



MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday 26 April 2016

EMBARGO: Immediate

Youth Council "will be champions of change - champions of hope"

KNYSNA - THE KNYNSNA Youth Council was instituted this week in a ceremony that was described as a "joyous and historic" occasion.

The Youth Council representatives for the ten wards in Knysna were announced on 25 April during a session in the Municipal Council Chambers. The hall was filled to capacity with not only the newly elected Youth Council members, but also with interested members of the public - mostly family and parents.

The Speaker of Council, Ms Eleanor Bouw-Spies, facilitated the inauguration and said during her address: "The Youth of South Africa has played an integral part in the transformation of this country.

"The Youth Council is the forum where you can constructively challenge the way youth issues are perceived and handled in this municipality. This is a space where you can lay the foundations for the change you want to see in our society."

Two invited speakers addressed the assembled crowd. Stephen Curry, the Western Cape branch manager for the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), explained the services that NYDA offers to the youth with a focus on entrepreneurship and job facilitation. The second speaker, Fumanekile Maquyekwe from the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), spoke along similar lines and encouraged the youth to utilise the services of both agencies.

Councillor Bouw-Spies encouraged the Youth Council to work with the agencies, saying: "Make the agencies work for you - not only for you as young people, but for the broader community as well."

After the speakers the big moment arrived - the Youth Council and the ward committee members were announced. The assembled crowd cheered when Mr. Zwelethu Dyonto was inducted as the chairperson of the Youth Council.

During his short acceptance speech, the chairperson confirmed the Youth Council's commitment to the five key areas they will focus on during their term: Enterprise Development, Sport Development, Tourism Development, Social & Community Development, and Skills Development.

Mr Dyonto said: "We will be champions of change - champions of hope!"

The members of the council are:

No	Name	Surname	Position	Ward / Area
1	Zelrene	Luiters	Youth Councillor	Brackenhill
2	Golden	Jones	Youth Councillor	Brackenhill
3	Cazlin Peter	Goldberg	Secretary	Hornlee
4	Fredwin Cornelle	Agiels	Deputy Chairperson	Hornlee
5	Ethon Leigh	Alexander	Youth Councillor	Hornlee
6	Alicia	Harker	Youth Councillor	Hornlee
7	Vuyani	Pauli	Youth Councillor	Ward 1
8	Ntombozuko	Siyo	Youth Councillor	Ward 1
9	Hendrias	Morris	Youth Councillor	Ward 2
10	Daphne	Jantjies	Youth Councillor	Ward 2
11	Zipho	Naki	Youth Councillor	Ward 3
12	Mandisa	Litoyi	Youth Councillor	Ward 3
13	Mawande	Jeyi	Youth Councillor	Ward 4
14	Mpisekhaya	Solani	Youth Councillor	Ward 4
15	Ufrashia	Hartnick	Youth Councillor	Ward 5
16	Jolene	Pietersen	Youth Councillor	Ward 5
17	Sidwel (Vuvu)	Ralushe	Youth Councillor	Ward 7
18	Luzuko	Tyokolo	Youth Councillor	Ward 7
19	Zwelethu	Dyonto	Chairperson	Ward 8
20	Noluvo	Kilimani	Youth Councillor	Ward 8
21	Onke	Sibindi	Youth Councillor	Percy Mdala High School
22	Kaylene	Innes	Youth Councillor	Knysna High School
23	Leila	Turner	Youth Councillor	Oakhill College
24	Vicaelin	Fauers	Youth Councillor	Knysna Secondary School
25	Unathi	Booi	Youth Councillor	Concordia High School

During her closing comments, Councillor Bouw-Spies, said: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

"Members of the Knysna Youth Council, I dare you to be that group of thoughtful, committed citizens. I dare you to change the world."

The inauguration was closed by a vote of thanks by Mr. Dawie Adonis, the Municipal Director for Community Services, before the assembly adjourned for networking and snacks.

For more information on NYDA visit www.nyda.gov.za and for SEDA visit www.seda.org.za.

Caption:

Back Row (left to right)

Zipho Naki; Mandisa Litoyi; Ntombozuko Siyo; Luzuko Tyokolo; Daphne Jantjies; Mpisekhaya Solani; Ufrashia Hartnick; Speaker Cllr Eleanore Bouw-Spies; Zelrene Luiters; Unathi Booi; Leila Turner; Kaylene Innes & Onke Sibindi.

Front row (left to right)

Mawande Jeyi; Noluvo Kilimani; Vuvu Ralushe; Cazlin Goldberg (Secretary); Zwelethu Dyonto (Chairperson); Fredwin Agiels (Deputy Chairperson); Ethon Alexander & Jolene Pietersen.

ENDS

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