



Bitou Municipality had the honour of hosting the Western Cape Minister of Cultural Affairs and Sport, Mr. Ricardo Mackenzie, yesterday 03 July 2025.

The primary purpose of the visit was to engage the Municipality on the adopted Libraries Bill, which aims to mandate municipalities to take full responsibility for managing public libraries.

The Bill also outlines a governance framework for the administration of libraries, while confirming that funding will continue to be provided by the Provincial Government.

The visit also provided an opportunity for the Municipality to lobby for the upgrading of sports facilities in Bitou Municipality.

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In her welcoming remarks, Bitou Executive Mayor, Cllr Jessica Kamkam, emphasised the Municipality's commitment to sports development. She also highlighted ongoing engagements with communities aimed at reforming local sports forums to strengthen collaboration between sports stakeholders and the Municipality.



Kurland Community Hall Reopens After Renovations

The Bitou Municipality is pleased to announce that the Kurland Community Hall is officially open and ready for use. The facility had been closed for the past three months to undergo much-needed maintenance and renovations, which temporarily disrupted community activities and events.

During this period, residents had to rely on alternative venues to host meetings, gatherings, and other important functions. The closure, while necessary, placed a strain on the community, highlighting just how vital this facility is to the social and civic life of Kurland.

Mr. Mziyanda James, Manager of Facilities and Beaches, explained that the hall had deteriorated to a point where it was no longer safe or suitable for public use. "The condition of the community hall was not good for use by the public. As a municipality that prioritizes the well-being of its people, we appointed a contractor to carry out the necessary upgrades to restore the hall to a functional and safe standard," he said.

The newly renovated hall was officially handed over to Bitou Municipality Executive Mayor and Ward Councillor for the area, Cllr Jessica Kamkam, on Friday, 11 July 2025. Mayor Kamkam expressed her joy and pride at the completion of the project.

"Community halls are essential facilities that serve as the heartbeat of our communities. They are places where people come together to celebrate, deliberate, and support one another. I am proud to see the Kurland Community Hall restored to a condition that reflects the dignity and spirit of our people," said Mayor Kamkam. The Bitou Municipality extends its gratitude to the community for their patience and understanding during the renovation period. We encourage all residents to make full use of the upgraded facility and to continue fostering a strong, united, and vibrant community.



Bitou Municipality enters into a strategic partnership with the Agricultural Research Council

The ARC is a premier science institution that focuses on conducting research, developing human capital, and fostering innovation to support and develop the agricultural sector. Deputy Executive Mayor Nokuzola Kolwapi hosted the institution on 30 June 2025 to formalize a working

partnership between the two institutions.

Bitou Municipality and the ARC will enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to formulate a framework of engagement. This MOU will also detail how they will develop small-scale farmers, will share knowledge and capacity-building especially unemployed graduates and youth.

This meeting was followed by a site visit to local small-scale farms to get soil samples the next day. This soil sampled will be tested and the results will inform what farming practices are suitable for each land parcel.

Speaking at the engagement, Cllr Nokuzola said: "I am excited about this engagement and will work to ensure that the partnership flourishes."

"I am passionate about farming and am very confident that we will see at least one small-scale farm develop into a commercial one," she concluded.



Bitou's all female Executive host a delegation from the University of Cape Town

Bitou Executive Mayor Jessica Kamkam, Deputy Executive Mayor Nokuzola Kolwapi, Council Speaker Mavis Busakwe, Councillors Annelise Olivier, and Nokuthula Seti proudly hosted a delegation from UCT, health care workers, and young people at the Council Chambers on 23 May 2025. This was part of the Healthy Futures South Africa program— an initiative of UCT's Mastercard Foundation-funded Africa Health Collaborative.

The programme works to transform Africa's primary healthcare systems through four key areas: Health Employment, Health Entrepreneurship, Health Ecosystems, and Networking, Collaboration and Learning. HFSA operates across three sites, with Knysna-Bitou being one of these key locations. The HFSA Knysna Learning Circle convened on May 23, 2025, at the Plettenberg Council Chambers, bringing together educators, healthcare workers, municipal representatives, and youth to explore collaborative approaches to community health and wellbeing. The session focused on breaking down departmental silos and positioning schools as community health hubs, with participants emphasizing the importance of engaging teachers in health identification and creating meaningful youth employment opportunities within health systems.

Dr. Zilla North's presentation on the Planet Youth Initiative revealed compelling data showing alcohol-related issues as a priority concern, with research demonstrating strong links between parental engagement, structured activities, and reduced risky behaviours among youth, while concerning statistics highlighted ongoing social disconnection challenges in the community.

Waste & Recycling Update – First Half of the Year

A summary of how Bitou is doing in terms of its Waste Management efforts:

Domestic Waste

- Over 6 months, we transported a total of 4,392.77 tonnes of domestic waste.
- Monthly average: 732.13 tonnes
- ⇒ Disposal cost: R1,591,724.21
- While there’s an overall downward trend, monthly volumes have fluctuated significantly.

Recycling

- Total recyclables collected: 514.14 tonnes over 6 months
- Monthly average: 85.69 tonnes
- A concerning decline from 134.25 tonnes in January to 63.73 tonnes in June — a 52.5% drop.

Let’s work together to reduce, reuse, and recycle more effectively. Every effort counts!

#bitouwaste



WEEKLY SCHEDULE SKIP TRUCK SKIP TRUCK CX60668				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Bossiesgif	Natures Valley	Bossiesgif	Natures Valley	Ganse Vallei
Qolweni	Kurland Village	Qolweni	Kurland Village	Bossiesgif
New Horizon	Ganse Vallei	New Horizon	Kranshoek & Harkerville	Qolweni
Kwanokuthula	Kranshoek & Harkerville	Kwanokuthula	Boplaas & Uplands	New Horizon
			Wittedrift	Kwanokuthula

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Home Affairs on hand to assist residents



Service Delivery engagement in Ward 3



Councillors and Officials dealing with the public on service delivery matters



Site visit in Ward 4



SAPS on hand to assist the public



Service delivery walkabout in Ward 3

Bitou Executive Mayors Service Delivery Outreach makes a turn in Wards 3 and 4.

Executive Mayor Hosts Successful Service Delivery Fridays in Ward 3 and Ward 4

Bitou Municipality is pleased to report the successful hosting of Service Delivery Fridays outreach sessions in Ward 3 and Ward 4 during the last week of June and the first week of July 2025. These sessions, led by Executive Mayor Cllr Jessica Kamkam, continue to serve as a vital platform for direct engagement between the municipality and the community.

The Service Delivery Fridays initiative brings councillors, municipal officials, and service delivery teams into the heart of communities, allowing residents to raise concerns, ask questions, and receive on-the-spot assistance. These sessions have proven to be both fruitful and beneficial, strengthening the relationship between the municipality and its residents.

Mayor Kamkam extended her heartfelt thanks to the leadership team who supported the outreach, including Deputy Mayor Cllr Thembela Mhlana, Cllr Claude Terblanche, Cllr Renicia Willemse, Cllr Annelise Olivier, and Speaker of Council Cllr Mavis Busakwe.

“These sessions are about listening, responding, and working together to improve the lives of our people. I am grateful to my colleagues and all stakeholders who made these engagements a success,” said Mayor Kamkam.

The municipality also acknowledges and appreciates the valuable contributions of SAPS, SASSA, and other key stakeholders who participated in the sessions and provided essential services and support to the community.

Bitou Municipality remains committed to transparent, responsive, and people-centered governance, and will continue to roll out Service Delivery Fridays across all wards in the coming months.

Weekly Schedule Street Cleaning				
Monday 19/5/2025	Tuesday 20/5/2025	Wednesday 21/5/2025	Thursday 22/5/2025	Friday 23/5/2025
New Horizon	Crags	Bossiesgif/Qolweni	Kranshoek	Kwanokuthula
Monday 26/5/2025	Tuesday 27/5/2025	Monday 28/5/2025	Wednesday 29/5/2025	Friday 30/5/2025
Pine Trees & TRC	Wittedrift	Kranshoek	Kwanokuthula	New Horizon

Please note that the team will concentrate their efforts on the entrances, the taxi rank, and the main taxi road

To be the best together