



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Plans in place to address water crisis**

KNYSNA - IN RESPONSE to recent media reports that Knysna Municipality has "no back-up plans if the dams run empty" (Knysna-Plett Herald 10.03.2016) the municipality wants to reassure the residents of Knysna that this is not the case.

"It is simply not true," says Mayor Georlene Wolmarans, "the municipality is on high alert and we are proactively doing everything in our power to address the situation."

"I would like to reiterate my appeal to all residents to treat water as the precious resource it is and do their parts to ensure we get through this period without the taps running dry. A water wise approach is the most practical and economically viable option."

"We do have contingency plans in place should things take a turn for the worse, but these plans are resource-heavy and expensive. If we all make conscious efforts in preserving water, the need for implementation would be unnecessary - to the benefit of all."

"The simple act of reducing individual consumption will avert a potentially major issue."

Although Knysna has recently been blessed with rains, the shifts in weather patterns due to El Niño and climate change have caused below average precipitation over the past year, which impacted entire country. This is true for Knysna as well.

"With the recent rains and the positive medium-term forecasts, I will let Mother Nature take care of my garden instead of watering it from the tap," says Mayor Wolmarans, "I would like our residents to do the same."

Residents are urged to adhere to the water restrictions that are in place and follow the guidelines as described in the Municipality's Water Awareness Campaign.

Apart from these guidelines, the municipality will further focus on stricter law enforcement, the issuing of fines and the monitoring of the top 100 business and domestic accounts. Knysna Municipality implores residents to report any abuses or transgressions or leaks to the municipality on 044 302 6331.

**ENDS**

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