



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

**AT THE FIRST ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING FOR
2023,**

14 FEBRUARY 2023, 18:00

WALVIS BAY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

- Honorable Regional Councilors
- Fellow Honorable Councillors
- Mr. John Esterhuizen, 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

Good evening

I would like to thank the council for re-electing me for another term as Chairperson of the Council. Your confidence and trust in me are most humbling.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Chairperson of the Management Committee on his re-election.

As a council, we only have two years left to make any significant change in the lives of the residents of Walvis Bay.

I asked that this year, we put our attention towards the execution of resolutions made by the council, and I appeal to the administration to fast-track the execution of these resolutions.

Although we all come from different political parties and backgrounds, I know that our objectives are similar, to see Walvis Bay prosper and to improve the living standard for all Walvis Bay residents.

Councilors, Thank you for your commitment to the community, we fight hard, but that is because we would like to take different paths to get to the same destination. As the most senior of us in Council always like to say “We must stop starting and start finishing”.

Currently, this Council is faced with an uphill battle with the current conditions of our roads as well as land delivery. As reported by the Namibian on 9 February 2023, the town’s harbor is fast becoming a key part of the Southern African Development Community.

The high volume of international traffic, including heavy lorries transporting goods, is taking its toll on the town's roads. Yet, the burden of road maintenance and repair falls squarely on the shoulders of the ratepayers in Walvis Bay.

For the financial year 2022/2023, N\$19 million has been budgeted for road maintenance and rehabilitation for 60 road sections totaling about 50km.

In a meeting held with RFA regarding them coming on board and increasing the funding for road maintenance that they currently give the Council (which is N\$6.7million), RFA accepted the responsibility to rehabilitate the port roads by budgeting N\$248 million for the next five years.

It is indeed great news for the council and the town. We now have no more excuses, and work on our roads must commence in all earnest.

Tomorrow, the council and management will be discussing the framework to relocate the first 50 beneficiaries to Farm 37. I hope that this will be the first small step towards land delivery for which our residents have been pleading for, for years.

Due to the complexity of the project, we must cautiously proceed to ensure that the right things are done correctly from the beginning and avoid committing and making promises that we cannot deliver on.

As we are now committed to moving people to Farm 37, it might be a good time for the council to consider making moves to establish a council-owned brick-making factory, which will supply bricks to our residents at the most affordable rates.

We must do our part as local government to assist our people in the fight to restore their dignity. Council must commit to working closely with the regional and central government for the efficient delivery of land.

The time has come for every councilor in this chamber to focus on what is good for the people of Walvis Bay and not focus our energy on petty issues. In the three years of being in office, what can each of us say our contribution has been?

I thank you