



MEDIA RELEASE

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Municipality takes water awareness on the road

Knysna Ward 5 Councillor and Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw- Spies launched the Water Educational theater piece, My Silent Noise on Tuesday, 9 May at the Rheenendal Primary School.

During March 2017, the Knysna municipality announced Level 3 Water restrictions and immediately set their water campaign into action. Bouw-Spies suggested that the campaign includes a stage show that would help educate scholars in and around Greater Knysna with regard to the Water Restrictions as well as offering water saving tips.

Local thespian, Mandisa Litoyi from Re-Defined created and produced this educational theatre show, incorporating talented Greater Knysna's unemployed.

After weeks of rehearsals, the show was successfully launched in Rheenendal. After watching the actors, the scholars were asked what they had learned from the play, and several insightful translations were received. These scholars were further enthralled that SABC TV was on hand to capture this inaugural play.

Knysna executive mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies said, "The initiative to create awareness around our water situation and this scarce resource is crucial, and starting with our youth is vital to get the message across. As a former educator I believe that it is important to include children in this campaign as they too have a significant role to play when it comes to conserving water and influencing behaviour of their parents at home.

"What makes this particular educational play special is that an opportunity was given to our unemployed youth. Through this initiative eight young actors have received an opportunity to not only show case their talent, but receive short term employment as well."

After receiving the necessary permission from the Western Cape Department of Education, the play will now be performed at the 21 Greater Knysna schools. Each play is tailor made to suit the specific scholars, with regard to language, age and their community.

In closing the mayor added: "Using water sparingly is everybody's responsibility, young and old. I am thoroughly impressed with the educational, yet fun content that the Re-Defined team has put together, I am so happy that this opportunity was given to our own local talented youth. With

such initiatives we will not only create water awareness but build a town where our youth and nature prosper.”

ENDS

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