



Knysna

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inclusive || innovative || inspired



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COUNCIL NEWS
NOVEMBER 2025

FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S DESK

To the **Class of 2025**, by the time you read this, you will be well into your final examinations. Stay focused and give it your best — your hard work today will open the doors to tomorrow's opportunities.

Applications for the Mayoral Bursary Programme are now open until 30 January 2026.

This initiative provides financial assistance to deserving students pursuing tertiary education and is part of our ongoing commitment to youth empowerment and skills development. Application forms are available from my office and municipal helpdesks during normal office hours. Application forms are also available on our website at <https://www.knysna.gov.za/government/mayors-office/grants/>.



Our Friday Site Visits continue across the Greater Knysna area, providing an opportunity to engage directly with communities, monitor service delivery and identify areas where immediate intervention is needed. If you would like me and my team to visit a specific area in your ward, please contact my Personal Assistant, Buziwe Mjamba at bmjamba@knysna.gov.za or 044 302 6239 to schedule an appointment.

The **War Room** has been established to coordinate our response to service delivery challenges and ensure that solutions are implemented effectively and transparently.

As the summer season approaches, we are reminded that **water restrictions remain in place**. Rainfall has been low and dry conditions persist. Every drop counts — let us all do our part to conserve water and protect this precious resource.



Let us move forward together, united in purpose, committed to progress and proud of the community we serve.

'til next time

Thando Matika,
EXECUTIVE MAYOR

FROM THE MM'S OFFICE

As we approach the festive season, we are focussing on ensuring that our town is fully prepared to welcome residents and visitors alike. Our Season Readiness Plan is well underway, with teams working to maintain essential infrastructure, enhance service delivery and ensure that all public spaces reflect the beauty and hospitality that define our town.



There will also be strict implementation of municipal bylaws to safeguard public safety, protect our environment and maintain order throughout the Greater Knysna area. This includes our continued zero-tolerance stance on illegal land invasion. Compliance is a shared responsibility and we urge all residents, businesses and visitors to cooperate with our law enforcement and service departments to keep Knysna clean, safe and welcoming.

Above all, we reaffirm that Greater Knysna is open for business.

We encourage investment, innovation and collaboration that drive sustainable growth and create opportunities for our community. Together, we can continue to build a resilient, inclusive and thriving local economy.

Kind regards

Dr. Lulamile Mapholoba,
MUNICIPAL MANAGER

WRITE TO US



We welcome your content ideas.

Please write to us at knysna@knysna.gov.za

SUBMIT YOUR METER READINGS EASILY WITH THE MY MUNICIPAL METER APP & WHATSAPP



We encourage all residents to ensure accurate billing by submitting their own electricity and water meter readings using the MY MUNICIPAL METER app. For enquiries, please contact Enrico Oosthuizen at eoosthuizen@knysna.gov.za or 044 302 6408.

RESIDENTS ASKED TO REDUCE USAGE AS WATER RESTRICTIONS REMAIN IN PLACE

Residents are asked to drastically reduce water consumption in the face of the ongoing low rainfall conditions. Currently, level three water restrictions are still in place. This level may have to be escalated if rainfall patterns and associated river flow do not improve significantly. Please reduce consumption so that we can avoid the need to increase restrictions - and punitive tariffs.



While much of the Garden Route enjoyed good rainfall recently, prevailing weather conditions do not present, nor predict, a break in the ongoing dry conditions.

Council declared a local drought disaster in terms of Section 55 of the Disaster Management Act, Act 57 of 2002, on 23 March 2017. This was supported by the Garden Route District Municipality and the Provincial Government. Consequently, level three water restrictions were implemented in December 2022.

The following apply under level three water restrictions:

- municipal potable water is for human consumption only;
- the watering of gardens is prohibited (the use of hosepipes, irrigation systems, watering cans, buckets or any other receptacle for gardening and other purposes is not allowed);
- the washing of vehicles and/or boats is not allowed;
- domestic consumption must be limited to 20 Kl per household per month, and water restricting/management devices will be installed for transgressors;
- business consumption is to be reduced by 30% on the previous year's monthly average consumption (except car washes), and water restricting/management devices will be installed for transgressors;
- the construction industry, car washes and nurseries are to use alternative sources of water;
- health and correctional facilities are to install their own tanks that will be filled by municipal tankers;
- areas where households receive a free basic water allocation will be limited to 6kl per household per month (200 litres per household per day);
- flow restrictors are to be installed in all standpipes;
- the stage two drought tariff is triggered; and
- penalties will be issued for violations.



There is a difference between water restriction levels and drought situation levels. Water restrictions are regulatory measures that tell us how to manage our water consumption

during times of scarcity. Drought situation levels are tiered tariff- and water supply management measures that are implemented to control levels of water consumption relevant and appropriate to varying degrees of water scarcity.

This is not new news. We have been living under these restrictions since 2022. We must be reminded that our water is scarce, and that we must use it sparingly and with respect. Water restrictions are not a punishment, but a way of conserving this precious resource. And, if you adhere to the restrictions, you will not be subject to punitive measures. While we cannot control the weather, we can control our water usage. The possibility of escalating water restrictions is also not a threat, but an unfortunate reality if we do not change our habits while these weather conditions continue.”

Visit <https://www.knysna.gov.za/news/pamphlets-and-brochures/> and click on “Water Services” to download helpful **water saving tips**.

NEW POLICY ENCOURAGES COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Council has approved a new policy on community partnerships at its meeting held on 30 October 2025. The policy aims to encourage and formalise partnerships between the municipality and community-based organisations in a structured, transparent and legally sound manner.

This new framework paves the way for formal agreements between the municipality and organisations such as the Knysna Infrastructure Group, AfriForum, Revive Knysna and others. These partnerships will enable community entities to work alongside us on specific projects and interventions that enhance service delivery and community well-being.



We have received offers of assistance from community members over the years, including retired professionals, the business community and other civic organisations. This collaborative spirit was particularly evident during the 2017 fire disaster and, more recently, during the Section 154 process. Until now, the management and facilitation of such support were not adequately addressed in any existing municipal policy framework.

The newly adopted policy provides for the development of clear agreements that define the roles, responsibilities and communication protocols between the municipality and participating partners. It allows for the conclusion of agreements that primarily aim to enhance and accelerate the service delivery priorities outlined in the municipality's Integrated Development Plan.

Our residents are deeply committed to the future of Knysna, and many have expressed their willingness to contribute their skills, resources and time to improve service delivery. This policy provides a clear and accountable mechanism to enable such collaboration. It ensures that community participation happens within a defined legal and administrative framework that safeguards both the municipality and our partners.

Any qualifying community-based entity may enter into specific, manageable voluntary works or services agreements for defined projects under the new policy. It also provides for the donation of assets, where required, to support project implementation.

The new policy reinforces the principle that partnerships can strengthen municipal capacity, enhance efficiency and, in many cases, deliver tangible improvements at no or reduced cost to the municipality. Thank you to our stakeholders and partners for your unwavering support and continued, valued assistance. We look forward to working with you to the betterment of Greater Knysna and all its people.

The Policy on Community Partnerships and supporting documents will be available on the municipality's official website at www.knysna.gov.za. Enquiries can be directed to the Legal Services Department at zstevens@knysna.gov.za or on 044-3026576.

SMME SUPPORT PROGRAMME HANDOVER



STRENGTHENING OUR ECONOMY BY EMPOWERING LOCAL ENTERPRISES.

Due to our partnership with the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency (SEDFA), 21 local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) received equipment necessary to advance their businesses on 8 October.

The support provided to these businesses does not stop at equipment - they also benefit from essential training in areas like financial management, marketing and branding to assist them in building a solid foundation for long-term success. Opportunities for networking and peer learning, where business owners can exchange ideas and insights with experts and fellow entrepreneurs, are made available alongside training sessions.

The SMME Support Programme is one of the municipality's flagship initiatives. By assisting these SMMEs in joining Greater Knysna's mainstream economy, the programme creates new pathways for local growth and encourages greater inclusion across business sectors.

We are excited for the 2025/26 intake and look forward to seeing participants make a real difference in their communities and our local economy.

RECEIVE YOUR MONTHLY BILL VIA E-MAIL

To receive your monthly account electronically, send an email to accounts@knysna.gov.za



10TH ANNUAL LIBRARY SERVICES PRIZE-GIVING: CELEBRATING A DECADE OF LITERACY EXCELLENCE



Knysna Library Services proudly hosted its **10th Annual Library Services Prize-Giving** at Concordia Primary School on Saturday 25 October.

The event marked a decade of promoting literacy, confidence and creativity among young learners across Greater Knysna. It celebrated the achievements of pupils who have excelled in reading, writing and public speaking, and highlighted the continued success of the Library Services' multilingual programmes offered in English, Afrikaans and isiXhosa. These include public speaking, book reviews, debates, reading and spelling competitions, which aim to inspire a lifelong love of learning.

This year's ceremony honoured outstanding participants and winners from the following schools:

- Chris Nissen Primary School
- Thembelitsha Primary School
- Concordia Primary School
- Brackenhill Primary School
- Hornlee Primary School
- Rheenendal Primary School
- Sedgelyield Primary School
- KwaNokuthula Primary School
- Phakamisani Primary School
- Concordia High School
- Percy Mdala High School
- Knysna Secondary School

Now in its tenth year, the programme continues to demonstrate the power of libraries in shaping confident, articulate young citizens. Each competition entry and performance reflects not only the learners' commitment but also the dedication of the teachers, parents and library staff who nurture their growth.

We extend our sincere appreciation to the Library Services team for another well-organised and inspiring event. Their continued efforts to promote literacy and learning ensure that every child in Knysna has the opportunity to read, learn and shine.

WHATSAPP CHANNEL

You can now follow the Knysna Municipality WhatsApp channel for important news, updates and other information.

[FIND US HERE](#)



POP-UP MARKET CELEBRATES LOCAL CREATIVITY



Knysna Mall recently hosted a Pop-Up Market featuring talented and creative local entrepreneurs.

The vibrant mix of products and services including **adventure tours, authentic African accessories, elegant interior décor, original art, premium newborn clothing, gourmet treats, contemporary fashion** and **wellness solutions** were showcased from 24 to 26 October. Each exhibit reflected the passion and innovation of Knysna's dynamic small business community.

The market was made possible through our successful collaboration with the Small Enterprise Development and Finance Agency and Knysna Mall, working together to promote local economic development and create a platform for small businesses to thrive.

Visitors enjoyed discovering unique local brands and connecting with the stories behind them — stories of creativity, determination and community pride.

We thank all partners, participants and residents who supported the initiative. By buying local, our community helps to grow local businesses and strengthen Greater Knysna's local economy.



DOWNLOAD THE COLLAB APP FOR EASY, EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION

Remember to download the Collaborator Citizen Application (Collab App) and to subscribe to the Knysna Municipality channel.



ON THE STAFF FRONT

NEW TO THE TEAM

We are filling various vacant positions within our organisation as part of our ongoing commitment to improve on service delivery. By appointing qualified, knowledgeable and experienced candidates, we aim to ensure efficient and effective services for our residents. We are pleased to introduce the following individual, who has recently joined our team:

**Linda Mbotho Senior Manager:
Electrical & Mechanical Services**



MUNICIPAL STAFF GRADUATE IN WATER AND WASTEWATER TRAINING

Eighteen employees have successfully completed advanced training in Water and Wastewater Management, marking a significant milestone in their professional development.

They began their studies at NQF Level 2 and have now progressed to NQF Level 4, a supervisory qualification that equips them with the skills needed to oversee and manage essential water and sanitation operations.

The graduation formed part of a broader initiative rolled out by the Garden Route District Municipality (GRDM) through the Garden Route Skills Mecca. In collaboration with the region's local municipalities, GRDM secured grant funding from the Local Government Sector Education and Training Authority to implement the Water and Wastewater Training Programme across the district.

A total of 69 employed learners from municipalities within the Garden Route District, including our own 18 graduates, participated in the 12-month programme. The initiative recognises their dedication and hard work in building technical expertise, enhancing service delivery and supporting sustainable water management in local communities.

We commend our employees for their perseverance and commitment to continuous learning. Their success strengthens our capacity to deliver high-quality services and contributes to the long-term sustainability of our water and wastewater systems.

