Knysna
Municipality || Munisipaliteit || uMasipala
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Knysna Municipality set to save money by buying/building, not renting

Employing good business sense, Knysna Acting Municipal Manager Dawid Adonis has initiated a process to identify and purchase a building, or buildings, suitable for hosting municipal offices, rather than to continue renting office space.

"We currently lease three properties which host municipal offices and our customer care centre," said Adonis. "Aside from the approximately R6.2 million Council budgets for office rental annually, one also needs to take into account the costs of repairs and maintenance to these buildings, which we are responsible for."

Considering the future escalation in rental fees and auxiliary costs related to repairs, maintenance, electricity generation during power outages and information and communication technology, purchasing a building makes more financial sense than renting premises.

"Council has resolved to purchase an existing building, rather than constructing a new one," Adonis continued. "Even if such a building would have to be refurbished to accommodate offices, the monthly repayments on an external loan are sure to be less expensive than our current – and future – rental repayments. Once a suitable building has been identified, our financial section will make the necessary calculations to confirm this sound assumption."

Adonis further explained that consolidating the municipal owned buildings in Clyde- and Queen Streets may also be considered. With careful planning, design and renovative construction, these buildings could form one administrative centre.

"The careful and responsible management of our finances is one of our top priorities," Adonis concluded. "By actively investigating, identifying and implementing ways in which we can minimise expenses we are working towards creating a richer Knysna."

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