

COUNCIL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR JUNE 2008

Fellow Councillors, Pastor Immanuel Hailaulah, the Chief Executive Officer, General Managers, Managers, Officials, Members of the Media, Members of the Community, Ladies & Gentlemen

Good evening and welcome to the Council meeting for June 2008.

On Friday 13 June 2008 a tragic and very unfortunate incident occurred when two young children drowned in the Oxidation Ponds at the Sewage Works. It is with sorrow that we have learnt about the loss of the 2 young lives namely Rudi Klaase, 5 and Dino Swartbooi, 5.

Initial reports indicate that three young boys under the age of 5 years were seen at the entrance to the Sewage Works earlier that morning and they were chased away by some of our staff. It later transpired that two of the young boys have drowned and the matter was reported to the Namibian Police who dealt with the matter further.

Apart from the question why these small kids were allowed to wander around town on their own, the most important question is what can be done to prevent a similar occurrence. In this instance it seems that the boys gained entrance to the site via the vehicular entrance. It should be noted that it is possible to also gain access to the site by climbing over the boundary wall of the Works.

For the time being the department of Engineering Services has arranged for a security guard to be on site during working hours with the main task to man the vehicular entrance, but it is not the solution as the site is very big and one guard will not be able to effectively guard the whole site against unlawful entrances. The cost amounts to N\$ 135.00 per day or N\$ 3 000 per month. During a Special Management Committee it was agreed that the entrance gate be closed all times and that staff should be alert not to allow any unauthorized person on the premises.

In addition warning signs will be placed around the premises to caution public members, however it will not be effective in cases where small children who cannot read yet or illiterate people approach/enter the premises.

Information campaigns will be launched at schools whereby the children are informed about the dangers such a treatment plant pose. This could however have a negative effect as it might just stimulate their curiosity resulting in their attempts to look around the plant.

I wish to express our deepest sympathy and condolences on behalf of the Swakopmund Council and Staff for the tragic loss of these young children. May their parents and families find strength and comfort in every word of condolences as well as the support received, may the difficult days that lie ahead be filled with all the strength and comfort they may need. God bless.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The office of the Mayor continued to have a busy schedule with a variety of activities and visitors and I will highlight some of these:

- ⊗ Visit of a Swedish Delegation to Namibia from the City of Malmö, consideration will be given with regard to a twinning agreement. The City of Malmö already approached Council to visit them in Sweden during the month of October this year. Malmö is a multicultural city. Diversity is one of the characteristics of the city, creating the conditions for a rich cultural life.
- ⊗ World Environmental Day was hosted on 5 June 2008. I must however express disappointment for little interest shown towards our environment which is fragile and needs our protection.
- ⊗ Some members of the community visited my office and raised their concerns which we appreciate since the community is our eyes and ears.
- ⊗ I had a meeting with the Junior Town Council where they were introduced and declared their commitments to the youth of our Town and shared their plans for the rest of the year and confirmed their involvement with the Senior Council.
- ⊗ Then it was that time of the year again, the Town was in a festive mood and for “a fist full of dollars” the Karnevalsverein hosted a successful Kūska and we wish to thank the Karnevalsverein for the good spirit it was hosted in. Councillor Steinkopff handed them the key of the town on my behalf.
- ⊗ A meeting took place between our office and that of the CEO of Erongo RED in respect of management issues.
- ⊗ The launch of the National Immunization Days took place and in my absence it was handled by Councillor John Ngolombe, thank you for attending the launch.
- ⊗ Today we also had a Trade Mission visit from the USA as well as the opening Joint Defence Force Session, which Councillor John Ngolombe attended on my behalf
- ⊗ The Blood Transfusion Clinic hosted their World Blood Donor Day where the Chairperson of Management Committee, Councillor John Ngolombe also attended on my behalf and handed over certificates.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

My office received a very kind donation from a group of children from the Lutheran Church here in Swakopmund. I was invited to the church office and was handed food and clothing for needy causes and my office was requested to handle this donation. These young children took the initiative and collected a lot of items that will be going to needy families in our community. I wish to challenge all other young people from other churches in our community to use this example to help those in need in our community.

Ladies and Gentlemen

On the 19th of June 2008 a meeting was held with the business community of Swakopmund. The objective of this meeting was to establish a working relationship with our development partners and to create a platform for interaction as well as to determine ways and means of sustaining this relationship. Eighteen Members of the business fraternity attended this meeting and an agreement was reached that these meetings be held on a quarterly basis.

Then Ladies and Gentlemen; the official site hand-over of the New Municipal Complex to the contractor is scheduled for next week Monday 30 July 2008 at 14:30. This is just the technical side, as a formal ground breaking ceremony will be held during July 2008.

Ladies & Gentlemen

Long Service Awards:

Tonight we have 3 Long Service Awards and I would like to call the following gentlemen forward to come and collect this certificate:

- Simon Andreas - 30 Years
- Alfeus Ndiweteko - 20 Years
- Fanie Kruger - 20 Years

I wish these gentlemen many more years of a good and healthy service to the community of Swakopmund. May God bless you richly!

I thank you.

Germina Ndapua Shitaleni
MAYOR