



Knysna

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MEDIA RELEASE

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Knysna municipal traffic warden victim of road rage

Knysna Municipality strongly condemns the attack on Traffic Warden Ernest Nqoko, affectionately known to residents as “Smiley,” who was injured in a road rage incident yesterday afternoon 21 April.

Mr. Nqoko was struck by a vehicle while managing peak-hour traffic at the George Rex intersection. An altercation between Mr. Nqoko and the driver of the vehicle followed the incident. The situation caused significant traffic disruption and distress among commuters.

Executive Mayor Thando Matika has denounced the incident in the strongest terms, stating that such thuggery will not be tolerated. “Our municipal staff serve the community with dedication and professionalism. They cannot and will not be subjected to abuse or violence while performing their duties,” he said.

“Anyone who travels along the N2 would have witnessed Mr Nqoko’s passion, infectious energy and ever-present smile over the years. He is truly one of our very best. The fact that this is the fifth time he has been struck is both devastating and traumatic for him. No one should have to endure such repeated harm,” said Matika.

A case has been opened with the South African Police Service and investigations are underway.

“We call on all road users to exercise patience, respect and restraint, particularly during high-traffic periods. Our roads must be spaces of shared responsibility, where every life is valued and protected,” Matika concluded. “The safety and dignity of frontline workers must remain a priority for all. Anyone with information regarding this incident are urged to contact the Knysna SAPS station.”

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 communications@knysna.gov.za