

MANIFESTO

KNYSNA INDEPENDENT MOVEMENT – 2026 GENERAL ELECTION

What does KIM want to achieve?

The primary cause of the collapse of service delivery in Knysna is corruption. Resources that are required for service delivery, end up in the pockets of corrupt officials, politicians and their cronies. KIM wants to clean up the municipality so that the lives of everyone in Knysna can be improved. This means rooting out corruption, directing resources to service delivery, looking after our town's assets and stimulating the economy.

How will KIM achieve this?

Fight Corruption

KIM will continue the fight against corruption, and welcomes the current investigations by the SIU and Hawks into the security contract and the arrest of two Senior Managers and a previous Mayor. The investigations into the security contracts were initiated by a KIM councillor and there are more investigations underway. KIM has initiated ongoing investigations by the Disciplinary Board and the disciplinary action against a Senior Manager for Financial Misconduct. Under KIM's leadership MPAC has ensured that a contractor, who obtained a contract through fraud, has to pay back the money. KIM will ensure that the fight against corruption is escalated and that offending officials, politicians and contractors are brought to justice and held accountable.

Ensure Strict Financial Control

KIM will implement strict financial controls and cultivate a culture of trusteeship over public money. Strict contract management will be implemented to ensure that suppliers and contractors provide quality products and services. KIM will ensure that spending on office space and vehicle rentals is curtailed, by utilising municipal buildings to accommodate staff, and ensuring that the municipal fleet is adequately resourced and maintained. Under KIM's leadership, only irrecoverable unauthorised, irregular and fruitless and wasteful expenditure, will be recommended for write off. KIM will ensure that the Internal Audit Department is capacitated to assist MPAC with investigations into, and the recovery of, unauthorised, irregular and fruitless expenditure from those officials, politicians or service providers, responsible for such expenditure.

Fair and Lawful Rates and Service Charges

KIM will ensure that ratepayers are treated fairly and that only lawful rates are levied and that disparate rates are adjusted. Property valuations will be equitable and property categorisations consistent for the duration of the valuation roll, unless the use changes. Owners of agricultural use properties will be rated according to the regulated tariff for the duration of the valuation roll and the categorisation will not change unless the use of the property changes. Residents will receive value for money service charges. KIM acknowledges the invaluable contributions by civil society groups to deliver and maintain

municipal infrastructure and will support a rates policy where rates incentives, in the form of rebates, are given to ratepayers who contribute to approved infrastructure projects.

Deliver Quality Services

KIM will deliver quality services by lobbying for infrastructure budget increases so that aging water and sewerage systems can be replaced, roads can be resurfaced, informal areas can be electrified and maintenance is done on time. KIM's policy, to have a water tank installed for each household within the next five years, will be prioritised, so as to eliminate the need for water trucks and ensure that rainwater is harvested from every roof. In addition, KIM will continue to support special rating area initiatives to accelerate service upgrades. KIM will assess the staff capacity in service delivery departments to oversee the work done by contractors and will lobby for the appointment of competent officials. Finally, KIM will be supporting a service delivery model that has dedicated teams in each area, to deal promptly with routine maintenance and fix breakages.

Curtail Escalating Debt

KIM will oppose the escalating trend towards the write-off of municipal debt, except for exceptional cases, where it is justified.

Protect the Environment

KIM will protect the environment by lobbying for budgeted funding to ensure that people and nature can live in harmony. This includes provision for the eradication of alien vegetation on municipal properties and developing policies to incentivise land owners to clear their own properties. It also includes finding ways to address animal issues such as the problems of baboons and stray livestock. KIM will ensure that the Municipality enters into long term agency agreements and provide support to non-profit organisations such as Knysna Animal Welfare and Pledge and Steenbok Park Nature Reserves. Finally, KIM will work hard to achieve environmental justice, combat sources of air pollution, and ensure that the green waste site at Old Place, which is a significant health hazard, is closed down and replaced with a viable site.

Govern Accountably

KIM will govern accountably by putting the needs of Knysna's people first and ensuring that decisions are made in a transparent manner. KIM commits itself to reading all Council agendas and engaging with constituents on issues before taking decisions. KIM will request an audit of the housing beneficiary lists and focus on the verification of these lists with the provincial department, so that we can ensure that housing projects submitted cater for those who have been waiting the longest. KIM will ensure that competent, qualified members are appointed to all administrative oversight and decision-making structures. Finally, KIM will ensure that qualified members are appointed to the Planning Tribunal and lobby to amend the Planning Bylaw to appoint an independent appeal authority for town planning appeals.

Stimulate the Economy

KIM will stimulate the economy and investor confidence through its efforts aimed at quality service delivery, the protection of our environmental assets and the exercise of accountable

governance. Expansion of infrastructure and maintenance projects will increase contract opportunities for small businesses which, in turn, will create jobs. Infrastructure upgrades will also enable CBD revitalisation, through incentivised affordable housing developments, so that people are able to live closer to where they work or do business. Policies to mandate alien vegetation clearing will stimulate contractor jobs as well as provide entrepreneurial opportunities with alien invaders.

Prioritise Community Safety

KIM will work with civil society to improve the safety of all our neighbourhoods through the provision of good lighting and security cameras. Visible law enforcement officers will take immediate action against reckless and negligent drivers.

Sport, Recreation and Social Amenities

KIM will focus on well-maintained sport and recreational areas and safe parks for our children to play. Accessible libraries must be equipped to provide assistance with school projects and provide access to the internet for disadvantaged communities. The Annual Budget must provide adequate funding to the Youth Desk, to assist deserving young people who have been elected to compete in sports or cultural events.

Fire Safety

Kim will accept the findings of the CSIR report into the cause of the 2017 wildfires and implement measures to prevent the uncontrolled spread of fires.

Benefit from the Knowledge and Expertise of Residents and Community Partnerships

KIM acknowledges the need for partnerships with civil society groups, who assist with service delivery challenges. We support and promote the creation of platforms for skilled and experienced citizens to share their knowledge and act as mentors to members of the administration and political office bearers, to help restore Knysna to a clean, caring and desirable town that works.