



MEDIA RELEASE

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Knysna Municipality's draft budget tabled

Knysna Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies tabled the first draft Medium-Term Revenue and Expenditure Framework (MTREF) for Knysna Municipality during a Special Council meeting on March 29.

"The total funded capital projects for the 2018/2019 financial year amounts to R 148 million, with the main focus on water Infrastructure - R 38.6 million, electricity - R 30.4 million, sanitation - R 27.7million, refuse removal - R 1.5 million and roads Infrastructure R 10.7 million. The capital budget will be funded by means of grants from National government in the amount of R 42.2 million, Provincial Grants in the amount of R 10 million, Loan funding in the amount of R 65.9 million and own funding in the amount of R 29.8 million."

The Executive Mayor also highlighted the proposed tariff increases. "Revenue sources remains under strain and in an attempt to balance service delivery with affordability proposed tariff increases have been limited as follows; electricity 6.83% (as confirmed by the National Energy Regulator of South Africa), water 7.5%, refuse removal 2.2%, and assessment rates 6%."

The draft budget is now accessible for public comment in all wards across Greater Knysna, allowing submissions to be made across all communities. The final budget will be presented to council towards the end of May for Council's consideration and approval.

"I urge all members of the public, ward committees and all other relevant stakeholders to ensure that they attend the public meetings participate fully and make meaningful and valuable contributions in the budgeting process. It has been brought to my attention that certain groups have not participated in the municipal's transparent engagement processes in the past and opted to utilise the media to share their input. I cannot stress the importance of our residents input and therefore encourage all to participate in the public engagements. Your voice is important to us and I look forward to hearing it," Bouw-Spies concluded.

Knysna Municipality has embarked on a public participation process in respect of its 2017/2018 tabled draft budget and draft five-year Integrated Development Plan (IDP). The draft Budget and draft IDP documentation is available at the municipal offices, libraries and on the municipality's website (www.knysna.gov.za), and communities are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the content.

The schedule for the public meetings is available on the municipal website, social media pages and advertised in the local media.

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