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To the Honourable Members of the Knysna Municipality

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

URGENT PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN

With a heavy heart filled with concern for the well-being of our beloved community, we bring to your attention an urgent matter that demands immediate action. The possibility of diarrhoeal disease outbreaks looms ominously over Knysna, a threat stemming from the intermingling challenges of inadequate water supply, poor sanitation practices, and lacklustre hygiene standards. There have been multiple examples over the last few years, in parts of South Africa, where water supply and sanitation concerns have led to outbreaks of potentially fatal diseases such as Cholera. The current state of affairs in terms of water and waste management in Knysna will inevitably lead to such an outbreak.

The lack and mismanagement of our precious environmental resources has inadvertently led to the contamination of waters flowing into the Knysna Lagoon, a vital source of sustenance for many subsistence fishermen who rely on its abundance. It is within these brackish rivers and coastal waters that infectious micro-organisms will find a hospitable environment in which to thrive, potentially leading to widespread infections.

In light of these precarious circumstances, we implore the Municipality to take immediate and decisive measures to prevent the outbreak of any disease or cholera within our community. To this end, we offer the following comprehensive guidelines for consideration and implementation:

1. Ensure a continuous and adequate water supply to all residents, free from pollution and contamination.
2. Enhance sanitation facilities throughout Knysna, paying special attention to areas with high population density and vulnerability.
3. Launch an extensive public awareness campaign focused on promoting proper hygiene practices, with a particular emphasis on safe food handling and water usage.
4. Conduct and increase the frequency of monitoring and testing of water quality in the Knysna area including the Knysna Lagoon and even more widely spread locations to daily. Identifying sources of pollution and implementing measures to mitigate their impact. of testing, and act on them.
5. Collaborate closely with local fishermen and community leaders to educate them on the risks of cholera and provide guidance on preventive measures to safeguard their health and that of their families.
6. Waste Management: Implement a waste management system that includes waste segregation, recycling programs, and public awareness campaigns. Invest in infrastructure for efficient collection, recycling, and disposal of waste to promote a cleaner and healthier environment.
7. Water and Electricity Provision: Develop sustainable water and energy management solutions to ensure reliable access to clean water and electricity for all residents. Invest in renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, as well as water conservation and harvesting techniques.

8. Environmental Care: Implement conservation programs to protect and preserve Knysna's natural beauty and biodiversity. Create green spaces, urban gardens, and sustainable landscaping practices to enhance environmental quality and promote eco-tourism.

9. Crime, Safety, and Security: Collaborate with local law enforcement agencies to improve community policing, crime prevention, and safety initiatives. Invest in street lighting, surveillance systems, and neighbourhood watch programs to enhance public safety and security.

It is our collective responsibility to act swiftly and decisively in the face of this looming threat, for the health and safety of every resident of Knysna are at stake. Let us join hands in unity and determination as we strive to protect our community from preventable infectious diseases, ensuring a brighter and healthier future for generations to come.

With profound concern and unwavering determination,



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