



MEDIA RELEASE

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Learner License Programme launched

Close to 400 young people gathered at Loerie Park on Wednesday, March 8 for the launch of the Knysna municipality's Youth Desk Learner License Programme first phase.

This programme aims to assist Greater Knysna's unemployed to obtain a learners license, which in return helps them towards finding employment.

Knysna Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies addressed the eager youth saying: "Life is all about opportunities. It is up to you as individuals to decide if you are going to use the opportunities that are offered to you. Many of us have struggled from a very young age. We did not have the opportunities you have today. A driver's license to many people might not be a big thing, but when I received mine it gave me an enormous sense of freedom, that feeling when knowing that you are no longer dependent on other people.

"Owning a driver's license opens so many doors. It gives you a chance to apply for jobs you could previous not apply for. When filling in your job application, you can now tick that box with confidence. This small step you are taking today is actually a big step, considering all the doors it will open for you."

The mayor warned the youth saying that with every opportunity comes responsibility. "So you have been given a chance to get your learners and/or driver's license and your responsibility is to show us that you are serious about this. I don't want to hear within a week or a month that some of you have dropped out of this programme. I need your full commitment."

Local driving schools, Soul Buddies, Victoria and Mandalay have been appointed as service providers for this programme. A list of all selected youths will be placed on these driving schools, Youth Centres and municipal reception area notice boards by Thursday, March 16. Theory classes are scheduled to commence the following week.

In closing Bouw-Spies thanked all those involved in ensuring that the Learner License Programme becomes a success. "Thank you very much to everyone who made this possible. Thank you to the forward thinking and insight that the Youth Council has had under the leadership of Shahida Sigula. Our Youth Council is a group of young people committed and dedicated and do not get paid for what they do."

ENDS

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