Knysna
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New municipal peace officers graduate

Knysna Municipality celebrated the graduation of a new group of Municipal Peace Officers on Wednesday 11 November, following the successful completion of a six-week Law Enforcement for Peace Officer training programme. The programme equipped officials from various municipal departments with the knowledge and skills required to enforce municipal by-laws and fulfil their responsibilities in accordance with the Constitution and applicable legislation.

Held at the Safe Hub Sports and Training Facilities under the theme “Discipline, Integrity and Service to Broader Knysna”, the graduation parade symbolised an important investment in strengthening the municipality’s law enforcement capacity and commitment to public safety.

Acting Municipal Manager Dr Richard Martin congratulated the graduates, emphasising that their newly acquired authority came with significant responsibility. “The authority you have acquired is not a privilege to be exercised over our communities, but a responsibility to be exercised in service of our communities. Our residents must experience municipal law enforcement as a source of protection and justice, not intimidation,” he said.

Martin stressed that professionalism, integrity and fairness must guide every enforcement action, adding that the true measure of effective law enforcement was not the number of arrests, but the fairness, legality and effectiveness of its actions.

Speaking on behalf of the graduates, Senior Town Planner Shaun Madumbo reflected on the six-week journey, highlighting how discipline, determination and perseverance had brought officials from different departments and backgrounds together as a cohesive unit.

“We worked towards a common goal of becoming competent Peace Officers who would serve the interests of greater Knysna residents and, most importantly, uphold the Constitution, the laws of the country and the Municipality’s by-laws,” he said.

Madumbo also paid tribute to training facilitator Mr Iegshaan Dyson from the Public Safety Training Academy of the City of Cape Town for his commitment, expertise and guidance throughout the programme, particularly in instilling discipline, teamwork and a deeper understanding of the responsibilities of law enforcement officers.

The ceremony included the presentation of certificates, the taking of the oath of service and a final march-past and drill display by the graduates.

Congratulating the officers, Martin reminded them that completing the training was only the beginning of their professional responsibility. “The certificate you receive today confirms your training. Your conduct from tomorrow will determine your credibility,” he concluded.

Knysna Municipality congratulates all the graduates and looks forward to their contribution towards safer communities, improved by-law compliance and professional, accountable municipal law enforcement.

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