



MEDIA RELEASE
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Knysna is ready for the summer season

Knysna Municipality is ready to welcome visitors to the area during the summer season. It has an Integrated Seasonal Readiness Plan (ISRP) in place to ensure that all services are delivered throughout the holiday period, that emergency services are on alert and standby, and that infrastructure will be maintained.

“We work hard to make sure that the greater Knysna area is in top shape throughout the year,” said Executive Mayor Elrick van Aswegen. “But we know that this is a busy period of the year and we know that the area largely depends on the local tourism industry. The ISRP outlines all directorates’ readiness to ensure that locals and visitors alike can live, work and play in a safe and secure environment while enjoying a quality leisure experience.”

The area is expecting an influx of domestic visitors this year, as South Africans look forward to traveling to the coast after spending months under national lockdown. While not many international visitors are expected this year, it is expected that South Africans who normally travel abroad at this time of year may choose the Garden Route as their summer holiday destination to get that faraway feeling.

“We have all had a very taxing year,” said van Aswegen. “The area would benefit greatly from the seasonal boost to the economy and we must be ready to offer those who will be spending their money an unforgettable vacation. While we must stay safe to move forward, we are open.”

One of the themes of the ISRP is that safety is everyone’s responsibility. To alleviate traffic congestion, temporary point duty officers will be deployed to busy intersections. The Municipal Traffic Section will participate in joint operations between traffic officials, law enforcement officers, fire officials and the South African Police Service to promote traffic management and compliance. Zero tolerance will be shown to traffic offenders.

Municipal Law Enforcement Officers will patrol the area’s beaches and other public recreational areas. They will also assist in combating crime by working with SAPS, the traffic and other relevant departments. Fire and Rescue Services will be on duty and standby on a 24-hour basis at the Knysna, Sedgefield and Concordia stations, with standby duties performed at the Rheenendal and Karatara stations. Agreements of mutual assistance in case of largescale events are in place with neighbouring municipalities. The popular beaches, vleie, estuaries and the Karatara Swimming Pool will be under lifeguard supervision.

The amount of household waste generated generally doubles during the holiday season. Additional refuse collection staff will be appointed and the domestic refuse collection schedule and disposal guidelines will be advertised in the local media. Additional staff will be appointed to assist in keeping the CBD, recreational facilities and beaches clean. Maintenance will be performed at public restrooms and these will be monitored throughout the season. The clearing of illegal dumping will take place along with grass cutting in all wards. A maintenance team will inspect and repair all defects on boardwalks and playparks on a weekly basis.

No refuse removal will take place on Christmas or New Years’ Day. Alternative refuse collection days will be on 26 December 2020 and 2 January 2021.

A repairs program for streets and stormwater infrastructure commenced on 11 November 2020 and the electro-mechanical staff compliment will be increased to allow for swift

attendance to any faults in the electrical system. Water and wastewater reticulation staff will be on standby throughout the seasonal period.

“The 2020/2021 summer season may not be business as usual in terms of COVID-19 protocols, but it will be business as usual as far as municipal service delivery is concerned,” van Aswegen confirmed. “The We Are Open campaign is in full swing, encouraging domestic travellers to ‘get that faraway feeling’ by enjoying everything that the greater Knysna area has on offer.”

“We all deserve to let off some steam this season, but we must do so safely,” he concluded. “Avoid crowds, close contact and confined spaces. Wear your mask and wash your hands. If you are meeting up with friends and family, try to do so outside in the festive fresh air. We have all worked hard to stay safe during the year, let’s not let our efforts go to waste. Let us work together to end 2020 strong and to start 2021 even stronger. By respecting each other’s safety we can build an innovative, inspired and inclusive Knysna.”

ENDS

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