



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

**AT THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING FOR
09 MAY 2023, 18:00**

COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CIVIC CENTRE

- Honorable Regional Councilors
- Fellow Councillors
- Mr. Victor Agostinho, 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

Tonight, I would like to take a moment to address some of the pressing issues that have been causing concern for our community. As the Mayor of this great city, I am committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all our citizens, and it is with this in mind that I would like to speak on a few topics that are of particular concern.

Firstly, I would like to address the issue of shack fires. We have seen far too many devastating fires in our informal settlements, resulting in the loss of homes and lives. We must take action to prevent these tragedies from occurring in the future. We are working closely with our fire department to ensure that they have the necessary resources, to

respond quickly and effectively to fire emergencies. We are also exploring ways to improve the living conditions of those in informal settlements and provide them with safe and secure land tenure options.

Secondly, I would like to speak on the issue of illegal land grabbing that has been occurring in our town. This is not only a violation of the law, but also puts people's safety and health at risk. We are working with our law enforcement agencies to address this issue and ensure that those responsible are held accountable. At the same time, we are committed to delivering land to our citizens in a fair and transparent

manner in order to provide them with secure land tenure and access to basic services.

Thirdly, I would like to emphasize our commitment to land delivery, including the relocation of residents to Green Valley. Three weeks ago, Council embarked on an exercise to register all back yard shacks in Walvis Bay. We understand that this has been a difficult process for many of our residents, but we believe that it is necessary to ensure that everyone has access to secure land and basic services. The process might take longer than anticipated, but we are working closely with those affected to ensure that the process is fair

and transparent and that their needs are taken into consideration.

Fourthly, I am pleased to announce that the Municipality of Walvis Bay, the Road Fund Administration, and Roads Authority will be signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the maintenance of roads in Walvis Bay tomorrow in Windhoek. This MOU represents a significant step forward in ensuring that our roads are properly maintained and upgraded to improve the safety and accessibility of our city.

Through this partnership, we will be able to coordinate resources and expertise to address the challenges facing our road

network and ensure that our citizens can travel safely and efficiently throughout our town.

Finally, I would like to address the issue of overflowing trucks in Walvis Bay in the absence of a truck port. We understand that this is a major concern for our residents, and we are working to finding a solution by exploring various options, including the establishment of a dedicated truck port, to help alleviate this issue and ensure the safety of our residents.

In closing, I would like to reiterate my commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of everyone through the delivery of

secure land tenure, access to basic services, and proper maintenance of our road network. We understand complexity of these issues, but we are committed to working tirelessly to find solutions and make our town a better place for everyone. Thank you.