

Municipal Actions Provoke Reactions

AFTER receiving my tax invoice for the period ended 15 July, I noticed that you [Municipality] have charged me an amount of N\$103,22 for "Open space and street cleaning". Before going into this matter, I waited for the response to the various queries directed to you via the media and other instances. But what a farce this turned out to be.

The explanations offered by your Mr Nghinamwaami were so absurd and ridiculous, that I am left with no other alternative but to direct this matter directly to you [Municipality].

My total assessment rates for the period ended June 15 2003 amounted to N\$350,43, which amount included the so-called OSSC charges, if your Mr. Nghinamwaami is to be believed. The amount for the period ended July 15 2003 is N\$473,74, an increase of N\$123,31 or 35,18%. To top it all, the new property valuations are not even in force yet.

I know that in Namibia today, many people are being regarded and labelled as baboons, but, my dear Sir, this baboon knows when it is taken for a ride or being ripped off. Awareness-raising! Do not make me laugh. You people underestimate the intelligence of your town's inhabitants. Why can you not stand up for your mistakes instead of making them even worse by trying to justify and excusing your faulty decisions with inaccuracies and remarks like "transparency" etc. Windhoek is becoming a damn unattractive town to invest in, contrary to what you always trumpet in the newspapers.

But knowing the stubbornness of you and your Council and the fact that you will not listen to or take notice of the

general public's reaction on this matter, I also have now resolved the following: I have always had five 200 litre drums on my property in which I stored my garden refuse and which I dumped at the designated dumping sites when they were full.

After your officials have now made me "aware" of the fact that I have been paying for the open space cleaning all the time while wasting my time and petrol to keep the same open spaces clean, I have now decided to dump my weekly garden refuse on those spaces for you to clean. After all, I am paying you people for just that. This will negate the effect of the 35,18 per cent increase a little bit. Please do not say to me that this is illegal, as your charge for this service would then also be deemed illegal. Furthermore, any cigarette and/or cool drink tin will from now on be dumped onto the streets from my car, as I am also paying for the cleaning thereof.

I must after all get something out of something that I pay for. I just wanted to let you know of my transparent decision. You will probably argue that this is a stupid reaction, but let me tell you the law according to Newton: "For every action there is an equal but opposite reaction". Think about that for a while. If you people want to improve your Council's bank accounts, I would advise you to stop financing useless institutions and bodies like the Khomas Regional Council. The only productive act they and Mr. Pandeni have performed to date is when they have to travel to your offices to collect the monthly finances needed for their lavish lifestyles.

Ernst Ahrens
Windhoek