



# MUNICIPALITY OF SWAKOPMUND

31 August 2009

## Press Release

### Children in Swakopmund to Experience the Joy of Christmas

Her Worship, the Mayor of Swakopmund, Councillor Germina Ndapua Shitaleni will be hosting a Christmas party for children in Swakopmund on Friday, 20 November 2009, at the Central Sport Grounds in Vineta. An event that was initially launched by Namibia's Presidential office and was known as the President's Children's Christmas Party, will be continued under the leadership of Mayor Shitaleni. As directed by His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba, the initiative now will be called the *Mayor's Children Christmas Party*.

The festivity will be held for Swakopmunds children, aged between five and ten years, and is aimed at giving children the opportunity to experience the Christmas spirit and atmosphere. Mayor Shitaleni says: "Christmas is very special in our community. Celebrated in various ways, for some it is a call for merrymaking and for others it is a time for quiet introspection. However, generally, it also is a time for caring and it is important that we do not lose sight of the dreams of our children."

Essentially, Swakopmund's holiday season will kick off with an event that brings the focus back to the town's community. In some small way, the *Mayor's Children Christmas Party* will contribute to give joy and create a sense of belonging for the most vulnerable. "It is important that we create a caring and loving environment for our children, especially before we host visitors from all over the country and when for four weeks the face over town looks completely different, " Mayor Shitaleni continues.

In anticipation of the exciting celebration, organisers will initiate a coordinated approach and target pre-primary and other educational institutions to invite children for the event. The success of the initiative will also partially will depend on the general support of the community as well as organisations that might be willing to sponsor the *Mayor's Children Christmas Party*.

Organisers aim to host 5,000 children on this special day and anticipate having a tiny gift bag for every child attending. The event is likely to run for the whole morning and the young crowd will entertain themselves with Christmas carols and other activities. "I do believe that as a community we can pool our resources to create a special day for our children. We will be approaching organisations to assist but I also believe that every home can contribute in some small way. I can just see every child walking around with a decorated ginger heart baked in the homes of Swakopmund, " Mayor Shitaleni enthuses.

Organisers of the event encourage all kindergartens or nursery schools – registered or not – to call or sms Michelle Palmer (081- 2777283) or Chris Katjitae (081-1271134) to ensure that all most vulnerable children are being involved in this special event. Any other suggestions and offers for sponsorship or support are also keenly welcomed. Please contact Annalize Swart at the Municipal Offices at Tel. 064 - 410437 or e-mail: [swkmun@swkmun.com.na](mailto:swkmun@swkmun.com.na)