



Knysna

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MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: Immediate

DATE: Wednesday 27 October 2026

Municipality addresses councillor protection and urges discretion to ensure safety

Knysna's Acting Municipal Manager, Dr Richard Martin, addressed the circumstances surrounding the safety and security arrangements for councillors following public commentary on the matter.

"Council resolved to provide personal protection for councillors following the fatal shooting of former Knysna Executive Mayor Aubrey Tsengwa on 19 August, and former Ward 7 Councillor Mandla Matiwane on 20 August 2026," he explained. "The municipality has written to the Acting National Minister of Police, Mr Firoz Cachalia, and requested the threat assessments be undertaken for the affected councillors. This will allow us to reevaluate the situation and inform any necessary further action."

Council at its meeting of 22 October 2026 authorised Dr Martin to address the matter administratively until a formal response has been received from the Police. In the interim, the arrangements have been scaled down in terms of personnel, reducing the cost to the municipality.

The municipality reiterates that discussions held in committee, and not subsequently declassified by Council, must be treated with the appropriate confidentiality. Public disclosure of sensitive security arrangements may inadvertently expose individuals to additional risks. All public representatives are therefore urged to exercise discretion when commenting on matters that could compromise personal safety.

"While emphasising the importance of transparency and accountability, sensitive security information must be handled responsibly to protect the individuals concerned," Martin concluded. "We will continue engaging with SAPS and the relevant authorities to ensure that appropriate, cost-effective decisions can be made regarding the safety and security of members of Council and the administration."

Knysna Municipality will continue engaging with SAPS and the relevant authorities to ensure that the outstanding concerns are addressed and that appropriate decisions can be made regarding the safety and security of councillors.

ENDS

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