



Knysna

Municipality || Munisipaliteit || uMasipala

inclusive || innovative || inspired

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Innovative sanitation technology may be in the pipeline for Greater Knysna

A presentation on an advanced on-site sanitation solution, the Bio Separator, was delivered to Knysna Municipality's Integrated Human Settlements Committee (IHSC) during a meeting held on 3 July 2025. The Bio Separator offers an alternative to traditional chemical ablution facilities. The committee's recommendations on the matter will serve before the Mayoral Committee and, thereafter, at the next ordinary meeting of Council for consideration.

Mayoral Committee Member and Chairperson of the IHSC, Councillor Neil Louw, praised the innovation. "This is the kind of forward-thinking that can change lives. Its possible implementation in Greater Knysna's informal settlements has the potential to restore dignity and greatly improve living conditions for many of our residents."

The Bio Separator unit is a fully self-contained, ventilated system. The benefits of this innovation are wide-ranging. It offers a safe, dignified sanitation solution capable of serving up to 25 people per day. With minimal maintenance requirements and no reliance on bulk municipal infrastructure, it significantly reduces pressure on the municipality's wastewater systems. It provides a cleaner, odour-controlled and more user-friendly environment compared to chemical alternatives. It offers a marked improvement in sanitation standards in informal settlements, with the added benefit of reduced operational costs over time.

The unit features a 1000-litre reinforced tank body, a 45-litre rapid flush cistern and an integrated handwashing facility. Its construction from UV-stabilised linear low-density polyethylene ensures durability in harsh environmental conditions.

"The impact of the Bio Separator on local communities is already evident in pilot installations across George and KwaZulu-Natal, where similar models have replaced outdated systems," Louw added. "Should the Mayoral Committee and Council agree with our recommendations, the implementation of Bio Separators will reconfirm our status as a pioneer in service delivery innovation."

"Innovative solutions like these align with our commitment to sustainable, people-centred development," he concluded. "Any planned future installations will empower communities while safeguarding municipal infrastructure and redefining basic service delivery in informal settlements."

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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