



MEDIA RELEASE

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Ben van Jaarsveldt a cut above

Benjamin Van Jaarsveldt, fondly known as Oom Ben, has done it once again! He has earned a Department of Water and Sanitation and Water Institute of South Africa (WISA) award at their prestigious event held in Hermanus, towards the end of 2016.

This awards event, hosted by the Western Cape Provincial Operations Water and Sanitation Department, aims to acknowledge Process Controllers and their Municipalities for the commendable and selfless work done in providing communities with safe drinking water and ensuring the protection of precious water resources.

Following an inspection from Western Cape Government, Department of Water and Sanitation mid 2016 at the sewage and water treatment works plants in Karatara, Oom Ben received the Best Process Controller Water (WTW<5ML/day) and Best Process Controller Wastewater (WWTW<5ML/day) awards.

Strict criteria were set for both these categories, which, amongst other, include knowledge of the process and different components of the plant, record keeping, operation and control maintenance and innovation and resourcefulness.

This is not the first time that Oom Ben has been awarded for his work. During 2015 he received three awards from the Department of Water and Sanitation. "I've been living in Karatara for the last 63 years and always serve my community the best way I can. I am honoured and delighted to be recognized once again. What I do is not just a job; I see it as a purpose in life and will continue to do the best I can," smiled Oom Ben.

Knysna Acting municipal manager Johnny Douglas expressed his pleasure with the accolades that Oom Ben brought home. "Knysna municipality is very fortunate to have such dedicated employees, who excel in their jobs and to have an external body recognise their excellence and worth is a feather in not only Oom Ben's cap, but also that of the Knysna Municipality.

"On behalf of the municipality, I express my gratitude and congratulate Oom Ben for his commitment throughout the years, not only for his work, but also what he does for his community. We are truly grateful to have him in our team," Douglas concluded.

Oom Ben has been living in Karatara since 1974 and is currently the Senior Supervisor responsible for basic services in Karatara. He has been working for Directorates of Technical Services and previously Community Services for the past 14 years. Previously he worked at the

former Department of Social Welfare and Pension, and from 1997 worked at the former South Cape District Council.

ENDS

Knysna Municipality Communications Department

P O Box 21, Knysna. 6570. Western Cape. South Africa

Tel +27 (0)44 302 6300 (switchboard) or 302 6471 (direct)

Fax +27 (0)86 215 4818 e-mail communications@knysna.gov.za