



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Total disregard for the law**

A resolution was adopted by the Knysna Municipal Council during 2004 prohibiting the discharge of fireworks anywhere within Greater Knysna.

Despite almost 13 years of constant reminders of this, many residents and visitors still did not adhere to the by-law, resulting in near lawlessness on many of Greater Knysna beaches and residential areas.

“The utter disregard of the law was quite shocking,” said Knysna Acting Municipal manager, Johnny Douglas. “Our Law Enforcers fined 30 stores / traders and also confiscated their wares in the days leading up to the new Year celebrations. Despite this, visitors and residents still ignored the fact that, by law, no fireworks are allowed to be discharged anywhere in Greater Knysna.”

Although no statistics are available on how many broke this law, there is a general perception that there was an increase in the setting-off of fireworks at Leisure Isle, Buffels Bay and Cola Beaches this year.

“Our Law Enforcement Department is already busy working on a strategy to combat this serious problem. Residents and visitors to our towns must realise that it is illegal to set off fireworks at any time of the year, not only during New Year celebrations,” Douglas said.

The Western Cape, Provincial Gazette, 7338 of 5 December 2014, Part I, Public Nuisances – Behaviour and Contact 2.1 (s), clearly states: “No person shall discharge any fireworks, fire-arm, and airgun or air pistol on any premises or in any street or public place.”

“We would like to thank the many residents and visitors that assisted our law enforcers in informing others of the illegality of fireworks and reporting traders and stores illegally selling these.

I can assure all that we are already planning for the end of 2017 so that we do not have a repeat of this lawlessness,” concluded Douglas

**ENDS**

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## **CAPTION**

Knysna Law Enforcement officers display some of the fireworks that were confiscated recently. From left: Ricardo Kamfer, Seveque Terblanche, Sabestian Fortein, Craven Kriga and Chrystal Booyesen. Photo: Out There Communications

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