

Office of the Chief Executive

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

CITY CAUTION RESIDENTS AGAINST WILDFIRE

WINDHOEK – Thursday, 22 June 2017: Windhoek experiences a lot of wildfires during this time of the year. Human activities are almost entirely responsible for these fires. The impact of wildfires on the environment includes the destruction of natural ecosystems, flora, fauna damage infrastructure and properties; it affects the air quality and can cause loss of human lives.

Windhoek has a lot of Open Spaces and is surrounded by precious mountain ecosystems and commonage farms. Open Spaces serve many functions such as preserving ecosystems, wildlife habitat, aesthetic, cultural, historical and archaeological areas, outdoor recreation, pedestrian thoroughfares, walkways, trails and so on. Thus, unauthorised burning of grass in open spaces may aggravate all functions outlined above. This year the problem of wildfires will be exacerbated by the fact that we received exceptionally high rainfall and that the grass is much taller and therefore much biomass to cause huge fires.

The City of Windhoek would therefore like to urge all residents of Windhoek to refrain from intentionally setting fires and from throwing cigarette butts and any other items that can easily ignite the dry biomass. Residents are also urged to remove vegetation and any flammable material near their properties (4 meters from the boundary wall) to help reduce the spread of wildfire and protect properties and human lives.

In general, we need to be extra cautious when handling any source of fire at all times. The City of Windhoek has recorded about 36 fire incidents in our informal settlement between January and June 2017. This statistics therefore calls for concerted efforts from our residents to take precautionary measures when handling fire.

Please have our Emergency Services contacts at hand, and call us at 211 111 for any emergency related incidences

The City of Windhoek is committed to ensure that municipal services are rendered to our residents in an efficient and effective manner in order to enhance the quality of life.

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ISSUED BY:

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All official correspondence must be addressed to the Chief Executive Officer