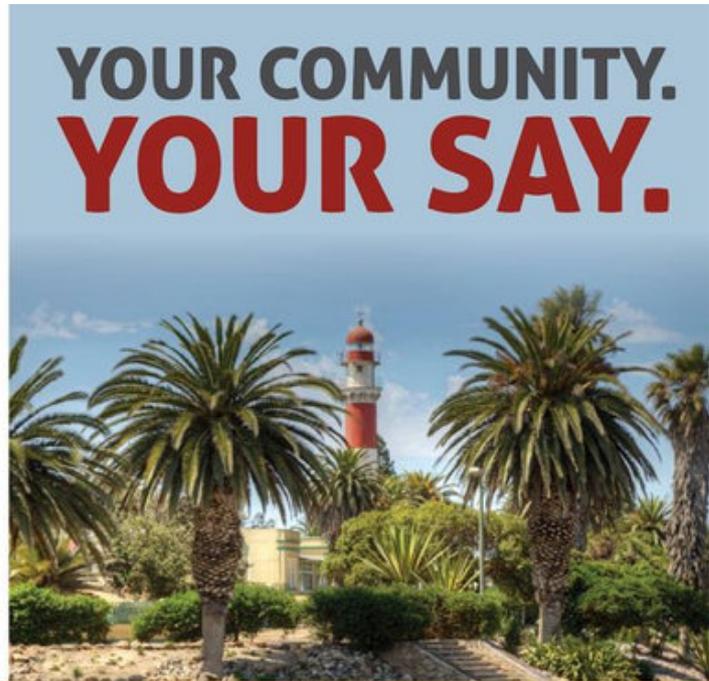


**More members – more visible – more effective.**



## **AUGUST NEWSLETTER**

### **Investors During COVID**

Even in this dismal and sad time of Covid losses, our wet and grey winter mornings, and our loss of revenue from tourism, there are investors a-plenty looking at Swakopmund and knocking on the door to be let in. This is hopeful in the sense that when life finds a balance again, we will regain our momentum and the people of Swakopmund will be able to return to life, much as normal.

Why are we attracting all this attention? It is because Namibia is viewed as having a stable government, Swakopmund is an attractive and well-run town, with good services and administration, a nearby harbour and the potential for good business. All this builds up trust and confidence.

- We have an approach from a French company, HDF Energy Namibia, which needs 400 hectares of land for a hydrogen-to-power plant which will generate a great deal of continuous or on-demand electricity. The solar panels will produce 'green' hydrogen which can be stored and it is envisaged that a capacity of 30MW of power will be

produced. The Municipality has agreed to this investment in principle and is carefully considering the best place for this to be set up.

- IUM, the International University of Management will be setting up a research centre in the Matatura area. This will include lecture halls, library, a conference centre, and student accommodation.
- Namwater has proposed the construction of its own desalination plant at the coast, which will most likely lead to the water price being doubled in the future. The Namibian Cabinet has approved, that Namwater can search for funding for this project. Council has been approached by other companies which have come up with much cheaper alternatives. However, Namwater, being the custodian of all water, refuses to give approval of such.
- The application for a university to be developed near the Martin Luther site remains in place and so this area must therefore have new services installed, which is now being investigated.

The aerodrome development needs capital to be realised to afford its expansion and improvement. This is also being investigated together with a proper futuristic layout.

Near the aerodrome a large tract of undeveloped land is being developed and provision is being made to accommodate the new land tenure act there. This will include division into smaller parcels of land which will be more affordable to those with limited finance. Small business garages and warehouses will be included in this development. The Municipality is inundated on a weekly basis with proposals for servicing large tracts of land or the construction of housing developments. In general these unsolicited applications are refused.

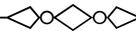
In the Matatura and DRC area about 1600 empty erven are still available. Council has therefore enrolled 40 contractors to build 40 houses each. Of the 40 houses, 26 must be aimed at social housing and 14, credit link. This development will have much stricter control so that mistakes of the past cannot be repeated. For example, Council will start with a design and proper specification so that costs cannot be inflated by individual contractors. The problem exists that much of this land has been settled on by squatters who have built shacks and they need to be relocated.



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## Fire Brigade Upgrades

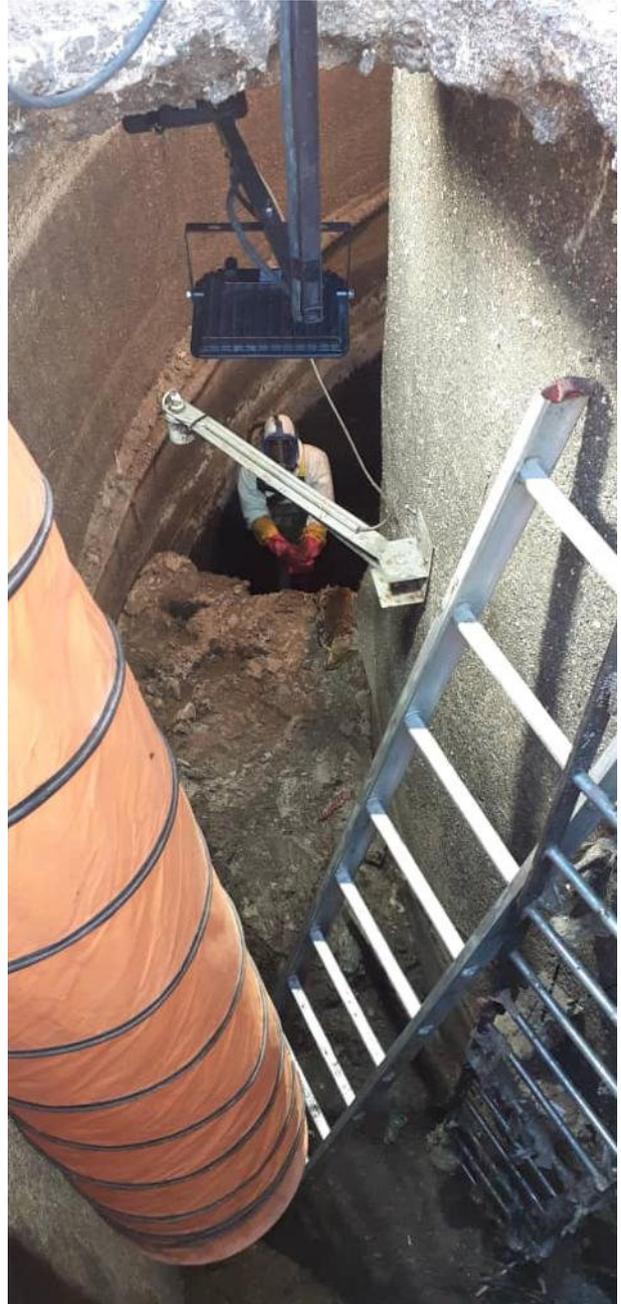
To improve the performance ability of our Fire Brigade, funds have been provided in this year's budget to include a new turntable ladder fire engine to be able to reach and service taller buildings. With the employment of a new Fire Brigade Chief, the operation of the Fire Station is being carefully monitored and studied.



## Sewage Spillage

After many complaints, the failing pump stations which cause the flooding of sewage water in our streets are being examined and cleaned out. The situation is rather shocking and some of the stations are completely silted up and barely operational. However, much of the problem lies with residents who throw garments and rags into the sewer system, as these rags catch in the impeller of the pumps and cause them to trip and become non-operational. This is generally the case with the pump station which causes Strand Street to be flooded. The pump station which serves Vineta also serves areas like the industrial area, and parts of Mondesa, as well as the sewage from the State Hospital. To prevent

this 'tripping' hazard the present pumps are being replaced with pumps which do not easily catch rags and also have the motor separated from the pump. This cost will be included in next year's financial budget.



## Town Hall

Many residents have queried the fact that the town hall, so well prepared for Covid sufferers was not put to use. The Ministry of Health delayed the opening and use of this building by not giving clearance and approval for this facility to be operational.



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## Neighbourhood Watch

Great credit goes to our Neighbourhood Watch members for their excellent work. They give us such reassurance with their energy and commitment. Please consider donating towards their work – they are there for each one of us in a time of trouble. Note their





