



**Official announcement statement  
By the  
Honourable Ciskie Smith-Haward  
Chairperson of ERONGO REGIONAL COUNCIL:  
ON 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

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**OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, STATEMENT BY  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE ERONGO REGIONAL COUNCIL AT  
THE 1<sup>st</sup> ORDINARY REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETING OF 2021,  
HELD ON THE 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 AT THE ERONGO  
REGIONAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 10H00.**

**Honourable Governor**  
**Honourable Councillors**  
**Madam Chief Regional Officer**  
**All Management Cadre**  
**Distinguish guests**  
**Members of the media**  
**Members of the public**  
**Ladies and gentlemen**

Good morning

I am delighted to welcome you all to this August House once again. We are already in the 3<sup>rd</sup> month of the year 2021. We the Regional Councillors are now fully equipped with the principles of Good Governance, as we were inducted in-house and by the Ministry of Urban and Rural Development. I applaud the Ministry for the very important engagement. In the same vein, I would applaud our well-articulated Chief Regional Officer for being part of the overall Induction Programme of the Ministry. We are indeed honoured and privileged to have such diverse leader in our mist. Thank you Madam Doëses for sharing your knowledge with all of us. We will continue to tap on your expertise.

At this point I would like to announce with delight that I noticed during recently concluded Induction, that most of the participants wish to be associated with the Erongo Regional Council. This indeed demonstrates that we are doing something exemplary. Our brand representation at all levels are indeed commendable. ERC is the brand and I am happy to see

how we take pride of our brand, and I have confidence that we live up to our vision and mission.

We need to constantly revisit our plans, and evaluate to assess where we are in terms of our strategic goals and our ultimate aim of being the “Centre of Excellence”. We, as the Regional Councillors pledged to support and guide the technocrats to the best of our ability to fast track excellent service delivery to our communities in the Erongo Region. That being said, we have decided to change our ways in waiting for opportunities of development to knock on our door, we commit ourselves to also go and actively look for opportunities.

I would like to use this opportunity to invite our business sector to please not hesitate to engage with us to see how we can grow the economy of the Erongo Region and bring much needed employment to our people.

Having said that our esteemed Technocrats are currently hard at work to review Erongo Regional Council’s Annual Plan of 2020/21 and crafting of 2021/2022 Financial Year Annual Plan. I have ample confidence in our vibrant workforce to drive this Council to exceptional heights of performance. Thank you yet again Madam Chief Regional Officer, for leading these high performers. Let us not slack down but always strive to be better.

Before we deliberate on today’s issues, I would like to urge this August House to advocate development in our region, to encourage growth and to ease the way for opportunities in your respective Constituencies. My vision as Chairperson of the Erongo Regional Council is to see that we have deputations of the sort we will have here today every Council

Meeting and that we commit ourselves to implement and fast track development for the sake of our people and the Region at large.

I am pleased of numerous activities that the leadership of the Erongo Regional Council attended during the month under review.

It is with much delight that the Honourable Councillors had demonstrated development interventions in their respective Constituencies.

- Arandis has shown us this month what a true working relationship can bring with implementing a number of JV's with Private entities.
- Karibib has through assistance of DW – Development Workshop Namibia almost achieved that the entire informal settlement has been formalised.
- Omaruru has started a NO to PLASTIC campaign and will kick off tomorrow the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 07h00 with a Town Clean-Up initiative. Please join in if you find yourself in Omaruru tomorrow.
- Walvis Bay has started the process of taking a step towards becoming the first smart city in Namibia.
- Swakopmund - we introduced a mentorship programme for the development of successful SME projects and through our Local Authority we have already this year put out 600 erven with another 1200 earmarked for this year – we have also started to look at alternative to make the land delivery process run faster in order to utilise available land as matter of urgency for our people.
- It is encouraged that Regional Councillors kept track of developments in their respective Constituencies.

Honourable Councillors  
Ladies and Gentlemen

The Erongo Regional Council's employees are among the significant catalysts of service delivery to the inhabitants especially the communities of the region, I once again put emphasis on the Council to continue investing in its staff in the quest of creating and maintaining a conducive working environment for its workforce. I thus, pledge on behalf of the August House on ensuring a motivating working environment for ERC's workers. To actively engage with the ERC and to make sure we stay abreast with what is happening in our house. I will also be indebted for not noting their endless contributions.

Madam Chief Regional Officer, please convey our gratitude to our technocrats for their clear vision and living up to the dream of the Council.

Honourable Councillors  
Ladies and gentlemen

It was during the Induction that I noticed with delight that from all the respective regions, I believe Erongo is leading at the forefront of Women in Power. Not only do we have a Female Mayor in Swakopmund, but also female Chairperson of the Erongo Regional Council, two female Regional Councillors and Ms Doëses as the Chief Regional Officer, but we also have quite number of our senior staff as female. I am by no means a feminist, but I do believe that we as the more refined gender possess certain skills and finesse that when utilised correctly, we can most certainly bring a big change to our communities through compassion and love.

This week we celebrated Woman's Day and as most of you have seen, social media was abreast with celebrating women. It is my personal believe that when we as females talk about our "power" and our inner strength we must trample on the male gender for our successes. Let us not forget the hands and hearts that also assisted us throughout the years to enable the breakthroughs we've achieved. It is with sadness that I sometimes observe people having to put others down to make themselves shine. The unique ability of a WOMAN is that she moves with grace and style and gets her way without having to step on others. True power lies in the up-liftment of those around you, so for this you will always be remembered.

Let us remain focussed on being the strength we are and remember that your worth list in how you treat others, as Margaret Thatcher said.

Where there is discord, may we bring harmony. Where there is an error, may we bring truth. Where there is doubt, may we bring faith. And where there is despair, may we bring hope.

With these few words, let's go out and serve the Erongo Region inhabitants and the Namibian nation at large. I can't over emphasize the notion of being consistent and transparent at all times. May thee Almighty God bless us all.

***Thank you very much for listening.***