



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Mayor salutes female talent**

After rigorous judging, Yoliswa Mzil walked away with the coveted first prize of most talented women in the Mayoral Showcase for Inspired Women on Friday, August 7.

The quality of work displayed by Mzil and the other 14 female finalists on display at the Knysna Mayoral Showcase for Inspired Women final at the Knysna Secondary School on Friday impressed the Knysna Executive Mayor, Georlene Wolmarans tremendously.

"The talent that has been shown by all the women of Greater Knysna during the July Showcases has made me extremely proud to be associated with each one of you as your Mayor," said Wolmarans. "I am humbled to see what the women in our area are capable of producing with so little. I have witnessed skills in every sector of the competition that has exceeded my highest expectations, and for that I salute you."

The Knysna Mayoral Showcase for Inspired Women had allowed women from all wards to exhibit their talents at three showcase events held in Smutsville, Khayaletu and Rheenendal during July. These talents ranged from baking, cooking, sewing, agriculture, catering and décor. Each finalist beamed with pride as Wolmarans walked around the hall, admiring their capabilities during Friday's final.

While the contestants enjoyed a hearty lunch of biryani plus a delicious desert the three judges, Glendyrr Fick (Knysna & Partners Development manager), Babes Ndude (Hands Design Collective: Production Manager) and Nadia Beutler (Eden Hospitality Group) spent time adjudicating each finalist.

Mzil won first prize for her hand-craft of both material and leather bags, iPad pouches, wallets and throw pillows. Sedgfield's Martie Rooi received second prize for the first-aid services the NGO she heads renders to her community. The impressive Rheenendal Prospect Agri came third for their agricultural initiative that includes artwork using plants and vermicular composting in Rheenendal.

All the prizes awarded to the winners will enable them to establish and grow their fledgling businesses. First prize is worth a whopping R9 000. This included a web design and one year free hosting from Market Mi website and Marketing Solutions. A quarter-page in The Edge community newspaper which includes a photograph and a business write up. Two hundred full colour business cards, 100 A6 flyers and advertising in Action Ads.

Martie Rooi and her team received prizes to the value of R5 500. This included a logo design from Sedgfield's Thought Sculpture and 240 full business cards and a basic business card design from 3@1.

Rheenendal Prospects Agri's team received a computer course from Creative Minds to the value of R2 350.

In closing Wolmarans thanked all the ladies for celebrating Women's Month in such a unique way and said: "Let us continue to stand together as the backbone of Society long after Women's Month is over. Let us teach our children that where there is a will there is a way.

"Let us support one another and grant each other their own place in the sun. Because remember, your success is our success. Remember that success breeds success. Continue to uplift one another and in the end we will uplift our country and bring back the values that are important to us and our children."

**ENDS**

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