



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Local contractor paying it forward**

Speaker and Ward 5 Councillor Eleanore Bouw-Spies and Hugh Lawrence founder of Direct Solutions (Pty) Ltd, prove that even small businesses play a crucial role in communities through social responsibility initiatives. Ms Bouw-Spies has been advocating for the public and private sector to work together to improve the lives of ordinary citizens. After engagements with the Speaker, Mr Lawrence, has assisted a local crèche and sponsored a soccer club.

Ms Bouw-Spies said, “It is great to see a BEE company that was mentored and supervised by the Municipality give back to the community. We should not just rely on the government to bring about socio-economic change, it is collaborative efforts that will ensure the improvement of the lives of our people.”

“Knysna Municipality prides itself in creating an enabling environment for people to discover and grow their potential. The municipality’s investment in small businesses has encouraged this developing company to align its values with ours, which is sustainable community development”.

In July Direct Solutions (Pty) Ltd commenced with work to fix a leaking roof at Humpty Dumpty crèche in Rheenendal. Old damaged roof sheets were replaced with new ones and the roof was made water proof. The company also provided financial assistance to the crèche and earlier this year it sponsored soccer balls for the Rheenendal Legends, a local club.

Mr. Lawrence said, “We will also be doing some plumbing work on the crèche’s toilets within the next few weeks. I am passionate about building our community especially issues relating to children and the youth as they are the future. I challenge the other local companies to lend a helping hand in our community in whatever way they can, every little bit counts.”

According to Knysna Speaker Eleanore Bouw-Spies, “It is important that the municipality, businesses and civil society continuously work together to address social ills that our communities are faced with. I call on other businesses to follow suit as together we can build a town where people prosper.”

**ENDS**

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