



**STATEMENT BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR,
CLLR TREVINO FORBES,
AT THE ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING FOR
05 OCTOBER 2023, 18:00
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CIVIC CENTRE**

- 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

I am pleased to inform you that the Walvis Bay municipal council is making strides in global environmental management as we managed to receive funding to host a mini-COP in our town hall, localizing the global stocktake event ahead of COP28 in Dubai.

Under the banner of #Stocktake4ClimateEmergency, hundreds of other cities, towns, and regions were invited to host events throughout 2023 that provide an official contribution to the Paris Agreement's Global Stocktake — essentially turning our city halls into mini-COP venues.

Walvis Bay is one of the successful applicants of ten cities or regions across the Global South to be supported to host local stocktake events. The Global South Support Funding is provided by ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, in its capacity as the Focal Point of the LGMA (Local Governments and Municipal Authorities) Constituency.

The Walvis Bay stocktake event (or our mini-COP) will be held on 16 November 2023, together with the 20th meeting of the Walvis Bay Environmental Management & Advisory Forum (WEMAF).

I am also pleased to share that the Council has received an unsolicited “Turnkey” Waste-to-Energy Plant proposal from a Finnish company (through the Finnish Embassy) that promise to provide an innovative solution to solve our solid waste landfilling challenges and associated environmental and socio-economic problems.

The proposed “Turnkey” solution offered can serve the entire Erongo region and beyond due to its fuel requirements.

The next step is to invite all key main stakeholders such as the Office of the Governor, Erongo Regional Council, Local Authorities, Erongo RED, relevant ministries, and local private companies, as well as the Finnish proponent, to an Inception Workshop to introduce, to brainstorm, to obtain in-principle buy-in, and to pave the way forward towards the realization of an Erongo Waste-to-Energy Plant in Walvis Bay.

Your support towards this noble practice will help put our town and region onto the national and global environmental management map.

To conclude, I would like to extend a warm invitation to everyone who can attend the upcoming Mayoral Fundraising Gala, taking place on 7 October 2023 at the Town Hall.

The primary objective of the gala is to raise funds for the Mayoral Relief Fund, which plays a critical role in supporting the community of Walvis Bay.

This fund acts as a lifeline for those in need, assisting residents facing challenging circumstances. By attending the Mayoral Fundraising Gala, not only will you have an enjoyable evening filled with entertainment and socializing, but

you will also be making a significant impact on the lives of those in our community.

With your generous contributions, we can continue to support the Mayoral Relief Fund in achieving its objectives, which include:

- Providing financial assistance to individuals and families facing exceptional circumstances such as medical emergencies, job loss, or natural disasters.
- Supporting educational initiatives to ensure that children in Walvis Bay has access to quality education.
- Promoting entrepreneurship to thrive, creating opportunities for employment within our community.

Your attendance and support at the Walvis Bay Mayoral Fundraising Gala will undeniably make a difference in the lives of those who rely on the Mayoral Relief Fund. Together, we can build a stronger, more resilient, and compassionate community.

Thank you