



MEDIA RELEASE

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Mayor devastated at deaths

Knysna Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies is horrified that two young brothers aged 6 and 11 lost their lives during a fire that broke out in Concordia during the early hours of this morning (Saturday, September 24).

Despite the Knysna Municipal Concordia satellite fire station crew racing to the scene immediately on witnessing the flames, the fire destroyed eight wood and iron structures, leaving devastation in its wake.

“I cannot express in words how sad I am about the deaths of the girls. The fire crews assure me that on witnessing the flames they immediately radioed our main Knysna Fire Department for help before locking the doors and rushing to the scene. The Knysna on-call Station Commander, Ian Bezuidenhout told me that when he arrived at the scene shortly after the call, both Concordia and Knysna teams had already dampened the fire,” said Bouw-Spies.

An investigation into the cause of the fire has already begun and the result thereof not yet known. “I have spoken to our fire chief this morning to begin an investigation into the possible installation of smoke detectors in our informal settlements.”

The Knysna Municipal Disaster Team has issued food parcels and blankets to the victims as well as the use of the Concordia Community Hall.

The Mayor was in Cape Town to receive the coveted Govan Mbeki Housing - second runner up Best Informal Settlement Upgrading Project – Award when the fire broke out. “I am heading back to Knysna to offer my assistance and condolences to the affected families,” she said.

In the interim various stakeholders have been requested to offer emotional assistance to the families.

ENDS

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