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Kouga Municipality tightens regulations on events

Strict deadlines for the holding of public events in Kouga has drawn criticism from some business and regular event holders.

This follows the announcement that Kouga Municipality has developed a Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) document as a guide to all events organisers and stakeholders. There are now tight deadlines to be made well in advance, which all event holders need to adhere to (see some at end of this article).

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businesses can make money.

These new SOPs also come in the wake of high criticism about noise levels at some of the festive season events., particularly in St Francis at the end of last year.

The municipality says the SOPs do not replace the Safety at Sports and Recreational Events Act of 2010, but reinforce it by creating a uniform approach to the organising of events in Kouga. SOPs will be advertised in local newspapers and on municipal websites to ensure everyone has access to them as these must be strictly adhered to. No indication has been given when the notices will be sent out to enable all businesses and residents to read the notifications in good time and action in time.

Executive Mayor, Elza van Lingen, maintains that although most events were meant to create a fun environment, there

were often risks attached and the relevant government units need to be prepared for any eventuality and advise event organisers on requirements needed to be met before an event is approved.

A formal application to stage an event must be made with the municipality, she said, adding that depending on the size, type, location, date, time, length and venue, an impact or risk assessment may also have to be made. Therefore enough time is needed between the application period and the day of the event.

All event applications must be submitted to the Department of Planning, Development and Tourism within timeframes as set out in the SOPs and no applications will be considered if timeframes are not met.

The department is located at the Shell Museum Complex in Da Gama Road and

for more information one can visit the department, call 042 200 2219 or send an email to Cassandra Camons at ccamons@kouga.gov.za.

Some of the conditions contained in the document include:

Size: Crowded size / No of participants:
Minimum time to submit an application to the municipality:

Small: 50-2000 , 40 working days (2 months)

Medium: 2001-5000, 80 working days (4 months)

Large: 5001-10 000, 90 working days (5 months)

Very Large: 10 001 and above, 8 months

Any Event which involves an application for a Liquor License: 40 working days

Any Event which involves and application for Temporary Land Use Departure: At least 3 months ahead of the planned event.



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