



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Monday 2 November 2015**

**EMBARGO: Immediate**

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### **Knysna Municipality welcomes new Director of Financial Services**

After all due process had been followed, Ms Pariksha Gobrie has been appointed as Knysna Municipality's new Director: Financial Services. Ms Gobrie joins the administration from (today) Monday 2 November. The position was previously held by Mr Grant Easton who vacated the position to head up the administration as Municipal Manager.

"We are looking forward to welcoming Ms Gobrie to the fold," said Easton. "A chartered accountant with ten years' broad based financial management experience, Ms Gobrie's business experience covers a range of industries from mining and aviation to tourism and the public sector."

Gobrie was previously elected to represent South Africa on the United Nations Board of Auditors for the UN peacekeeping operations in Haiti and has performed internal control reviews and accompanied external and internal audits for the audits of many of South African Tourism's branch offices abroad.

"Ms Gobrie was nominated as employee of the year when she worked for the Auditor General, as well as during her time with South African Tourism," Easton continued. "With an outstanding track record of delivery, she brings an impeccable business acumen and superb leadership skills to the municipality. It is clear that she is a results-driven individual with extraordinary problem solving skills and I look forward to working with her."

Originally from Richmond in KwaZulu-Natal, Ms Gobrie is moving to Knysna with her husband of two years. "I first came to Knysna a couple of years ago on a vacation," she explained. "My husband and I fell in love with the area - especially the scenic beauty, wide open spaces and tranquility of the area."

She explained that she applied for the position as she believes that her skills and experience will add value to the running of the department. "Knysna Municipality has a proud record of clean audit reports and outstanding service delivery that needs to be sustained. But with ever-changing legislative and statutory requirements and a government under pressure to stretch its resources, we will have to constantly adapt our internal policies and business processes to both comply and do more with less money."

"In fact, I believe that my main challenge will be to do more with less, for instance increasing the return on municipal expenditure so that more services can be rendered to the community, while

also investing in upgrading municipal infrastructure," she said. "Further challenges include stimulating economic growth and job creation."

"Counting amongst my key contributions will be proper financial management of the municipality's finances and obtaining clean audit reports," Gobrie continued. "But I also hope to add a lot of value from a tourism and investment promotion point of view. In my opinion Knysna has tremendous potential from a tourism and business investment perspective, which are key contributors to improving the local economy."

Knysna Executive Mayor echoed Gobrie's sentiment. "While tourism remains the mainstay of Knysna's economy, we have so much more to offer in terms of business development and investment opportunities. With her skills, expertise and clear motivation to excel, I am looking forward to Ms Gobrie joining the administration and assisting Council in executing our resolutions. It is only by working hand-in-hand with the administration that we will succeed in creating a town where people and nature prosper."

**ENDS**

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