

Provincial Department of Planning, Local Government and Housing

POSITION PAPER: KARATARA – THE FUTURE IS NOW

RESOLUTIONS

APRIL 2002

This document reflects the resolutions of the Steering Committee as agreed to on 19 February 2002 and is based on the eleven Resolutions set out in the Position Paper.

Resolution 1:

Knysna Municipality should take the lead in co-ordinating all aspects of the development and regularisation of Karatara. In terms of Section 16 D (2) of the Establishment Notices the District Municipality will have to continue providing water, health, electrical and sewerage services to the same extent that they were delivered before 5 December 2000.

Resolution 2:

The number of Departments involved needs to be rationalised to facilitate proper co-ordination. A single provincial Department should be allocated responsibility to act as liaison between all national and provincial Departments as well as the District Municipality and the Knysna Municipality on Karatara matters.

Resolution 3:

Ownership of all state land should be consolidated in the Knysna Municipality so as to facilitate planning, service provision and ultimately transfer.

Resolution 4:

Knysna Municipality should be contracted by agreement to collect rental and services charges on behalf of the Provincial Government (Property Management) in the Welsynsdorp as part of the regularisation and incorporation of the area into the municipal administrative and billing system.

Resolution 5:

The administration and billing of the Bosbou village should be taken over by Knysna Municipality in terms of an agreement with the national Department of Public Works.

Resolution 6:

Knysna Municipality needs to be the single access authority through which residents pay and receives bills and relates any issue and concern, irrespective of the services authority actually rendering the service or the authority on whose behalf services are rendered. The complexity of the current situation should be addressed in a multi-lateral agreement between Knysna Municipality and responsible authorities and should not be transferred to residents, as is currently the case. Knysna Municipality should be compensated for rendering such a comprehensive administrative service by all the authorities on an agreed joint funding arrangement, until such time as the land and assets are transferred.

Resolution 7:

Tariffs in the whole of Karatara must, by law, be aligned with the tariff structure of the new Knysna Municipality, as well as the tariff structure of the District Municipality for services affected by section 84(3) Authorisations. It is recommended that tariffs be aligned from 1 July 2003. Residents should qualify for the normal indigent support package in terms of the Equitable Share Grant. Any shortfalls should, by agreement, be met by the responsible Departments for at least the MTEF period. Any phasing out of finance for shortfalls must be mutually agreed between the parties. It follows that residents in Karatara should qualify for free water and electricity as part of the normal municipal tariff structure.

Resolution 8:

All residents in Karatara should become liable to pay a household service charge in lieu of rates with immediate effect. This service charge must relate to service charges in the rest of the new Knysna Municipality to ensure horizontal equity. Any shortfalls collected from rentals and services charges should be covered by the current Departmental operating subsidies for the foreseeable future.

Resolution 9:

The cost of infrastructure provision in Karatara must be compared to the cost of providing the same infrastructure within the new Knysna Municipality where the bulk infrastructure capacity is better suited to urban development. It is neither equitable nor sustainable to provide services on demand in Karatara. It is critically important to ensure that the whole of the new Knysna Municipality assess future urban development within a regional perspective and to change the provision of land and housing opportunities according to a sustainable supply paradigm. The sustainability of the new Knysna Municipality will be determined by limiting the operating expenditure of services provision.

Resolution 10:

The integrated development of Karatara will be premised on the integration of residents' structures into a single body. The current divisive structures must be replaced by a new integrated structure with a fresh mandate from stakeholders. In small towns community representation are often driven by strong personalities that strongly protect their area of influence. Yet, such individuals often operate with undefined mandates and without clear reporting mechanisms to their constituencies. The Ward Councillor and other identified politicians will have to play a leading role in uniting the factions into a single structure with clear terms of reference.

Resolution 11:

It is recommended that all municipal services in Karatara be transferred to Knysna Municipality; with the exception of services in terms of 84(1) of the Municipal Structures Amendment Act that should by law be provided by the District Municipality. Knysna Municipality and the Garden Route/Klein Karoo District Municipality should thus become the successors of any services agreements or contracts between the previous district council and the relevant Departments. Also, all staff, equipment, plant, records and stock associated with services in Karatara should be transferred to the relevant authority from 1 July 2001, effective from 5 December 2000 as part of the municipal Establishment Notices for this area.