



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Brand new E-Centre for Knysna**

Knysna Municipality officially launched the Cape Access E-Centre in the Hornlee library on Wednesday, 7 November. This E-Centre was established in partnership with the Western Cape Government and championed by the Knysna Municipal Youth Desk.

Knysna executive mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies, Mayoral Committee Member: Community Services - Councillor Cathy Weideman, Ward 11's Councillor Donovan Pofadder, Ward 6's Councillor Elrick van Aswegen, Knysna Secondary, Concordia High and Knysna High schools learners, representatives from Cape Access and municipal officials attended the launch that marked the very first E-centres for Greater Knysna.

This e-Centre aims to bridge the digital divide by providing computer and internet facilities to benefit less-privileged communities.

Bouw-Spies said, "Today is a very special day for me and all our residents, as an educator, I know first-hand how our children struggle in the poorer areas with getting quick access to knowledge. I have witnessed how our communities struggle when they need to get their CVs written professionally. We all know that digital access is extremely costly in our country, and the digital divide between wealthy and poor communities has far-reaching consequences when it comes to education."

The Cape Access E-Centre is equipped with 23 computers that have internet access and is open weekdays from 08h30 to 17h00. Visitors can look forward to computer sessions free of charge for approximately 45 minutes per person per day. Through internet access provided at the E-Centre they will have free access to emails, online newspapers, government services, view job opportunities and general research.

Bouw-Spies explained how this well-equipped E-Centre will be of great benefit: "For children in low-income school districts, inadequate access to technology can put huge stumbling blocks in their way when it comes to them learning the tech skills that are crucial to success in today's economy. Many teachers in our low income schools complain about their students' inadequate access to technology being a major challenge. Today we are thankful that we have taken the first step in assisting our residents by giving them access to this Cape Access E-Centre. This centre makes information and communication technology (ICT) more accessible to our poorer communities."

The mayor pleaded with the users to take care of the equipment. "Thanks to this E-centre school projects, job applications, internet banking, SARS e-filing and CV creation are now made a great deal easier. But please let's always remember to take care of facilities and infra-

structure that we already have. Users must keep this facility clean at all time, not damage any equipment and guard it against vandalism.”

**ENDS**

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