



Knysna

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Compromise suspends illegal municipal strike

In an effort to resume service delivery, Knysna's Council has resolved to reach a compromise with municipal workers who had been staging an unsanctioned strike since Monday 26 April. Executive Mayor Elrick van Aswegen confirmed that the illegal strike action will be suspended during further negotiations.

"A once-off ex gratia COVID-19 allowance will be paid to staff who worked during alert levels five and four," van Aswegen explained. "This is subject to affordability and ongoing talks with workers' unions. The administration will make the necessary calculations and revert to Council and the Local Labour Forum (LLF)."

Van Aswegen confirmed that the organisation had not approved the current service delivery strike of some of its employees. "The strike is regarding the payment of danger pay while working during the COVID-19 pandemic," he said. "A draft Danger Allowance Policy was submitted to the LLF on 22 April. The parties could not reach a consensus and the issue served as a matter before a special meeting of Council held on 29 April."

"This protest action affected our water and sanitation, roads and refuse collection units," he continued. "Delivering these services is one of our top priorities and we apologise for any inconvenience this unwarranted action may have caused. We are also evaluating how to address the concerns of our unhappy employees within the relevant legal frameworks."

"All employees of Knysna Municipality received their full payment packages during the nationwide lockdown and its various alert levels," van Aswegen concluded. "We appreciate and are grateful for all municipal employees' loyalty and dedication to their duties during this global pandemic. We are confident that we can resolve this issue swiftly, legally, and to the benefit of all concerned."

ENDS

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 pr@knysna.gov.za