



Knysna

Municipality || Munisipaliteit || uMasipala

inclusive || innovative || inspired

MEDIA RELEASE

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Turning the tables on the homeless cleaning Knysna

The end of July saw a coordinated effort to clean sections of Knysna by some of its homeless citizens. The focus was shifted somewhat today when participants of this project were treated to a makeover at Loerie Park.

“Many residents mistakenly assume that the homeless are responsible for all the littering in town,” said councillor Waleed Grootboom. “We mentioned this to them and suggested that we join forces to find ways in which they can take ownership, assume some responsibility and contribute towards keeping Knysna clean.”

Members of the homeless community cleaned sections of Knysna Main Road and the taxi rank on 27 July as part of this project. “It is important that we change the preconceived perception we all have of the homeless, and to aid these individuals in reintegrating with society and eventually securing fulltime employment. As a small token of our commitment to an eventual solution, participants of the clean-up project were transported to Loerie Park where they enjoyed a shower, had their hair cut or styled, and had their ID photos taken.”

“We know that there is much to do to secure an eventual, holistic solution to the situation of homelessness in the greater Knysna municipal area,” he concluded. “Changing how we see the members of this fragile community is crucial to creating an environment where we can work together to solve the problem. I urge our residents to support us in this quest and, if you are in a position to do so, to donate any items or clothing or non-perishable foods. Our shared compassion will allow us to create an inclusive, innovative and inspired Knysna.”

Special thanks to Knysna Rotary, Knysna Community Police Forum, The Rock Church, Soul Buddies Driving School, B&V Construction, Knysna Muslim Council, Hospice and Knysna Red Cross Society for their contributions.

Please contact Lizel Baatjies on 044 302 6342/ 060 998 7106 or lbaartjies@knysna.gov.za to arrange for the delivery of donations.

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