



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

**AT THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING FOR  
23 MARCH 2023, 11:00**

**KUISEBMOND COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

- Honorable Regional Councilors
- Fellow 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 morning

On Tuesday, 21 March, we celebrated thirty-three years of independence. Although we celebrate Independence Day's glory, true independence, or economic independence, is not yet a reality. Most of our people cannot claim ownership of their property, too many are jobless, and too many diseases and social evils are killing our people unnecessarily. Our continuous goal should always be to be united, and to become prosperous as a nation.

This week we are busy with public consultations for the budget. I have to air my disappointment with the turnout at last night's public consulting meeting in Kuisebmond where a total of 70 residents

turned up in a community of more than 50 thousand people. Despite the low turn-up, what was clear from the residents was the encouragement to unite as a council for the betterment of our town and to create opportunities to reduce the high rate of youth unemployment.

I encourage the public to come out in numbers as there are still two public meetings (In Narraville at the Community Hall tonight at 18h00 and the Town Hall tomorrow evening at 18h00), engaging and consulting the residents for the 2023/2024 Council budget.

I thank you