



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 15 March 2016
EMBARGO: Immediate

Date for Youth Council Establishment Set

KNYSNA - IT IS with great excitement that Knysna Municipality can announce that the Youth Council will be established by 30 April 2016.

Knysna Speaker Eleanore Bouw-Spies shares her excitement: "The Municipality is passionate about youth development and the establishment of our very own Youth Council.

"Like the father of our nation, the late Nelson Mandela, said in 1994: '(The) Youth [is] a valued possession of the nation. Without them there can be no future. Their needs are immense and urgent. They are the centre of reconstruction and development."

"It is with pride that I share the vision of the Knysna Youth Council, which is to mobilise the youth of Knysna Municipality to act as change agents for active citizenship, meaningful community participation and improvement of their own lives and the lives of those around them."

This comes after the success of the Youth Summit, which was held from 2 to 3 December 2015. The summit was attended by more than 200 participants.

The Mayoral Committee at its meeting of 9 March approved the Youth Policy and the Terms of Reference which guides the establishment of the Youth Council by 30 April 2016.

The aims of the Youth Council are as follows:

- to give the youth of Knysna a voice concerning civil matters;
- to promote leadership qualities - as well as a healthy interest in municipal, civil, administrative and community matters - with our youth;
- to organise projects (in line with the aims of the council) to the benefit of the community and especially the youth; and
- to promote better relationships between different language groups while fostering mutual understanding and appreciation amongst the youth in the surrounding areas.

The Youth Desk of the Municipality, which is tasked with the formation of the Youth Council, invites all residents younger than 35 years old who wish to serve on the Youth Council to put their names forward for nomination.

The eligibility criteria for nominations are as follows:

- Nominees must reside in a ward within the boundaries of Knysna Municipality.
- Nominees must be between 14 and 35 years of age.
- Nominees must be nominated by 20 youths within the ward on the prescribed nomination form.
- Nominees must have a clean criminal record for the past five years with no cases pending.

Any individual who meets these criteria and is interested in serving the community through the Youth Council can contact Knysna Municipality's Youth Desk on 044 302 6442 to obtain the relevant nomination form and get the process going.

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