



**STATEMENT BY HER WORSHIP CLLR. QUEEN  
OMAGANO KAMATI, MAYOR OF CITY OF WINDHOEK, ON  
THE OCCASION OF THE SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CITY  
OF WINDHOEK AND THE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
OF MANAGEMENT**

**DATE: 24 JULY 2024**

**TIME: 10H00**

**VENUE: COUNCIL CHAMBER**

Program Directors, Mr. Christopher Eita; Manager: External  
Relations and Networking,

Your Worship Cllr. Joseph Uapingene, Deputy Mayor of the  
City of Windhoek,

Cllr. Bernadus Araeb, Chairperson of the Management  
Committee of the City of Windhoek,

Honourable Councilmembers Present,

Prof. Osmund D. Mwandemele, Vice-Chancellor of the  
International University of Management,

Mr. Moses Matyayi, Chief Executive Officer of the City of  
Windhoek;

Chief City Police, Strategic Executives, and Senior Officials of  
both IUM and the City of Windhoek,

Members of the media;

Ladies and gentlemen,

Good morning!

It is with great pleasure and honour that I stand before you on this historic occasion, marking the beginning of a promising collaboration between the City of Windhoek and the International University of Management.

As the Mayor of Windhoek, I am immensely proud of the strides that our city has made over the years. We have grown into a vibrant, dynamic, and forward-looking urban center, characterized by our rich cultural heritage, our commitment to sustainable development, and our resilience in the face of challenges of our time. However, the journey of progress is continuous, and it is partnerships like the one we are formalizing here today that will propel us further along this path.

### **Program Director**

Universities play a crucial socio-economic role in society, especially in local authority development, as leaders in research-based service delivery. In light of this, the City of Windhoek has been forging strategic partnerships with

universities within the city over the past few years for two main reasons.

In order to adequately face the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, universities play a role in helping local governments to entering the era where they need readiness of human resources and technological contests. Therefore Universities, as centers of technology development and dissemination, can assist local governments in preparing and improving the quality of human resources and technology required by local governments. For this reason, local governments must collaborate with various universities so that they are ready to face the challenges of our time.

The International University of Management has been a beacon of higher education in Namibia since its establishment in 1994. As a proud Namibian, it fills me with great pride to witness our own institution growing and expanding its campuses across various regions of Namibia. This growth is a testament to the university's commitment to academic excellence and its role in shaping the future of higher education in our country.

Global trends dictate that Cities and Universities collaborate to build a better urban future. This is because the two sectors have an inherently intermixed role in society. The two sectors are the frontline in responding to challenges facing our society such as the unemployability of our university graduates, lack of skills and knowledge transfer, the threat posed by climate change, socio-spatial inequality, food insecurity, sluggish technological integration, scarcity of resources and ineffective policing.

Thus, if cities and universities are driven by a common goal, shouldering responsibilities of generating new ideas and collective problem-solving, together we can make a significant impact on improving the quality of life for our citizens. The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) therefore symbolizes our shared commitment to fostering innovation, and industry-focused educational curriculum.

Furthermore, urban challenges require municipalities to leverage on research-based expertise of academic professionals to discover new, efficient, and sustainable solutions. Collaborating with universities will help address pressing municipal issues such as the much-needed

technological municipal service delivery solutions and innovations, municipal policy research and strategy, environmental management, sustainability and climate change.

This agreement will therefore provide an excellent platform for students to apply their classroom knowledge in real-life situations, gaining valuable experience through internship programs and on job training.

A key aspect of this partnership is integrating academic research with practical urban solutions. By combining IUM's academic expertise with the city's practical experience, our goal is to create a more inclusive, efficient, and sustainable city that meets the needs of all its residents. As public institutions, we recognize our interdependence in achieving our national vision and development plans, and this partnership is a significant step towards our mutual commitment.

This MoU is therefore more than a document, but a testament to our shared vision of a brighter future and dedication to

national development agenda. It outlines our mutual commitment to collaboration in areas that are crucial for the advancement of our city and its people. Together, we will work on projects that enhance urban development, promote sustainability, and improve the quality of life for all residents of Windhoek.

In this context, I would like to extend our gratitude to the leadership and Management of the International University of Management for your commitment to this partnership. Your dedication to academic excellence and innovation is truly inspiring. I also want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our city officials who have played a pivotal role in bringing this MoU to fruition.

As I alluded to earlier, this MoU should not just be a document, but a promise. A promise to work together towards a shared vision of a brighter, more prosperous, and sustainable future for Windhoek. Let us seize this opportunity with enthusiasm and determination, knowing that together, we can achieve remarkable things.

I THANK YOU