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## Municipality Cooperates with Parliamentary Committee

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KNYSNA - Knysna Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans and Municipal Manager Grant Easton made representations before Parliament's Select Committee on Petitions and Executive Undertakings on allegations of maladministration, fraud and financial irregularities on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

The committee, however, reiterated their dismay at the municipality's initial failure to appear when first invited and the reasons given for non-attendance. The committee requested that Knysna Municipality publicly atone.

"In retrospect we could have acted differently," says Mayor Wolmarans, "It was never our intention to disrespect the wishes of Parliament by declining the invitation. We were concerned that attendance alongside the petitioner would be construed as a waste of our resources and reinforce the view that there may have been some validity to the allegations.

"We are sorry if this was interpreted differently and apologise for any possible offense caused.

"Furthermore, we appreciate the way the chairman of the Select Committee handled the situation by allowing us another chance to make our representations before the committee in the spirit of cooperative governance. This gave us the opportunity to adequately prepare and address the honourable members.

"We respect the spheres of government and hold dear the principles of accountability, responsibility and transparency in serving the public. The Select Committee is a vital organ of state safeguarding these principles. The committee is often the last port of call for concerned citizens."

"After the conclusion of the inquiry, we left on amicable terms with the committee in the spirit of mutual respect and future cooperation. We extended a standing invitation for them to visit our beautiful town.

"During our representations before the committee, we submitted a comprehensive file of more than 600 pages containing our written submission on the facts of the matter accompanied by supporting documents offering substantial proof negating the allegations, yet again.

"The Select Committee still has to reach a resolution, but we are confident of a favourable outcome as we have nothing to hide."

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