

### **NCOP Oversight visit - SECTION 139 (1) (c) – OUTCOME**

The Knysna Infrastructure Group acknowledges the NCOP's decision not to dissolve the Knysna Council.

While KIG remains a-political, we consider it important to issue an official statement to clarify our stance in light of recent social media discussions across various platforms and among a diverse audience.

The following needs to be clarified:

1. Since October 2024, KIG has clearly opposed a Section 139 (1)(c) intervention, believing it does not address Knysna's core issues. Instead, KIG has consistently advocated for a Section 139 (1)(b) intervention.

**Section 139(1)(b) serves as a crucial safeguard against municipal collapse, allowing for the direct assumption of executive powers (in other words the administrative function executed by the officials) to ensure essential services continue to be delivered, and the Administrator can be appointed for as long as it takes to restore such services.**

2. KIG submitted detailed proposals to Minister Bredell and requested meetings twice. Both of these offers were disregarded. (Copy of our submission is available on <https://www.kisg.org.za/>)
3. Allegations that those who were opposed to the Section 139 (1) (c) such as "GKBC, Afriforum and KIG, together with smaller (some unknown groups) "lost the plot" and "did not understand that a Section 139 (1) (b) was not on the table", must be disregarded with the contempt they deserve. The KIG respectfully rejects any efforts to marginalise the perspectives of groups referred to as "smaller or lesser known"; these groups represent a significant portion of the Knysna community and, as residents, are entitled to an equal voice. It is well

understood that a Section 139 (1) (b) was not under consideration. **However, we reiterated our initial submissions, which again – were disregarded.**

4. The Minister dismissed all submissions and attempted to proceed with the placement under administration in terms of Section 139 (1) (c), there for rejecting the public input. As a result, the PEOPLE decided not to support this approach and indicated their preference for a program that addresses the root cause.
5. The allocation of funding is not contingent upon a Section 139 (1) (c) intervention under the Constitution; however, the WCPG made it conditional prior to disbursing any funds. This requirement was further emphasized during discussions between the WCPG and the supplier of the 43 pumps, where administrative oversight was established as a prerequisite for any form of assistance.
6. The Knysna Infrastructure Group reaffirms its full commitment to serving the residents of Greater Knysna and will continue to collaborate with all stakeholders, including the Knysna Municipality, its Council, and Administration, to ensure effective service delivery for all.
7. Our priorities for remain:
  - a. Securing and improving the Knysna Estuary Health by limiting contamination
  - b. Water security for the Great Knysna
  - c. Securing Electrical network
  - d. Improvement of Road Works