



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Knysna Municipality receives another housing accolade**

Knysna Municipality received another award at the prestigious annual Govan Mbeki Awards on Friday, 31 August in Cape Town.

The annual Govan Mbeki awards honour those who have performed best in the Integrated Human Settlements sector of local government. The awards further aim to promote excellence, best practices and instil healthy competition among all Departments of Human Settlements across all Provinces and Municipalities nationwide.

Knysna Executive Mayor, Mark Willemse said they are delighted to once again receive this recognition. "This is the seventh time that the Knysna Municipality receives this prestigious award since the launch of the Govan Mbeki Human Settlements Awards in 2008."

The municipality was announced, Second Runner Up in the category Best Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme, for its Witlokasie Project.

During the June 2017 Knysna fires, sections of White Location were destroyed. The Upgrading of Informal Settlements Programme, Witlokasie Project was initiated immediately after the fires. The emergency site was deemed suitable for future permanent development and residents were re-located to a temporary informal settlement and the site is currently being developed. The upgrade work included, installation of street lighting and electrical reticulation to allow for household electricity supply, connection of sewerage systems to existing municipal infrastructure and construction of retaining walls and gabions to prevent possible soil slip due to the steep terrain.

Willemse thanked the municipality's housing team. "This is a great acknowledgement from Provincial Government, which is responsible for housing as per schedule 4 of our constitution. This demonstrates that our Integrated Human Settlements Department 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. I want to convey my gratitude to Mawethu and his team. With their hard work and commitment we made a difference in the lives of our residents."

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 integrated human settlements for all South Africans.

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