FROM THE MAYOR’S PEN

Dear readers,

The mid-year school holidays are over and the greater Knysna area was a hub of activity as we celebrated the annual Pick ‘n Pay Knysna Oyster Festival. I want to congratulate all the organisers for once again hosting a successful festival.

Of course, we missed the Navy's attendance, but the addition of new and exciting events and venues were some consolation and opened up new growth channels for next year. I also want to thank the team at the municipality for their contribution towards the success of the festival and commend them for their success in dealing with the significant increase in residents and traffic over the ten days.

We are celebrating Women’s Day on 9 August and, while I think that it should be Women’s Day every day, the 9th is a reminder that gender equality can only happen if we constructively work towards it. Use this day not only to celebrate the women in your life but to also think about ways in which you can contribute towards the international #pressforprogress campaign launched in March. We are in the process of establishing a Women’s Forum in Knysna to promote women’s interests and to help strengthen the positive profile of women through a range of activities. If you are interested in serving on this forum, please contact the municipality for more information.

We celebrated the centenary of Nelson Mandela’s birthday on 18 July and were once again reminded of his spirit of, amongst other things, ubuntu. Knysna has been through a tough time and, for the benefit and future of our town, it is essential that we put our differences aside and get to work. The new Mayoral Committee is finally in place and we can get back to the business of ensuring that our residents have a council that looks after their interests - and that of the town. A council that cultivates ubuntu, always acting in ways that benefit the community we serve. I look forward to working with, and for you.

Mark Willemse
Executive Mayor
KNYSNA MOURNS MZUKISI VICTOR MOLOSI (ANC)
24/01/1971 – 23/07/2018

It is with great sadness that we must inform you of the untimely death of Ward 8 Councillor, Victor Molosi. Cllr Molosi, Leader of the ANC in Council, was shot outside his house on the evening of Monday 23 July and later succumb to his injuries.

Executive Mayor, Mark Willemse said we are devastated by the loss of a colleague who selflessly served Greater Knysna with such pride and dignity.

We are privileged to have known and worked with Victor. He was a fair-minded, passionate contributor in council debates, advocating strongly on behalf of his Party and the community he served.

Our thoughts go out to his wife Nomonde and their 4 children. May his soul rest in peace.

Hamba kahle Freeze (as he was affectionately known). Funeral arrangements are not yet known.

WAIVER OF AVAILABILITY CHARGES FOR FIRE VICTIMS

At the Special Council Meeting held on Tuesday 16 July, Executive Mayor Mark Willemse tabled an item to review the availability charges levied on properties destroyed in last year’s fire.

The June 2017 fire disaster, the most catastrophic in the history of the country, left many destroyed properties in its wake. To provide relief to fire victims, the council resolved to waive the rates payable on these properties in August 2017.

In terms of the municipal rates policy, these properties were then reclassified as vacant and, consequently, charged availability charges in terms of the approved council tariffs. Availability charges are generally higher than residential charges and are aimed at encouraging owners to build as soon as possible. These are standard charges, implemented by all municipalities in the country.

However, it was never the intention of the council to penalize fire victims. Having listened to various submissions from individuals and organisations, the council instructed the administration to prepare a review on these charges.

Tuesday’s (16 July) decision seeks to ratify council’s intentions. According to the resolution:

a] availability charges raised will be waived for the 2017/18 financial year on those properties that were totally destroyed by the fire;

b] these properties will not be charged as vacant (i.e. they will be charged as they were before the fire, which is lesser than the vacant charges);

c] a credit will be passed for the difference, and

d] where the property has been sold, the credit will be payable to the previous owner of the property.

The 2017/18 full rebate of the rates (rates holiday), as approved by council in August 2017, is still applicable. Please contact the Municipal Customer Care Centre should you have any queries regarding the rebate on your municipal account.
NEW MAYORAL COMMITTEE APPOINTED

Knysna Executive Mayor Mark Willemse appointed a new Mayoral Committee during the Ordinary Council Meeting held on Monday 2 July. This new committee consists of:

**Chairperson Finance & Governance Committee:** Executive Deputy Mayor Councillor Elrick van Aswegen.

**Chairperson Technical Services as well as Chairperson Planning & Integrated Human Settlement Committees:** Councillor Peter Myers.

**Chairperson Community Services Committee:** Councillor Monwabisi Salaze.

YOUTH ADVISOR TO REPRESENT KNYSNA AT YALI

Love Life Centre's Youth Advisor Michael Nogwaza will be representing Knysna Municipality at the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), also known as the Mandela Washington Fellowship 2018 programme.

An initiative of the United States Department of State, YALI aims to invest in the next generation of African leaders by providing a period of academic instruction, practical experience and mentorship in the fields of public management, civic leadership and business entrepreneurship. Nogwaza will undergo a four-week accredited training course in public management and governance as part of this programme.

A Knysna-born local, Nogwaza was appointed as a youth advisor in December 2017. “I am delighted and grateful to be part of such a programme. After attending the information session last year, I knew that this is something I want to be involved in. I am proud to be representing my town and the municipality. I want more youth from the greater Knysna area to be afforded such opportunities.”

MANDELA DAY

Knysna municipal councillors and staff celebrated the 100th anniversary of Nelson Mandela’s birth on 18 July. Promoting the spirit ubuntu, they performed various activities to make the lives of those less fortunate a little easier.

Executive Mayor Mark Willemse said, “As we celebrate the centenary of Nelson Mandela’s birth, it is important that we pull together and work towards a common goal. Knysna has been through a tough time and, for the benefit and future of our town, it is essential that we put our differences aside and get to work.”

Councillors, municipal staff and Community Work Programme (CWP) teams visited various areas in the greater Knysna municipal area to lend a helping hand. The day’s activities included donations to soup kitchens, the opening of the Hornlee Outdoor Gym, handing over of food parcels, vouchers, stationery and sanitary towels, school visits and refurbishing of houses.
Willemse thanked everyone for their contribution to the communities. “Thank you to our councillors, staff and community members for their contribution to building and creating a better Knysna. A big thank you to City Paint & Tool, Destination Garden Route, Metelerkamps and Sunrise Mini Stores for their generous donations. Thank you all for honouring Tata Madiba’s legacy in such a special manner.”

Mandela Day calls on us all to make the world a better place every day. Each year on 18 July we look back on what has been achieved and look forward to what will still be done. Making every day a Mandela Day celebrates Madiba’s life and legacy in a sustainable way that will bring about lasting change.

Ubuntu is a Nguni term meaning “humanity”. It is often translated as “I am because we are,” and also “humanity towards others”.

**LEVEL 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS ARE STILL IN PLACE**

The Western Cape is still in the midst of the worst drought since 2016, so remember to be water wise!

---

**MUNICIPAL MEETINGS 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Meeting/Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7 Aug</td>
<td>Planning &amp; Integrated Human Settlements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Aug</td>
<td>Finance &amp; Governance Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Aug</td>
<td>Community Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Aug</td>
<td>Community Services</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**COMMEMORATIVE DAYS & EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Training</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 Aug</td>
<td>Establishment of Women’s Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Aug</td>
<td>Women’s Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 - 23 Aug</td>
<td>SMME Training: Business Workplace Systems Design (Knysna)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 - 30 Aug</td>
<td>SMME Training: Business Workplace Systems Design (Sedgefield)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>