



**ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA (ECN)
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF
ELECTORAL OFFICER (CEO)**

TO: JUNIOR COUNCIL OF CITY OF WINDHOEK

FROM: PROF. PAUL JOHN ISAAK
CEO OF THE ECN

DATE: MONDAY, 23 APRIL 2018

SUBJECT: PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT

Dear His Worship, Mayor of City of Windhoek, Cllr Mueseke Kazapua, Outgoing Junior Mayor (2017/18) Cllr Michael Petrus and Incoming Junior Mayor Cllr Rochelle Beukes, Chief Executive Officer of City of Windhoek, Mr Robert Nandaa Kahimise, Honourable Councillors of the City of Windhoek, Ms Sharonice Bush, Personal Assistant to Private Office in the Office of the President and Ex-Junior Council Executive, Deputy Bishop, Pastor Paul Hatani Kisting from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia, Mr Filemon Nangolo Hambuda, Strategic Executive for Economic Development and Community Services, Ms Trudy Geises from Section Head: Youth Development, Director of Ceremonies, Mr JK Kalumdu, and specially the Honourable Junior Council Members to be inaugurated today, 23 April 2018 in the City of Windhoek, Namibia.

I am focusing my statement on Partnership on Two Key Issues: Partnership and Service Delivery. I shall now briefly elaborate upon these two issues.

PART ONE:

1) PARTNERSHIP STATEMENT FROM ELECTORAL COMMISSION OF NAMIBIA (ECN) PERSPECTIVE.

The Constitution of the Republic of Namibia in Article 94B states that, “*There shall be an Electoral Commission of Namibia, which shall be the exclusive body to direct, supervise, manage and control the conduct of elections and referenda.*” Thus, from such a constitutional mandate I am glad to be here and to focus on the topic of partnership with the City of Windhoek Municipality.

From the side of the Electoral Commission of Namibia we have the **Division of Democratic Building and Voter and Civic Education**. In terms of the Electoral Act 2014, (No. 5 of 2014), Section 49 and 50 such a Division must (1) “*ensure that voter and civic education particularly addresses the young population*” and (2) “*spread voter and civic education to the grass-roots level.*”

Therefore, in such a partnership with the ECN we ought to pay special attention and special actions to the causes of the youth and grass-roots communities as I will elaborate here below. But first, in such a partnership I am fascinated by the motto of the City of Windhoek Municipality: **The Gateway to Endless Opportunities**. When I am reflecting on your motto my full attention is on two words, **gateway** and **opportunities**.

First, on the possible meaning of gateway: to enter any gate here on earth without being excluded on basis of your race, colour, ethnic origin, sex, religion, creed or social or economic status and where such rights are most effectively maintained and protected in our democratic nation and where we are freely electing representatives of the people.

Second on opportunities. Today, we are going to witness the inauguration of the Junior Council 2018-2019 and at the outset we put them on the gateway of talking and walking towards great opportunities for their future as religious, economic, scientific, medical and political leaders. **So your mission is a simple one: walk the talk and walk tall.**

PART TWO:

2) CREATION OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE DELIVERY THAT LEADS TO SOCIAL PROGRESSION OR TO SECUREMENT OF DAILY BREAD

I am, one again, fascinated next to your motto of “**The Gateway to Endless Opportunities**” by the objectives of the Junior Council:

- ❖ To provide a vehicle by which senior learners may obtain knowledge on civic affairs (my underling),
- ❖ To report back to schools on all information pertaining to the Junior Council and civic affairs (my underling), and
- ❖ To create a liaison between school learners of Windhoek and City of Windhoek.

I am glad that **TWO** of the objectives out of the **THREE** mentioned the word, civic affairs. Civic affairs are dealing with the **civic life or daily religious, moral, cultural, gender, social, economic, *and most importantly with political life of us as all, humans.***

Note, I said, **politics** because after all the word, **politics** (from Greek: politika), **means** the "affairs of the cities"). Literally you are seeking in all our villages, towns, cities, communities, and the nation the daily bread of the people so that all of us

- end hunger, poverty and zero deaths in Namibia due to lack of food,
- providing residential plots country wide,
- housing,
- safety nets so that children are not abused or raped,
- education for people like you as the Junior Council Members or any other learner, student to excel at schools, at vocational education and training, and at our tertiary education institutions (universities),
- And with special reference in terms of Namibian Constitution in Article 95 the protection and promotion of the Welfare of the People.

With special reference to the City of Windhoek such basic daily services or attainment of daily bread translates as follows in practical daily affairs:

- Enabling all and in particularly the poor and marginalised by having equal opportunities to all services provided by the City of Windhoek such as:
 - Water supply
 - Safe and Secure neighbourhoods throughout the entire City
 - Access to food,
 - Cemeteries with same standards,
 - Proper and affordable housing, schools, clinics and hospitals,
 - Supply electricity and gas
 - Museums and libraries
 - Plant nurseries and Parking areas
 - Fire brigades
- Enabling so that all have power to enter into joint business ventures
- Traffic services throughout all neighbourhoods, and
- Bursaries, etc.

In summary Civic Affairs are concerned with the common good of us as humans or providing our daily bread to us all on a mutual beneficial basis. In other words, so that we are all equal, no more very rich for a few or very poor for the majority, no more good roads in neighbourhoods such as Ludwigdorf or very bad roads in the informal settlements such as Havana at the outskirts of the City of Windhoek.

Differently expressed the mission and vision of you as the Junior Council is to talk and walk so that the people of the City of Windhoek is “eating democracy” that enables people access to food, proper and affordable housing, clinics and hospitals, and maintaining our record as one of the top African countries with very good road infrastructure. Lastly, Windhoek is among the top three cleanest cities in Africa and we must ensure that it regains its number one position.

I THANK YOU