From the Mayor's Pen

Today we celebrate Heritage Day - a day to honour the uniqueness of all the different cultures that make up this Rainbow Nation. It is not only a day to celebrate our differences with respect and mutual consideration, but also a day to learn and share! My Office has requested that all municipal staff wear their traditional clothes this day where possible. I believe that if we open up towards our differences, and learn more about the different cultures, we will understand each other better and this will help us to be more tolerant. It will also help us to build one nation, different, yet united in our love for our country.

Europe’s heritage is well recorded, yet Africa’s heritage and history we do not know that much. The oldest human fossils were found in Africa – in Ethiopia and here in South Africa at the Cradle of Humankind. Former President Thabo Mbeki once said that we must work to rediscover and claim the African heritage, for the benefit especially of our young generations. “From South Africa to Ethiopia it’s steep ancient fossil, which, in their richness, speak still of the African origins of all humanity. Recorded history and the material things that left behind also speak of Africa’s historic contributions to the world. We must keep this alive today and give it to our youth”.

The Western Cape Government Red Tape Reduction Unit launched an initiative to lessen red tape as: “Non-essential procedures, forms, systems and lengthened the application and processing systems.” The Red Tape Reduction Unit offered us insights to the heart of our communities, it keeps our youth off the streets and promotes a healthy lifestyle. The facility required extensive upgrading and maintenance work.

Work commenced in July this year and a great portion has already been completed. Councillor Lizwani said, “The old tennis pitch was replaced, tarmac was laid and then the roof of grass was planted. An old water was transformed into an irrigation tank. The last stage of the upgrade consists of upgrading the irrigation system in order for the kiddies to play efficiently. Currently flood lights are being done and everything should be complete by end September; however, it will take about three months for the pitch to be ready as the grass must still settle. It is important that the community and particularly the sports associations work with the municipality to allow the grass to root properly.”

“Lack of employment is prevalent in our communities and these kinds of projects provide much needed employment opportunities. The project was tendered out to approximately 15 local community members were employed.” Such opportunities go a long way in our communities.

“These upgrades will ensure that our youth have decent playing fields for their sports activities. I want to encourage the community to take good care of the facility and report any issues to us when approaching from the east. Ward 3, which includes Dam Se Bos, Nekkies and Dam se Bos. They should be installed in the near future as the municipality is currently busy with the procurement process.”

I would like to thank the community of Ward 3 which has been part of these developments. I would also like to recognise the collective efforts between the private sector, civil society, the community and the municipality in building a town where people can prosper.

Dam se Bos Sports Field Upgrade

Dam se Bos residents can look forward to using the newly upgraded Soccer Field. The upgrade work amounted to approximately R500 000 and the field is scheduled to be officially opened in January 2016.

The municipal’s increased number of engagements with the Knysna Football Association and deliberated on the state of the field. It was resolved that the pitch had deteriorated and playing on the field was a potential hazard to the players.

According to Ward 3 Councillor Migiel Lizwani, “The state of the field was of great concern as we understand that sport is at the heart of the community, keeps our youth off the streets and promotes a healthy lifestyle. The facility required extensive upgrading and maintenance work.”

Springtime welcomed with much needed rains, but remember Water Restrictions are still in place

From Tuesday, 1 September until Thursday, 3 September 2015 the Greater Knysna area was hit by extreme weather conditions and a number of areas were affected, though there have been high volumes of rain, residents are still requested to continue conserving water. The heavy rain has had no real impact in improving the water situation and the community is required to continue using water sparingly, especially now that we are moving into the warmer season. See Rainfall Statistics for 1 September to the right

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From September 2011 – 2015 of the Western Cape Department of Economic Opportunities launched an initiative to lessen the informal traders’ application process.

“Important features have been built into iDesk, our new, electronic application system, she said. "Oek facilitate removal applications and incorporates a trader history, including payment receipts, site allocations and records of all supporting documents. Applicants receive electronic notifications on their application status and successful applicants receive a trader number that is linked to their ID number.”

"Best of all, the application processing time has been decreased from a few days to a few hours," Ward Focus: Ward 3, Councillor: Migiel Lizwani

The Greater Knysna Municipal Area is known for its beauty and so one of the closest to the Garden Route, a safe and popular place where people come for relaxation and recreation. I believe that Ward 3, which includes Dam se Bos, Nekkies and Bracken Hill, is in the face of Knysna, Nekkies is all at the gateway to our town when approaching from the east.

My ward contains some of the oldest informal settlements in Knysna. Many African people moved to this area during the years of the Group Areas Act when African people were forcibly removed from their homes in places such as Salt River and what is now Concordia. However I am pleased to watch the daily changes in my ward as the formalization of settlements takes place.

When you come into Nekkies, along the N2 and onto the Uniondale Road, you will notice that the Municipal Area is half by extreme weather conditions and a number of areas were affected, though there have been high volumes of rain, residents are still requested to continue conserving water. The heavy rain has had no real impact in improving the water situation and the community is required to continue using water sparingly, especially now that we are moving into the warmer season. See Rainfall Statistics for 1 September to the right

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Knysna Municipality Reduces Red Tape

Knysna Municipality has designed an electronic red tape reduction system, drastically cutting down on the amount of red tape previously involved in applying for such a permit.

The Western Cape Government Red Tape Reduction Unit launched an initiative to lessen red tape by building and streamlining processes and making productivity for this week, where within municipal areas and municipalities themselves. The Red Tape to Red Carpet Strategy 2013 – 2015 of the Western Cape Department of Economic Opportunities as a service. It also helps to build a different culture to join you. This is a great chance to start a conversation that could, through knowledge and understanding, unite us as South Africans.

Knysna Municipality Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans explained that Economic Development Manager van Schalkwyk took the initiative to improve the manual informal trader’s permit application on the system that did not correspond with our existing automated systems and lengthened the application process.”

“The Red Tape Reduction Unit offered us insights on how to implement measures to improve the application and processing systems,” she continued. “And so our Economic Development and Information Technology departments worked together, taking the necessary steps to improve the informal traders’ application process application system.

“Important features have been built into iDesk, our new, electronic application system, she said. “Oek facilitates removal applications and incorporates a trader history, including payment receipts, site allocations and records of all supporting documents. Applicants receive electronic notifications on their application status and successful applicants receive a trader number that is linked to their ID number.”

“Best of all, the application processing time has been decreased from a few days to a few hours,” Georlene Wolmarans • Executive Mayor

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