



MEDIA RELEASE

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Knysna Municipality honours Greater Knysna women on Women's Day

On August 9th, women from all over Greater Knysna Municipality came together at an event at the Brenton Community Hall to celebrate women's achievements and the important contribution women have made in building an Inclusive, Innovative and Inspired society.

Speaking at the official Women's Day luncheon for almost 400 women, Executive Mayor Mark Willemse said we should celebrate the women in our lives – all women really – every day.

“Think about it – you are the center of our universe!! But special days like these are important to remind us that there is still a lot to be done in terms of gender equality. South Africa is ranked 19th out of 186 countries in terms of gender equality which in global terms can be perceived to be good. However, on the same continent Rwanda is ranked 4th, and it is clear that we can do so much more!”

“Our contribution to progress is forming the Knysna Women's Forum which we hope will promote women's interests and help to strengthen the positive profile of women through a range of activities. Thank you to those that have made yourself available to serve on this forum. We look forward to working with you on a number of issues and will count on your input and help to make this a successful and meaningful forum.”

“It is not fair to put the burden of fighting gender based violence on women only, we as men also need to take a stand and fight against this sort of abuse. It is also important that men support campaigns aimed at addressing gender based violence. Additionally, we need to start teaching our boys from an early age how to treat women,” concluded Willemse.

Arranged by the municipal Department of Social Development, the event treated the attendees to lunch, entertainment by local artists, motivational speeches from phenomenal women, presentations from stakeholders such as South African Police Services (SAPS), Provincial Local Government and key note address by the Executive Mayor.

Women's Day marks the anniversary of the great women's march of 1956, where women marched to the Union Buildings to protest against the carrying of pass books. On 9 August 1956, about 20 000 women marched to the Union Buildings in Pretoria to protest against legislation aimed at tightening the apartheid government's control over the movement of black women in urban areas.

ENDS

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