

Knysna Municipality wants you to report corruption

Acting Knysna Municipal Manager Dr Michele Gratz is adamant that allegations of corruption within the organisation will be taken seriously. “We need the community’s assistance to ensure that we can thoroughly investigate any reported instance or suspicion and resolve it effectively.”

“I would like to make it clear that any person who reports instances of fraudulent or illegal activity may do so anonymously, including municipal employees,” she said. “It is also important to keep in mind that agencies of government – also Knysna Municipality – must follow strict procedures when investigating allegations of corruption.

The process begins with reporting a suspicion or incident. “There are always rumours about corruption within organisations. Sometimes these are unfounded, malicious lies, but they often hold some truth,” said Dr Gratz. “We cannot, however, investigate a rumour or a vague statement. Incidents, suspicions and allegations of corruption must be lodged formally and correctly and include specific details.”

An easy and effective way to do so, is by using the municipality’s mobile application. A new development on the app includes a *Governance* tab with a *Report Corruption* functionality. This links to an independently managed anti-fraud and corruption app. Here members of the public, municipal employees and other stakeholders can anonymously report suspicions of corruption.

“As the app works on non-smart phones too, it really is the easiest, most efficient way to report your suspicion,” she explained. “But there are other ways in which you can blow the whistle.”

Suspensions of transgressions may also be reported to:

- the National Anti-Corruption Hotline on 0800 701 701;
- tip.off@westerncape.gov.za;
- the Provincial Forensic Services on 021 483 0931; and
- employees may choose to report directly to their line manager.

“When lodging your report, be sure to provide us with concise, yet precise information,” she urged. “Another good reason to make use of the app to do this, is that it prompts you to provide the necessary information every step of the way.”

It is not always easy to know what should be reported. Any suspicion of non-compliance with any law, rule, policy or value applicable to Knysna Municipality qualifies. So do any suspicions or instances of fraud, corruption, financial misconduct, waste of resources, misuse of municipal assets, sabotage, danger to public health or safety, sexual exploitation and abuse and serious malpractice.

“We have drafted an Integrity Management Framework which will assist us in eradicating malpractice,” she said. “It sets out our responsibility in implementing the Local Government Anti-Corruption Strategy and strengthens measures and standards for managing integrity and promoting ethical conduct within Knysna Municipality.”

“We are committed to ensure that Knysna Municipality functions as a corruption free organisation, serving its customers with efficiency, integrity and transparency,” she concluded. “You can assist us in achieving that ideal by promptly and correctly reporting issues through the correct channels.”

The Knysna Municipality mobile application is available from iOS and Android app stores, as well as from <http://knysna.comunity.me>

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Knysna Municipality Communications Department

P O Box 21, Knysna. 6570. Western Cape. South Africa

Tel +27 (0)44 302 6300 (switchboard) or 302 6430 (direct)

e-mail dnkume@knysna.gov.za / npondoyi@knysna.gov.za