



MEDIA RELEASE

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Knysna's new municipal manager takes office as #KnysnaRises

The Executive Mayor of Knysna, Councillor Eleanore Bouw-Spies, has welcomed the town's new municipal manager, Kamalesen 'Kam' Chetty, who took up his post at the beginning of this month (July, 2017).

Bouw-Spies said that Mr Chetty's appointment comes at a critical time for Knysna.

"Obviously it wasn't planned this way - because his appointment was decided before the devastating fires that hit us in June - but Kam has a unique set of skills and experience that will be invaluable as we rebuild and move forward," she said.

The 58-year old Mr Chetty has degrees in Science and Economics from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree (with honours) from the University of Stellenbosch.

He has more than 30 years' experience in infrastructure implementation, and in financial and executive management in both the public and private sectors, and comes to Knysna after serving as the administrator in the rescue of the Oudtshoorn Municipality.

RESUME

After five years as an analytical and research and development chemist in the pharmaceutical industry, Mr Chetty spent four years establishing and directing a network of twenty two civic, labour, and human rights advice centres in KwaZulu-Natal (during which time he was detained and banned between 1987 and 1989).

From 1990 to 1997 he was the director of the Foundation for Contemporary Research - an NGO that focussed on development and governance policy in local and regional government, and that supported provincial and local government during the country's transition to democracy.

In 1997 he joined the World Bank as a senior institutional specialist providing technical assistance to South African countries on decentralisation, poverty reduction, and infrastructure development; and in 2000, he assumed the post of finance director for Tygerberg Metropolitan Government in Cape Town. He then spent a brief period as Chief Financial Officer for the Parliament of the Republic of South Africa before accepting the post of Municipal Manager at the Cape Winelands District Municipality.

He worked as the Managing Director of Hewlett-Packard Enterprise Services from 2007 to 2012, after which he provided technical support on climate change finance to National Treasury and the African Development Bank and, from 2013 onwards, to the minister and director general of the National Department of Human Settlements.

In 2015, Mr Chetty was appointed administrator of the Oudtshoorn Municipality, and given the task of restoring proper governance, and developing and implementing a turnaround strategy to address the financial and infrastructure crisis in the town.

#KNYSNARISES

"Mr Chetty's commitment to ethical leadership values, and to operational and technical excellence through process improvements and effective monitoring, as well as his invaluable experience in the development of human capital to ensure institutional resilience, deepen entrepreneurial and social capital, and create a culture of innovation, will be invaluable to us all as #KnysnaRises," said Bouw-Spies.

"On behalf of the Council and members of staff of the Knysna Municipality, I wish him all the very best as he begins his five-year term of office," she said.

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