

'Develop Projects With The People'

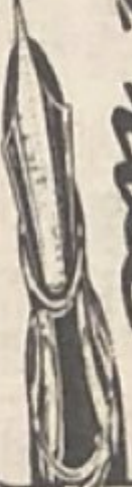
THE URBAN Trust of Namibia, an urban policy development, policy, advocacy and action-planning NGO, appreciates your news-

paper's coverage of the Hawkers' Association's protests and concerns regarding the Municipality's 'Informal Market' in Soweto, Katutura.

We think it is especially important that the Municipality has publicly stated that this new high-standard facility will lose N\$1,8 million every year.

Assuming the capital redemption on the market is projected over 20 years and taking into account inflation, the ratepayers will be losing more than N\$50 million over the next 20 years on this facility

Letters to the Editor



managed by the supposedly efficient Municipality!

This amounts to a huge subsidy for largely middle-income small business people, many of whom will not be from Katutura. We think this amounts to both unfair competition with small traders, and a huge waste of public monies.

Municipal and Ministry officials continue to develop projects for the people rather than with the people. What did the survey the Municipality supposedly conducted say, and who partici-

pated in the survey? Did the participants have an opportunity to review the results of the survey? Did the municipal engineers who planned and built the facility actually have a budget which was approved by elected representatives, or was the market going forward by political mandate rather than sensible, business-like and participatory planning?

We think it is time to recognise that the city's small traders are ratepayers too. They pay indirect sales taxes to the Government on all their inputs, and the better their business the greater their contribution to the Government's revenue base, and the more they pay in Municipal rates and charges.

The Municipality is wasting poor people's hard-earned money in the name of the "informal sector".

To increase their incomes and create more jobs, the Hawkers have consistently voiced their desire to gain access to the CBD.

We think it is high time they gained that access, and as business people and ratepayers, they can achieve this result for much less than N\$1,8 million a year.

ROSY NAMOYA
JACOBS
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
THE URBAN TRUST
OF NAMIBIA

CA
WHOLE

BIGGER