

MEDIA RELEASE

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Use water sparingly during the Oyster Festival

KNYSNA – WITH THE 33rd Pick n Pay Knysna Oyster Festival kicking off on 1 July, Knysna is expecting a massive influx of visitors. This influx of visitors' poses added strain on our already low water reserves and Knysna Municipality urges all residents and visitors to treat water as the precious resource it is.

Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans says: "Although we welcome with open arms everyone to the Pick n Pay Knysna Oyster Festival, I call on residents and visitors alike to help the municipality by continuing to use water sparingly.

"As a town our consumption levels (10,3 megalitres per day) are still above the desired eight megalitres and with the 50 000+ visitors expected during the first couple of weeks in July, we expect increased consumption which, in turn, means additional strain on our water reserves.

"I cannot stress enough the need to keep consumption levels as low as possible to ensure our reserves last until our contingency measures can remedy the reserve levels. Although the level of the Akkerkloof dam has increased to almost 40% (from 34% a few weeks ago), we still have far to go."

Knysna Municipality would like to point out the following important changes to our water supply tariffs:

- The free allocation of water has been decreased from 6 000 litres per month to 3 000 litres (except for our indigent residents).
- The water tariff rates have been adjusted drastically in the recent budget with the rate for the first 10 000 litres remaining affordable at R11,92 per kilolitre.
- Consumers not making an effort to curb consumption will pay heavily for water usage above 10 000 litres, with the rate rising drastically to R19,14 per kilolitre for consumption up to 20 kilolitres, climbing to over R40 per kilolitre when consumption reaches 40 000 litres or more per month.

"Our water restriction measures remain in place," says Mayor Wolmarans, "Water your garden only at dusk (18:00 to 19:00) on designated days with Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays for houses with even numbers, and Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays for houses with odd numbers. Please adhere to the tips as communicated through our Water Awareness Campaign.

"It is my sincere hope these measures will not dampen the spirit and vibe of the Pick n Pay Knysna Oyster Festival and I trust each and every one will have a fabulous time during the best ten days of winter.

"Please be responsible not only in regards to water consumption, but alcohol consumption as well. Remain patient on our roads as we are expecting the usual congestion we experience during the festival.

"All our various departments and law enforcement divisions will be on alert to ensure you have a safe and enjoyable time with us."

ENDS