



**WELCOME REMARKS BY MANZINI MAYOR, HIS WORSHIP COUNCILLOR KHETHOKUHLE DLAMINI
DURING A VISIT BY NAMAACHA CITY COUNCIL.**

Council Chamber - Friday 26th May 2017 - 10am

- HONOURABLE MINISTER
 - MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT [MINISTRY OF HOUSING PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE]
 - MANZINI REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR
 - DIRECTOR OF URBAN GOVERNMENT
 - HONOURABLE COUNCILLORS
 - PRESIDENT OF THE NAMAACHA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND HIS TEAM
 - NAMAACHA MAYOR AND HIS ENTIRE DELEGATION
 - RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATIONS
 - MANZINI BUSINESS COMMUNITY [REPRESENTED BY FESBC]
 - MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA
 - LADIES AND GENTLEMEN
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- AS THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANZINI WE ARE EXCITED TO BE VISITED BY OUR COUNTERPARTS FROM NAMAACHA MUNICIPALITY IN MOZAMBIQUE. IN OUR CULTURE THERE IS A SAYING THAT SAYS “THE ORNAMENTS OF YOUR HOUSE ARE THE GUESTS WHO VISIT IT”.
 - HONOURABLE MINISTER; WE ARE ALSO HUMBLLED AND DELIGHTED THAT YOU AND THE HOUSING MINISTRY PARLIAMENT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE INVITATION TO BE PART OF TODAY’S EVENT. THIS IS A DEMONSTRATION THAT INDEED THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF MANZINI HAS THE FULL SUPPORT OF HIS MAJESTY’S GOVERNMENT – AND WITH SUCH SUPPORT WE ARE CERTAIN THAT MANZINI WILL CONTINUE TO DEVELOP TO GREATER HEIGHTS.
 - I MUST SAY, HONOURABLE MINISTER, THAT AS COUNCIL WE HAVE ALREADY VISITED NAMAACHA MUNICIPALITY ON SEVERAL OCASSIONS. I, THEREFORE, WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE NAMAACHA HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY AND MAYOR OF NAMAACHA FOR THE WARM WELCOME AND GREAT HOSPITALITY THAT THEY EXTENDED TO US DURING OUR VISIT.
 - WHAT EXCITES US EVEN MORE ABOUT NAMAACHA IS THE CLOSE PROXIMITY WITH THE CITY OF MANZINI AS WELL AS THE FACT THAT IT IS STILL A YOUNG BUT FAST GROWING MUNICIPALITY. AS A MUNICIPALITY THAT IS STILL GROWING OURSELVES, WE BELIEVE THAT ONCE WE FORMALISE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE TWO MUNICIPALITIES WE WILL PICK UP A NUMBER OF BEST

PRACTICES AND IDEAS ON HOW BEST WE CAN ADVANCE VIBRANT MANZINI'S STRATEGIC AGENDA TOWARDS 2022.

- I AM ALSO GRATEFUL THAT WE HAVE, AS PART OF THIS GATHERING, THE BUSINESS SECTOR FROM BOTH MUNICIPALITIES. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS PRESENTS A PLATFORM FOR THEM TO NETWORK AND EXCHANGE BUSINESS IDEAS. AS COUNCIL, THERE IS NOTHING THAT WE DESIRE MORE THAN TO ENSURE THAT THE TRADING ENVIRONMENT IN MANZINI ENABLES OUR BUSINESS SECTOR TO FLOURISH. THAT IS WHY, AS PART OF OUR CURRENT FIVE-YEAR STRATEGY, WE HAVE PUT LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AS TOP PRIORITY.
- WE ARE EXCITED, HONOURABLE MINISTER, THAT AS PART OF TODAY'S PROGRAMME YOU WILL OFFICIALLY LAUNCH A NUMBER OF ROADS THAT WE HAVE RECENTLY UPGRADED FROM GRAVEL TO BITUMEN STATUS WITHIN OUR MUNICIPALITY. AS COUNCIL, WE ARE SHORT OF BEFITTING WORDS TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO YOUR MINISTRY AND HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE FOR THE SUPPORT THAT YOU HAVE GIVEN US TOWARDS ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS EXCITING MILESTONE. WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT, WE WOULD NOT HAVE MADE IT.
- I AM HAPPY THAT WE HAVE IN OUR MIDST REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS RATEPAYERS ASSOCIATIONS OF MANZINI AND I BELIEVE I AM SPEAKING FOR ALL OF THEM WHEN I SAY WE DO MAKE AN UNDERTAKING THAT WE SHALL TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE ROADS AND ENSURE THAT THEY ARE WELL MAINTAINED.
- HONOURABLE MINISTER, WHEN WE DEVELOPED THE CURRENT STRATEGY WAY BACK IN 2013; WHICH ALSO GAVE RISE TO A NEW VISION FOR MANZINI MUNICIPALITY, ONE OF THE KEY DELIVERABLES THAT WE LOOKED INTO WAS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION. I AM SURE THAT THE CITIZENS OF MANZINI AND RATEPAYERS WILL ATTEST THAT INDEED WE HAVE DELIVERED ON THIS ASPECT. I AM EVEN MORE EXCITED THAT IN YOUR ADDRESS TODAY YOU SHALL BE ANNOUNCING THE INTRODUCTION OF YET ANOTHER EXCITING INNOVATION IN OUR COMMUNICATION SPACE.
- ALL OF THIS IS INSPIRED BY OUR VISION OF BEING "A VIBRANT AFRICAN CITY THAT CONSISTENTLY PROVIDES EFFICIENT, RELEVANT AND SUSTAINABLE SERVICES TO ITS STAKEHOLDERS".
- IN CONCLUSION, I WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE OUR VISITORS TO FEEL AT HOME AND ENJOY BEING IN OUR CITY. I TRUST THAT BY THE END OF TODAY'S PROGRAMME THEY WILL HAVE A FEEL OF THE BEAUTY AND VIBRANCY OF OUR FAST DEVELOPING MUNICIPALITY.

I THANK YOU