Rhenenedal and Karatara take part in Comprehensive Rural Development Programme

Knynsa Municipality has assisted the communities of Rhenenedal and Karatara to establish their Councils of Stakeholders (CoS) to effectively take part in the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform’s Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP).

In essence, a community’s CoS is established to make sure that effective communication takes place between the people of that community and governmental structures,” explained Knynsa Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans. “They organise the stakeholders of their community and see to it that government projects are implemented in their area.”

The Ward Councillors of both wards met with members of their Ward Committees to request assistance with engaging the various sectors within their wards. A Sector Forum consisting of representatives from the various community sectors was formed within each ward and nominations for CoS seats were made from each sector.

“Members of the Sector Forums and the CoS are all members of their local community. And they were nominated and voted into their positions by their neighbours,” said Wolmarans. “The CoS members, along with all spheres of government and the private sector, are there to identify, evaluate and implement projects within their areas. I believe that the sense of community and ubuntu within these wards will become even stronger because of the teamwork between the various segments of the community.”

The sectors represented in both wards’ CoS include the church, youth and education, sport, business, agriculture, school and security. Sector Forums consist of members of the community, and the CoS are made up of members of the Sector Forums,” said Wolmarans. “So the community is directly represented in communications with government and included in the implementation of government projects.”

“We can only move forward and reach new heights if we work together,” Wolmarans concluded. “This is a sterling example of the municipality and its residents working together to create a town where people and nature prosper.”

From the Mayor’s Pen

Tomorrow we will 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 week, where possible. I believe that if we open up towards our differences, and learn more about other 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 discovered in the Western Cape and here in South Africa at the Cradle of Humankind. Former President Thabo Mbeki 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 lies a strung of ancient fossils, which, in their stillness, speak still of the African origins of all humanity. Recorded history and the materials that thing left behind also speak of Africa’s history, culture, the universe of philosophy, the natural sciences, human settlement and the creative arts. Being certain that not always were we the children of the abyss, we will do what we have to do to achieve our own Renaissance.”

We owe it to our children to teach them about our various cultures, and how important it is to know and protect our heritage. Knynsa has a fantastic natural heritage, not only in the magnificent nature around us, but also in our people. Being on the border between the Eastern Cape and the Western Cape makes us a natural gathering point for different cultures. What do we do to embrace other cultures and learn and respect their traditions?

I want to ask you to make an effort and spend time with someone who is from a different culture, someone who you have not spent time with...like a braai, light a fire and have a braai and celebrate National Braai Day at the same time. Whichever way you choose to celebrate, invite a friend from 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.