

New Community Services Director appointed

Knysna Municipality has appointed Dr Sandile Ngqele as its new Community Services Director. Executive Mayor Elrick van Aswegen said that this appointment will be effective from 1 August 2021. "In his new capacity Dr Ngqele will be responsible for the Parks and Recreation, Protection Services, Fire and Rescue, Disaster Management, Waste Management, Libraries, Arts & Culture and Youth & Social Development."

Prior to moving to Knysna, he was Senior Manager: Strategic Services for Mossel Bay Municipality. Dr Ngqele boasts over two decades of experience in local government. He was first exposed to local government systems and processes at Knysna Municipality as an administrative officer in 1999. "Dr Ngqele became Knysna's IDP, Strategy and Performance Coordinator," van Aswegen confirmed.

He served at the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality as a Coordinator: IDP and Budget Integration from 2008 to June 2009. In July 2009, Ndlambe Municipality appointed him as a Manager: IDP and PMS until February 2011.

Even though he was born and started school in Bathurst in the Port Alfred area, Dr Ngqele regards himself as a local. "Growing up, Knysna used to be home," he said. "My parents worked here, I completed matric here, and my fondest memories are from Knysna." Ngqele completed his matric at Percy Mdala High School in 1994. He obtained a Doctor of Administration (DAdmin) Degree in Public Administration from the University of KwaZulu-Natal and a Master's Degree from Nelson Mandela University.

Dr Ngqele has held a number of positions within local government, including those of Manager IDP, PMS, and Public Participation in George 2016-2019; Deputy Director: Integrated Development Planning-Western Cape Government 2015-2016; Manager: IDP & Organisational Performance George Municipality 2011-2015; Manager IDP (Ndlambe Municipality 2009-2011; and IDP & Budget Integration Coordinator Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality 2008-2009.

"I see this as an opportunity to plough back into the community and act as a catalyst for sustainable development and improved service delivery through strategic partnerships with local stakeholders," said Ngqele. "I believe that we must move swiftly in fostering partnerships with communities to ensure legitimacy and local ownership as envisaged in relevant legislation where the key stakeholders that form a municipality are cited as the councillors, municipal officials and the local community. And I believe my credentials will enable me to add value to relevant strategic processes and decision-making within the organisation."

"We welcome Dr Ngqele back to Knysna Municipality in his new capacity," van Aswegen concluded. "We believe that his leadership style, qualifications and love for Knysna will make a real contribution to creating an inclusive, innovative, inspired Knysna."

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