Sea of people: This was one of the SWAPO Party rallies held last year for the Presidential and National Elections.

Toyota

In one filing, Toyota said it will recall 599,029 vehicles, spanning 11 models, due to defects in fuel pump wires and brake master cylinders, in a second filing the company said it will recall 740,000 units of its Voxy and Noah models due to a speedometer defect. The company maintained that as of now there have been no accidents reported that have been directly attributed to the current defects. Earlier on Thursday the recall-plagued automaker said it would be recalling 740,000 units in the U.S., including the Avalon, Highlander Lexus GS300, Lexus IS250 and Lexus IS350.

The firm also said the recalls spread to China, as part of a global operation, the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine said on its website. According to a company statement from Toyota, in some cases a small amount of brake fluid can leak from the brake master cylinder and as a result braking performance may gradually decline.

At the beginning of 2010 Toyota recalled some 9 million vehicles due to sticking accelerator pedals and floor mat defects, which resulted in the alleged deaths of 37 people. As Toyota's domestic announcement came after trading hours in Tokyo, Toyota's share price closed at 2,900 yen, a rise of 0.4 percent. (Xinhua)

Correction

In our last edition, we reported that Preferred Management System, PMS, previously got N$7 million from Government Institutions Pension Fund, GIPF, and never paid back the money. It has now emerged that this was not the case, and regret the error. Editor.

Windhoek population boom

Windhoek population growth has grown from 185 000 in 1995 to 350 000 in 2009. This was revealed by the Mayor of Windhoek, Councillor Mathew Shikongo, in his mayoral message which was read by Councillor Elain Trepper as the City marked the International Day for Natural Disaster.

Part of Windhoek's informal settlements which have grown so fast that the Municipality is not able to provide the necessary services. Photo by Levi Upula.

Commemorated under the theme “Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready,” the Mayor said that cities across the world faced huge challenges in coping with rapid population growth with limited resources.

Nearly a hundred years ago, Windhoek had only 7046 residents, compared to the current 350 000. The biggest population growth took place between 1995 and 2009.

“The City has been able, with limited resources, to keep pace with the City’s growth and ensure the provision of serviced land, electricity, water and sanitation, and maintain public safety through the City Police services,” said the Mayor.

Windhoek has experienced an unprecedented population growth since independence in 1990. At that time, Windhoek’s population was estimated at 253 529 people, which accounted for about 39 per cent of Namibia’s urban population, 603 612 people at that time.

She said that as a City, it remained committed to implementing actions so as to ensure that residents were aware of every opportunity to reduce vulnerabilities and increase resilience to natural and human-made risks.

The Mayor said that tackling urban risks was everybody’s business, and through concerted efforts, everybody would emerge a winner. The City is planning to build a disaster management center in order to fully cater for the needs and challenges it faces.

Windhoek’s disaster management plan has been in place since 2002, and has developed an all-hazards plan for schools in the Windhoek education region.

“It is the priority of the Council to carry out an all-hazards assessment and include the top identified hazards in its ongoing developmental efforts,” said the Mayor.

“The City will further strive to mainstream disaster risk management into all its departments because disaster risk management is everybody’s business. Council’s efforts will always be proactive and engage our residents in our development efforts and interventions.”

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Fax: 061-276381
Cell: 081 124 2749

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