

Knysna Municipality appoints Acting Chief Financial Officer

Knysna Executive Mayor, Cllr Thando Matika, confirmed the appointment of Ms Busisiwe Lubelwana as the Acting Chief Financial Officer (CFO) for the Municipality, for a period of three months, with effect from 13 July 2026.

He said the appointment follows the retirement of the Municipality's former Chief Financial Officer, Clifford Julies. "It is crucial to ensure continuity in the Municipality's financial administration while the process to appoint a permanent CFO is undertaken."

"She is an experienced finance executive with an extensive track record in local government financial management and has served in senior leadership positions, including as a Municipal Chief Financial Officer. Her qualifications, expertise and understanding of the local government legislative environment position her well to provide stability and leadership during this interim period."

Matika said the acting appointment was made in accordance with the applicable legislative and policy framework governing municipal acting appointments. "As the appointment is for a period of three months, there is no legislative requirement to obtain concurrence from the Provincial Minister before it takes effect. Council evaluated Ms Lubelwana's qualifications, experience in municipal financial management, leadership competencies and knowledge of the regulatory framework applicable to local government and is satisfied that she has the necessary skills and experience to fulfil the responsibilities of Acting Chief Financial Officer."

"We are aware that allegations have appeared in the public domain. However, allegations do not constitute findings of misconduct or guilt. The Municipality remains guided by the principles of due process, fairness and the rule of law, and does not make decisions based on untested allegations or speculation."

At the time of the appointment, the Municipality was not aware of any findings of misconduct, disciplinary sanctions, or criminal convictions that would have disqualified Ms Lubelwana from serving in an acting capacity. Should any verified information emerge that is relevant to her appointment, the Municipality will deal with such matters in accordance with the applicable legislative and regulatory framework."

He reiterated that Council remains committed to sound governance, transparency and responsible financial management. "We are confident that Ms Lubelwana's experience and leadership will contribute to maintaining financial stability and supporting the Municipality during this transitional period while the recruitment process for a permanent Chief Financial Officer is concluded."

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