

19 February 2024

GREATER KNYSNA BUSINESS CHAMBER TRAVEL ADVISORY

The Greater Knysna Business Chamber is aware of the many media reports and protest actions exposing serious municipal services delivery issues facing Knysna at this moment,

The Chamber would like to assure visitors that the town is nevertheless functioning and safe to visit.

Local residents are familiar with the many tourist attractions in the Greater Knysna Municipal district, and the Chamber represents many of the interests of businesses and individuals in Knysna who do business in the region.

“We encourage people, foreign and local, planning to visit Knysna, to do so. We are open for business and will make your stay an enjoyable one that will deliver lasting memories that will encourage you to return,” said chairman of the Chamber, Jan van der Westhuizen.

The members of the Chamber, like fellow South Africans across the country, display incredible strength under adversity – so life goes on, relatively well, for most. The town may have its problems, but the residents and business owners help each other in times of need.

Knysna is not unique in experiencing service delivery problems, but individual citizens and businesses are and continue to be resourceful, while looking to civic organisations for leadership of community initiatives.

“While the Chamber executive is working with the municipality to build relationships, we expect progress in resolving the issues with positive results. We will not stand by whilst there is suffering, and while I don't want to go against the municipality, we certainly cannot accept poor service delivery,” said Mr van der Westhuizen.

“As we are located in the Western Cape province, we need to align with the Government of the day, which is working towards the same results. In this respect, the Chamber has spoken with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and did request the Western Cape Government to intervene in municipal affairs October of last year.”

In spite of the problems, Knysna always strives to protect the safety of visitors and residents while providing beautiful accommodation, breathtaking sight-seeing opportunities, adventure and leisure activities, cultural and wellness experiences, and exceptional culinary delights.

The town will showcase its attractions at various upcoming events including the Knysna Speed Festival, South Africa's premier domestic motorsport lifestyle event in Simola started in 2009 with the first running of the Simola Hillclimb. and the Knysna Oyster Festival, planning for which is well underway.

In terms of safety, our active community policing forum and neighbourhood watches work tirelessly to identify crime trends, and work together with the police to combat crime; with residents associations placing security cameras throughout the town to further strengthen and readiness to react should a security risk arise. Recognition for this came in the form of Knysna being awarded best Community Police forum (CPF) in 2018 and 2019, and the Knysna Police Station receiving the Best Station in the Western Cape award in the Colonel Station category.

Furthermore, the SAPS festive season report demonstrated a lower crime rate over this December/January period, evidence in itself of the success of the anti-crime initiatives put in place by the various communities and resident's associations in town.

The Knysna Business Chamber through its various sub-committees is working closely with the municipality on many fronts from our waste-to-energy project to property development and water security.

Accommodation establishments usually have backup power systems in place and bottled water facilities abound around town, so no visitor will go thirsty.

A visit to Knysna is one you won't regret, and we call on all of Knysna to join us in realising our visitors' great experiences and in making the Knysna region your vacation destination of choice..

ends