



MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: Immediate

DATE: 29 April 2019

Municipality call on community members to participate in the Budget process

The municipality is currently consulting all Greater Knysna residents on its 2019/2020 Draft Budget, the Integrated Development Plan Review (IDP) and the Spatial Development Framework. This is your opportunity to see the information that Council receives when forming annual budgets and determining rates and taxes.

The process affords communities the opportunity to have direct interaction and contact with the Mayoral Committee, Ward Councillors and senior municipal officials. At the time of this statement, meetings have been successfully concluded in Wards 1, 2, 7 and 8. Knysna Executive Mayor, Mark Willemse, commended the communities of these areas for their participation. "The attendance and insightful inputs given by these communities have been fruitful."

He expressed his concerns about the historical apathy and lack of attendance in more affluent wards. "In the past we have noticed that, instead of actively attend or participate in the public presentations, residents in these wards opted to rather air their views in the media. This approach is counter-productive and most certainly does not strengthen relationships. I appeal and encourage residents to make use of this opportunity to engage with us."

"Council view the public participation process as an important fact finding mission during which they can establish the real issues within communities, as well as what residents expect from their municipality", Willemse concluded.

The draft budget of Knysna Municipality for 2019/2020 is available for inspection on the municipal website, www.knysna.gov.za and at the Municipal Customer Care Centre in Woodmill Lane, Knysna, at the Sedgefield Municipal Offices, Flamingo Street, Sedgefield and all Municipal Libraries.

Representations on the draft budget can also be submitted in writing on or before **MONDAY, 20 MAY 2019** addressed to the Municipal Manager at PO Box 21, Knysna or via email to budget@knysna.gov.za.

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