



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 27 September 2016

EMBARGO: Immediate

Housing accolade for Knysna Municipality

The Knysna Local Municipality was announced second runner up in the category Best Informal Settlement Upgrading Project for its Dam-se-Bos South, Vision 2002 project, during the 2016 Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards ceremony in Cape Town on Friday the 23rd of September 2016.

Since the launch of the Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards in 2008, Knysna Local Municipality has already been lauded four times.

The Knysna Municipal Vision 2002 aims to upgrade and provide the necessary civil infrastructure for the provision of low income houses. The purpose of this vision is to upgrade ten existing informal settlements situated in Knysna's Northern areas.

The Dam-se-Bos project started in 2014 and has to date constructed 130 sites with platforms, retaining walls and fencing. This project is valued at R7 million and is funded by the Western Cape Provincial Department of Human Settlements.

Knysna Executive Mayor, Councillor Eleanore Bouw-Spies and the Manager: Integrated Human Settlements, Mawethu Penxa were at Friday's ceremony to receive this prestigious award.

Bouw-Spies is delighted at receiving the award and said, "This is such a great honour and a testament that the Knysna Local Municipality is providing high quality delivery when it comes to human settlements. Our focus on housing is not merely about providing houses but also providing dignity and building integrated communities.

"This accolade serves as a great motivation for our Integrated Human Settlements Department led by Mawethu to keep up the good work and also motivate contractors to provide the best quality service. Most importantly these awards demonstrate to us that we are really providing the best for our people.

"The project would not have been such a success without the support and cooperation from our residents. We have engaged with the community continuously to ensure that we, and the residents are on the same page with regards to their development. This is a process that I take very seriously and will continue to stress its importance to our administration", she concluded.

The Govan Mbeki awards take place annually with the aim to honour those who have performed best in the Human Settlements sector of local government. The awards further aims to promote

excellence, best practices and instill healthy competition amongst all Departments of Human Settlements in Provinces and Municipalities.

The awards were named after the late Govan Mbeki in 2006 in recognition of the role he played and vision he had for preserving human dignity and provision of human settlements for all South Africans.

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