Dear Reader,

As we celebrate Human Rights month in March, I am reminded on how far South Africa has come in this new democracy, ensuring that all its residents’ human rights are adhered to.

As you know human rights are the basic rights everyone has, simply because they are human. In our country the list of human rights is contained in our Bill of Rights, Chapter 2 of the South African Constitution, the highest law in the country.

I hope that this year, on Human Rights Day (21 March) you got to celebrate your human rights and learned a little more about them. Knowledge will help you defend yourself if your rights are violated.

In celebration of Human Rights Month, we at the Knysna Municipality have embarked on several new initiatives, ensuring that the human rights of all Greater Knysna residents are taken care of.

Our Constitution, lauded as the best in the world, states that the fundamental rights of all South Africans will be protected and respected. Please make use of the various government bodies and instructions that have been set up to ensure that these rights are protected.

Should any one of your rights be violated, feel free to report the matter to one of the following bodies: South African Human Rights Commission; Independent Complaints Directorate; Public Protector; Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration; Commission on Gender Equality and the Office of the Consumer Protector.

Human rights should not only be celebrated and brought to the fore during Human Rights Month, but should be on our minds every single day. Thus, I urge each one of you to be kind to one another & help those who are unable to help themselves.

Eleanore Bouw-Spies

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**LEVEL 3 WATER RESTRICTIONS IMPLEMENTED**

Level 3 Water Restrictions have been implemented by the Knysna Municipality with immediate effect. This new level of restrictions has resulted by Greater Knysna residents not adhering to the call to reduce their water usage. In the past week alone Sedgefield’s target water usage
of 1.9ML/day was exceeded with the area utilising 2.2ML/day. Knysna’s target of 8ML/day was ignored and residents used a whopping 12.4ML/day.

Added to this extensive overuse, the low flow of Greater Knysna rivers that feed the Glebe and Akkerkloof Dam (which is currently 39 per cent full) and the Sedgefield reservoirs has necessitated this Level 3 water restriction.

Residents’ and businesses’ water usage will now be closely monitored and those using in excess of the recommended 20KL/month will need to install water management devices to reduce this non-compliance.

It must be noted that if Greater Knysna does not reduce its water consumption, Level 4 restrictions could be implemented, resulting in the closing of water valves, to be opened through a roaming area according to a three hour based timetable.

**In essence, Greater Knysna will be facing water outages.**

We appeal to all residents and businesses to reduce their consumption with immediate effect and thank those residents that already practice water saving techniques.

For further tips on how to save water please visit the Municipal Website on www.knysna.gov.za.

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**BASIC EDUCATION IS A HUMAN RIGHT**

According to the Bill of Rights (Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa), section 29 (a),

“EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO BASIC EDUCATION, INCLUDING ADULT BASIC EDUCATION.”

School principals from various no-fee schools in Greater Knysna have come together to raise funds for their schools and thus lessen the struggle for much-needed resources they face on a daily basis. This initiative involves not only the schools, but the community and local businesses.

A movie preview for **Beyond the River** will be screened at Knysna Secondary School on Friday, April 21 at 18:30. This preview will be paired with a cheese and wine function. Tickets cost R50 and are available at the German shop as well as Concordia High & Primary, Chris Nissen, Fraaisig, Hornlee, Rheenendal, Smutsville, Sunridge, Tembelitsha Primary, Knysna Secondary and Percy Mdala High schools.

Monies raised at this function and others to be held throughout the year will be donated to these schools as a means of funding for much-needed supplies.
THE KNYSNA MUNICIPALITY WELCOMES MBULELO MEMANI INTO THEIR FOLD AS THE NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER (CFO)

Memani, whose contract started on March 1, is well qualified to head the Finance Department as Director. He brings with him a wealth of financial management qualifications and experience.

**His impressive academic qualifications** include a Post Graduate Diploma in Internal Audit, BCom (Municipal Accounting), a certificate from WITS Business School in Municipal Development Finance, Certificates from the Research Based Institution affiliated to University of Cape Town in Municipal Budgeting and Reporting Cycle and Principles of Budgeting within a Municipality.

(More information about Mr Memani is available on our website).

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ANTI-RACISM WEEK

Our Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies signed the Pledge Against Racism showing her support for Anti-Racism Week. This initiative, hosted by the Anti-Racism Network South Africa, kicked off on 14 March and ended on Human Rights Day, Tuesday 21 March, a day also marked **globally as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination**.

Having worked through this initiative, she would like to remind all of the words of our great Madiba: “No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”

Put your differences aside and continue to be kind to one another.

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LEARNER LICENSE PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

Close to **400 young people** gathered at Loerie Park on Wednesday, March 8 for the launch of the Knysna Municipality’s Youth Desk Learner License Programme’s first phase.

This programme aims to assist Greater Knysna’s unemployed in obtaining a learner’s license, which in return helps them towards finding employment – (for further information read the press release on our website).
TRANQUILLITY WITHIN KNYSNA’S CBD

Pledge Nature Reserve, approximately 10ha of green tranquility lies nestled in the middle of Knysna’s CBD.

It is difficult to imagine that less than a century ago this green heart of Knysna was reduced to a brickfield and later used as a dumping site that sullied the once clear streams.

Thanks to concerned townsfolk this beautiful piece of ground was transformed.

The Reserve falls within the Cape Floral Kingdom, which, with its 8600 plant species, is the world’s richest temperate flora. The upper sections of Pledge Nature Reserve is one of the last remnants of the endangered Garden Route Shale Fynbos and it is the trust’s priority to manage this area to ensure its survival.

For further information contact Mervyn Crous at 083 629 9201, email him on info@pledgenaturereserve.org or visit their website: www.pledgenaturereserve.org.

KNSYNA EXECUTIVE MAYOR, ELEANORE BOUW-SPIES WITH PLEDGE NATURE RESERVE COMMITTEE MEMBER, NANA JOUBERT STROLLING THROUGH THE NATURE RESERVE SITUATED IN THE HEART OF KNYSNA.

MEET THE MAYOR DURING OPEN THURSDAYS

Following the example set by Western Cape MEC Alan Winde, Minister of Economic Opportunities, in making his office more accessible during First Thursday, the Knysna Executive Mayor, Eleanore Bouw-Spies will now be opening her doors every first Thursday of the month, between 17:00 and 19:30 for Open Thursday.

To ensure access to all, Bouw-Spies will set up office on the ground floor of the Clyde Street Municipal building every first Thursday of each month, and encourages Greater Knysna residents to join her between 17:00 – 19:30 on these days.

“I am looking forward to opening the doors on these days and getting to meet and chat to our residents…”


NOTICE: Refuse removal will not be collected on Friday 14 April 2017 (Good Friday). This will now be undertaken on Thursday 13 April. Refuse removal will be started early and you are requested to place bags/wheelie bins out timeously.