



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

**AT THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING FOR  
29 AUGUST 2023, 18:00**

**KUISEBMOND COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

- Honorable Regional Councilors
- Fellow Councilors
- 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

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to Mr. Theo Potgieter, our newly appointed General Manager for Roads and Building Control. Mr. Potgieter brings with him a wealth of experience and expertise in the field, making him an invaluable addition to our council.

As we embark on this new chapter, I am confident that under Mr. Potgieter's leadership, we will witness significant developments and advancements in our roads and building infrastructure.

His dedication to excellence and commitment to ensuring quality control will undoubtedly bring positive changes to our community. Mr. Potgieter, on behalf of the council, staff, and our constituents, we extend our heartfelt welcome to you.

May your tenure be filled with success, innovation, and positive change for all. We look forward to working closely with you and witnessing the positive impact you will bring. As we move forward, let us all extend our support and cooperation to Mr. Potgieter.

With this said, I would like to give a summary update on the current major road projects that are ongoing or awarded:

- Consultancy Services for Road Rehabilitation
- Rehabilitation of Intersections (Phase 2)
- Routine Road Maintenance (Lot 1-4)
- Rehabilitation of Union Street (Phase 1)

The total value of these projects is approximately 25 million dollars of which approximately 10.5 million has been spent.

Upcoming road projects in the pipeline are:

- Resealing of Streets and Sidewalks
- Pothole Repairs
- Rehabilitation of Intersections
- Rehabilitation of Union Street – Phase 2
- Repair of Sidewalks

These projects will cost the council an additional estimated amount of 25 million dollars once awarded and completed.

Council is well aware that we are a long way from having excellent roads in Walvis Bay, but we would like to assure our residents that we are prioritizing road infrastructure.

Before I conclude, I would like to inform the Council and the residents of my recent appointment as a member of the Regional Mayors Forum of the Covenant of Mayors in Sub-Saharan Africa.

The Covenant of Mayors is an international movement that brings together local governments committed to taking action on climate change and ensuring sustainable communities for their citizens. Being selected to join the Regional Mayors Forum is an incredible honor and a testament to our dedication to environmental sustainability and our town's remarkable achievements in this area.

This appointment holds significant implications for Walvis Bay as a town. By participating in the Regional Mayors Forum, I will have the opportunity to exchange ideas, best practices, and innovative solutions with other mayors from the region.

This engagement will equip me with valuable knowledge and insights, helping us address local challenges, specifically those related to climate change and

sustainable development. We can expect to implement new strategies and initiatives derived from this collaboration, putting us at the forefront of sustainable development in our region.

Moreover, our involvement in the Covenant of Mayors at the regional level will further enhance Walvis Bay's reputation as a forward-thinking and responsible town.

This recognition can attract potential investments, partnerships, and funding opportunities that will contribute to our town's development and well-being in various aspects.

Not only does this appointment benefit Walvis Bay, but it also has profound implications for Namibia as a country. Namibia, like many nations in Sub-Saharan Africa, faces unique environmental challenges and opportunities. My active participation in the Regional Mayor's Forum will ensure that our town's perspective and interests are represented in regional discussions on sustainable development policies and initiatives.

This platform allows for synergy and collaboration among mayors, fostering collective action that can lead to positive change for our entire country.

As a result, we can expect Walvis Bay's name to be associated with sustainable development efforts, positioning Namibia as a proactive and environmentally conscious country.

This recognition can contribute to raising Namibia's profile on the international stage, attracting partnerships, investments, and new opportunities to further advance our nation's sustainable development goals.

In my new role, I will be attending Africa Climate Week which is being hosted by the Kenyan Government from the 4th to the 8th of September 2023 in Nairobi. The intention of Africa Climate Week is to build momentum ahead of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change taking place later this year.

I will be speaking on "Multilevel climate action in Africa: Tangible examples, ready for Scaling" as well as serve as a panelist on the topic of "Developing green corridors: Opportunities in Africa to achieve the 2030 shipping breakthrough & zero by 2050 – Aligning green shipping & green hydrogen markets"

I am confident that this is one of the opportunities that will empower me to drive positive change, share knowledge, and collaborate with other regional leaders to shape a sustainable and prosperous future for our town and country.

I thank you.