frans Gonteb, Acting Chief Executive Officer

Members of the Executive Management and Staff  
of the Municipality of Walvis Bay

Distinguished Invited Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Evening!

In my opening remarks at the first Ordinary Council Meeting for 2022, I said that this is the year of action and I know that some people were skeptical about what I said. But as you will see from tonight's resolutions, we meant what we said, and a lot will still be done this year. I have no doubt that our administration will execute all these resolutions as required.

The encumbering nature of the procurement process has in part been responsible for delaying some of our projects, especially with regards to infrastructure upgrades such as road repairs.

Thanks to our administration, however, motivated by a motion by the Deputy Mayor, the Municipality will soon have its own in-house pothole repair team. Your Worship, Cllr. Saara Mutondoka, thank you for thinking outside the box and bringing about this much needed change. Cllr Olivia, your motion, if accepted here tonight, will bring much needed relief to our residents in these hard times.

I would also like to thank all councillors for showing that you truly have the best interests of the residents of Walvis Bay at heart.

Even if we don't accomplish everything that we set out to do, one thing I'm certain of is that this council will lay the foundation for good governance in the Municipality of Walvis Bay.

Ladies and Gentlemen

For more than two decades now residents of Narraville have been begging for an old age home. Tonight, fellow Councillors, we are answering their call after a little more than a year of being in office. I am proud to be part of this team...long live the spirit of no surrender.

To possible investors and our local business people, the Council welcomes your proposals that will positively affect the economy of Walvis Bay. When your businesses flourish, we all flourish.

Council will soon look at establishing an advisory committee from different sectors of the community including the business sector to ensure that we make informed decisions to best serve the residents of Walvis Bay.

Consumers have been struggling with paying their utility bills, and many have been subjected to the disconnection of services. There is therefore a need for a debate around support by Central and Local Government to subsidize a fixed amount of free water to cater for essential sanitation and human dignity. It could be catered for under the envisaged Basic Income Grant that is currently being discussed on national level. For example, the first 6000 litres of water could be subsidized and the local authority could then be credited for such by the Central Government Scheme for basic services for all. Water used above the 6000 litres per month would still be payable by residents as per local authority tariff structures.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that Ekutu is open for business for the informal business sector. Next on the agenda is the progress on Farm 37 and the sale of the mass houses in Kuisebmond and Narraville.

Following the recent news reports of the establishment of a new town or township called Bakersville, I wish to state that the Municipality of Walvis Bay has no association with it in any way, and any one giving money to this said organisation or persons does so at their own risk.

To the staff members of the Municipality of Walvis Bay, I would like to encourage each and every one who qualifies for the housing scheme to apply for the erven made available to the staff. I admit that it might not be a lot of erven but it is a good start nonetheless.

I would like to thank Cllr Gordon and Cllr Albertina for being so close to the community in your respective neighbourhoods. Being involved on the ground you are able to bring their concerns to Council and we try to deal with them as best we can. To the Chairman and his team in the Management Committee, Walvis Bay is blessed to have leaders of your caliber.

**I thank you.**