



# TSUMEB MUNICIPALITY

## FESTIVE SEASON GREETINGS

As Mayor, I am delighted to use this opportunity to extend to you and your family season greetings to the inhabitants of the town and residence of the entire Oshikoto region.

This is a time of goodwill and friendship henceforth on behalf of Municipal Council and staff, allow me to wish and hope for a joyous and exuberant holiday despite the current economic turmoil prevailing worldwide. We as Tsumebers should commit ourselves to principles of participatory democracy, good governance, sustainable socio-economic development, justice and peace. It is Council's mission and vision, to make Tsumeb a socially and economically growing town of golden opportunities where all people can positively participate in its richness and diversity

At this moment in time, I want to particularly observe the hard work shown by all the town's stakeholders who are striving tirelessly with genuine aspiration to bring about improvement in their surroundings. As Council, we hope we can continue working together in the New Year (2009) to achieve more success in 2009 and beyond. As we strive to achieve the goals we set for ourselves, it is important to remain united in purpose, focused and unwavering in our desire to create an industrialized stable and peaceful Tsumeb and Namibia at large.

According to the activities of Tsumeb Municipal Council, allow me to summarize the projects, and innovative ideas that came forth during this financial year.

### **2008 Highlights**

The construction of low cost housing project spearheaded by the Shack Dwellers Association of Namibia has been a major success. Council allocated land for development of houses to the low income earners at the town in order to address the housing backlog currently prevailing at the town.

At the moment, more than 30 families have moved into their homes while another 25 currently being built are expected to be completed by the end of the year.

### **Copper Festival**

Council has once again staged the annual Cu festival for 2008 with great success despite a visible absence by some stakeholders who have gradually withdrawn their participation in this festival-cum-trade fair. The Copper festival is a calendar event that is being organized primarily to unite at social level the residents of the town and also create an opportunity for Small Medium Enterprises and business enterprises to market and showcase their products and services.

### **Tsumeb Southern Entrance**

Council is currently busy with the face-lift of the main entrance to Tsumeb from the south in order to make the town more noticeable to visitors and tourists alike.

The project is expected to be completed before the end of December 2008 and will also coincide with the installation of streetlights at the main entrance. Ten other streets in Nomtsoub where the majority of our residents are residing have also been identified to receive streetlights.

### **Tarring of Roads**

Council identified 2 streets for tarring. These include the street to the entrance of Soweto which connects Vinia Ndadi Street to Milka Naujoma Street and the other being the street connecting Leevi Muashekele to the street leading to the Otjikoto secondary school.

This exercise is not once off but a long term project that aims to tar all the other smaller streets in Nomtsoub, while further maintaining the already tarred streets through the Road Fund Administration.

### **Water Reservoir**

We have equally initiated the complete upgrading of the Tupperware reservoir which suffered cracks and could henceforth not store water thereby causing inconveniences to the bulk water consumers at the town. The project costing about 1-million dollars will be completed before Christmas this year. I can also report confidently that all related challenges have been addressed in the interim and water supply to all businesses and each household has been successfully restored.

### **Under the Tree- Consort**

The municipality has also reached an advanced stage with the establishment of an entertainment area for our residents to socialize over weekends in an organized fashion and the completion of phase 1 is equally due before Christmas this year.

### **Investment Projects**

Council also successfully lured various investments that were long overdue to render the much needed services to our people and countrymen and women at large. These include, amongst others, the Le Platz Shopping Complex housing Shoprite and other chain stores; the first ever Auto Tech truck repair workshop in SADC, various industrial enterprises, a multi million private hostel yet to commence construction in two weeks.

Council have also leased out the Caravan Park to a local entrepreneur to invest close to 25-million in a new hotel and other chain commercial outlets. We continue to consider additional applications for new similar shopping centers that will house extra unavailable services needed at our town by our community and visitors.

Council also entered into a joint venture with a local business to maintain and run the Tsumeb airport which as become a strategic establishment for the aviation industry.

We will continue to lobby for ongoing projects to materialize including the Aqua-culture and Hydroponics projects as well as the Road Link from Tsumeb/Tsintsabis to Katwitwi in Southern Angola.

### **Environmental Cleanliness**

Council also continues to render the cleanliness of Tsumeb as its main priority in order to create a conducive investment climate for the town and its people and visitors alike.

Council is likely to establish another joint venture for waste removal that is aimed at reducing the escalating costs of delivering this service to our bulk consumers mostly due to ailing machinery and equipment at council's disposal.

### **Soweto Upgrading**

The upgrading of Soweto is progressing very well. The Municipality has so far managed to put in sewerage, water pipes in half of the houses and completed the electrification project in conjunction with our partners CENORED.

There are 297 houses in Soweto, and so far more than 80 have received individual toilets while every month about six toilets are built in order to meet the backlog of those who have already paid the initial connection fees for the toilets.

### **Crime Prevention**

Due to challenges faced as far as crime prevention at the town is concerned, council formed a youth against crime forum recently comprising a large group of young volunteers who need back up support from all stakeholders including the business community in order to sustain the project. They have received training by the Police and have patrolled and engaged their services in recent activities held at the town.

I wish to thank all genuine stakeholders including our police and security forces who contributed to the town's development in one way or the other.

### **Consumer Debt**

On operational level financial challenges continued to face council mostly due to a huge debt by consumers that is more than 30-million. Council therefore find it challenging to cross-subsidize most of the capital projects due to none and or slow repayment of debt despite efforts to introduce incentives involving the writing off of 50-percent of debt for payment of half of the debt. Council also resolved not to charge interest on 5/the indebted amount older than three years to make it easy for the defaulters but yet we have receive a slow response to date.

### **Closure of Copper mines**

The recent announcement by Weatherly International Plc to suspend its operations at Otjihase and Tschudi copper mines is speculated to leave hundreds of people jobless. It is worthwhile to note that the Tsumeb

smelter will continue to operate under the control of Weatherly's subsidiary, Namibia Custom Smelters and will continue to contribute to the town and workforce in particular.

We share sympathy during this challenging time of the decline in world metal and copper prices and remain confident that the company will brave the challenges. We also heed to our national leaders and visitors that encouraged our council throughout the years for positively changing the development and transformation tone of our town.

I also want to extend a special word of thanks to the Head of State, Our President Hifikepunye Pohamba in particular for his continued support and praise for our leadership.

### **Tsumeb's International Connection**

Tsumeb has so far ten twinning –partners with **Oshakati, and Falun in Sweden**, being our new born sister towns. The others are; **Chesterfield-UK; Tecumseh-Canada; Elverum-Norway; Lanzhou-China; Gweru-Zimbabwe; Walvisbay Okakarara and Katima Mulilo**

We had a high level delegation from Sweden who visited Tsumeb this month after I led a team to visit their country last month. Soon areas of cooperation will be identified so that Sweden can offer expertise in some of the identified areas of the cooperation which include Information Communication Technology, Tourism, Education, Good Governance and Environment.

I thank you for your patience and attention and please let us enjoy the festive season honorably and return safely from our holidays.