

Request for support Knysna covid-19 relief fund

The Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic may well be one of the biggest challenges we as a nation and town may face. Our unity of purpose has never been more important than now.

Local municipalities are expected to play a key role in government's endeavours to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. These directives are issued mostly without support funding.

According to Knysna Executive Deputy Mayor Aubrey Tsengwa, the primary focus at Knysna Municipality is to ensure that we can provide residents with uninterrupted essential and emergency services. "In terms of the regulations the municipality must identify quarantine and isolation sites, and implement provisions for these sites, as guided by the protocols and guidelines issued by the national Department of Health. This is going to be a huge undertaking with unknown but potentially very high costs. The Municipality does not have the funding for such sites, but it is essential that both quarantine and isolation sites are established in order to protect our communities."

"Knysna has a high proportion of poor people who live below the poverty line. The effects of the coronavirus are extremely disruptive to their daily lives and its effect on the economy will most certainly lead to an increase in poverty as a result of loss of income and jobs. The Department of Social Development have indicated that they will not be able to provide food parcels to all who need it, so the Municipality will be required to assist these families in need. This, in addition to establishing the quarantine sites above, will place a huge financial burden on the Municipality and stretch our resources to the maximum" he added.

"The Municipality will not be able to address these challenges on its own. Residents, NGO's and local business have always been strong partners of projects initiated by the municipality and we would greatly appreciate your support once more" he concluded.

To contribute towards our food security drive or to the quarantine and isolation centres, we kindly ask that you make a deposit into the following banking account:

Nebank Current Account: 114 792 0699 Universal Branch code: 198-765 Swift code: NEDSZAJJ."

An update on where food donations can be dropped off will be published shortly. Enquiries can be directed to Pam Booth a pbooth@knysna.gov.za or tel no 060 998 6967.

ENDS
