

SPEAKING NOTES BY MR. ROBERT KAHIMISE, CEO OF THE CITY OF WINDHOEK, ON THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE MOU BETWEEN THE CITY OF WINDHOEK AND THE NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

DATE: 16 MAY 2019

TIME: 08H00

VENUE: E-HAUS COURTYARD, NUST

Director of Ceremonies, Mr. Guillermo Delgado;

Hon. Teckla Tala Uwanga, Member of the Management Committee of the Windhoek Municipality, representing Chairperson;

Mr Morné du Toit, Acting Vice-Chancellor of NUST;

Lecturers and Staff Members of both NUST and the City of Windhoek;

Members of the media;

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good Morning!

It is a privilege and honour to cite key points and outlook for projects contained in the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Windhoek and the University of Science and Technology (NUST). This is an occasion that marks perseverance, commitment and hard work between our two organisations, aimed at bringing about synergies and a focused approach to development areas of common interest.

On the outset, I would like to underscore the fact that, as an organization we believe in the concept of a *learning organization*, focusing on continuous improvement, quality and enhanced municipal service delivery. Universities are the sources of *knowledge production, scientific research, innovation and new technologies*, whose role in local government and national development is crucial. We therefore see the Memorandum of Understanding that we are going to sign here today as an underpinning framework to accessing innovative solutions and reliable information, in addressing the many municipal challenges that we are facing today and in future, while at the same time develop knowledge and skills.

It is equally, important to mention that, collaboration between Cities and Universities, is increasingly becoming a worldwide practice, as cities and governments are realizing the indispensable development role played by the institution of high learning. Furthermore, it is also important to note that in partnership and collaboration with Universities, local authorities also save millions of public funds on projects, such as research and many others, which they would have spent on hiring consultants.

In the quest for excellence, the City of Windhoek successfully adopted a responsive five (5) year strategy (Transformational Strategic Plan 2017-22). This plan is aligned to the State Ambitions-Vision 2030, the SADC Agenda 2063, National Development Plans, the Harambee Prosperity Plan; which plans aspire for effective service delivery, as well as, sustainable and equitable economic growth with the intended end goal of bringing prosperity to the Namibian people.

As a City we are committed in ensuring that our Vision of transforming Windhoek into a **Smart and Caring City by 2022** is realized. A Smart City - restores its ability to govern itself more effectively, focusing on ensuring financial sustainability, affordability, technological advancement, cleanliness, greenness, vibrancy, and innovation. At the heart of a Smart City is a more resident-centric approach to services. The said aspirations, we cannot achieve in isolation of critical stakeholders, such as Universities and development partners, hence, we are excited that as institutions, we have realized that we need each other.

The signing of the memorandum of understanding here today, emanated from a buildup of various engagements and projects between our two institutions, however, no formal agreement was in place. The intent is therefore to formalize our relationship with key deliverables that complement strategic imperatives specifically, in anticipation of Namibia's impending urban transformation and related challenges.

The main areas of collaboration under the MOU are highlighted as follows:

- Research and Development;
- SMART City and Technology;
- Economic Advancement;
- Urban, Transport, Environmental and Human Settlement Development;
- Water, Sanitation and Electricity;
- Adequate Housing;
- Disaster and Emergency Management;
- Capacity Development;
- Public Participation; and
- Collaboration on International Relations Initiatives of common interest.

Underneath each said area of collaboration, specific strategic initiatives and projects have been identified. To implement the aforesaid, full optimization of capacities is required to unlock smart and innovative strategies to enhance academia and local government institutional cooperation. As the acclaimed Malcom X once said, and I quote: *"education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today."*

The best legacy that we can leave for the future of generations to come, is creativity and the ability to innovate. Innovation must be ingrained in our value proposition whereby our people are equipped with knowledge and skills to successfully solve the challenges of our time and that of the future. The MOU guides how projects performance will be monitored and reported.

However, progress on focal areas of cooperation will be of keen interest to both parties. In the City's context, performance will be monitored under the theme of *Financial Sustainability & Governance* on a quarterly & annual basis.

We regard this collaboration as a result driven working relationship, which has long term positive impact on the development of our city and country. We look forward with excitement to a rewarding and value adding partnership, based on mutual understanding, trust and respect.

Thank You.