



STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,

CLLR. TREVINO FORBES,

AT THE COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2022

VENUE: KUISEBMOND, COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Your Worship the Deputy Mayor

Chairperson of Management Committee

Fellow Councilors

Mr. David Uushona, 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!

Last week was dedicated to public engagement as we scheduled five meetings, three in Kuisebmond and one in Narraville and Town respectively. Although we had to cancel one of the meetings in Kuisebmond due to bad weather, the feedback we got back from these meetings was invaluable.

I would like to highlight the most prominent issues that came out of these meetings. As I informed those in attendance, the reason for these public engagements was not only to consult and listen to the public but also to educate ourselves on the real issues in the community. We would be sitting in these chambers making decisions and resolving matters and not going out into the public to find out if these decisions made, are truly making a difference or solving the community problems.

I would like to start with the most frequently asked questions during these meetings:

Farm 37 was on top of the list. Residents want to know:

When are we moving people to Farm 37, How are we going to do it,

What services will be available for those being relocated and most importantly,

Who is being moved there?

Fellow Councilors, and administration, we committed to the residents of this town, that within six months there will be a movement towards Farm 37. Let's get busy with the logistical aspects of this project. Come March/April 2023, I do not want to hear excuses, just progress feedback.

With regards to the congestion issue mostly in Tataleni, this Council together with Administration will be working on an action plan on the way forward in decongesting.

From my understanding, the current sizes of houses at Tataleni do not meet the requirements and the decongestion in Tataleni was due to a council resolution. This Council will look into these matters as a matter of urgency.

Another burning issue was that Walvis Bay has nothing going on in terms of youth development. It was stated that the Office of the Urban Constituency is sitting with a budget for youth development, but the community is not seeing anything in this regard.

I have to clarify that there is no such budget under the urban constituency council, the only budget allocated to them is the Constituency Development Fund, which the constituency office allocated to various community projects (SMEs).

Although Council already resolved the construction of two vocational centers, we must apply pressure for the commencement of the construction process.

We are going through a phase where teenage pregnancy as well as drug and alcohol abuse amongst the youth is at an all-time high in our town. It is our core responsibility to create an environment that is conducive for youth developmental projects and programs to engage the youth to better spend their productive years constructively.

Another burning issue is the condition of our sewer and road infrastructure. We are aware that as a council and current administration, we inherited a town that was planned in the manner that it was, and the infrastructure is aging. As Council, we will engage with central government to prioritize the replacement of the aging infrastructure.

Lastly, the cleanliness of the town is an issue that needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. This needs to be done by both the Council as well as the residents of Walvis Bay, however, Council must take the lead. As it has been said, prevention is better than cure. So let us keep our town clean.