

**AGENDA of the
Portfolio Committee : Community Services
17 November 2020
(Also the agenda for the Mayoral Committee Meeting : 25 November 2020)**

**2.
COVID-19: EXEMPTION FROM PAYING LAUNCHING FEES AT THE KLEINBAAI
PUBLIC LAUNCHING SITE (PLS)**

5/5/1/5

F Myburgh

Senior Manager : Gansbaai Administration

27 October 2020

(028) 313-8029

1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is for the Council to consider the application from the exemption from paying launching fees at the Kleinbaai Public Launching Site (PLS), during level one of the national lockdown.

2. Service Delivery and Budget Implementation Plan - IGNITE

Directorate Finance - Department Financial Services

Directorate Community Services - Management of Public Boat Launching Site

3. Compliance with Strategic Priorities

Provision of democratic, accountable and ethical governance

Promotion of tourism, economic and social development

4. Delegated Authority

None

5. Legal Requirements

Local Government: Municipal Finance Management Act, Act 56 of 2003.

Customer Care, Credit Control & Debt Collection Policy, as amended.

6. Background/Discussion/Evaluation/Conclusion

Background

The international COVID-19 pandemic resulted in the decision by the South African Government to declare a national disaster in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002. The mentioned declaration by government was escalated through the announcement by the President on 23 March 2020 to a national lockdown in the country from midnight, 26 March 2020. The lockdown approach whereby citizens must stay home (except for certain exemptions), is regarded as government's fundamental task to contain the spreading of the corona virus. Since the mentioned announcement various Regulations were issued in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 to regulate and manage

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compliance with regard to the lockdown. The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs subsequent to the announcement of the lockdown issued a Regulation on 25 March 2020 followed by amendments to direct municipalities and provinces to respond to various matters to combat COVID-19.

Shark diving in Gansbaai is globally recognised as a valuable contributor to the local-, provincial- and national economic environment. The tourism industry is suffering severe losses in income during the global COVID-19 pandemic and could not even do business during alert levels 5, 4 and 3 (27 March 2020 until 16 August 2020). The majority of their staff were also retrenched due to the negative impact of the mentioned alert levels on their respective businesses.

Discussion

Although the precautionary measures were relaxed as the country moved to the alert level 1 on 15 August 2020, the flow of overseas visitors remain extremely low. The majority of clients of the shark diving industry are from overseas and currently only three (3) of the eight (8) operators are trading. The average launching statistics of these three operators amounts to 5 per month.

An application was received from the waiver of launching fees due to the severe decline in income experienced in the industry. Council recently (30 September 2020) considered a similar application and decided to exempt the operators from paying parking fees for the period 1 April 2020 to 31 August 2020.

The existing approved tariff structure S1J2B however only makes provision for a monthly launching fee of R3,619.00 (incl. VAT) and not for a tariff per launch. The recommendation is that the application for a waiver of payment of the launching fees should not be considered favourably. However consideration should be given to decrease the mentioned launching tariff with 50% to the amount of R1,810.00 (incl. VAT) for the duration of the current lockdown alert levels as per the COVID-19 Regulations issued in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002, for a maximum consideration for the current 2020/2021 financial year.

7. Financial Implications

Possible decrease in income (November 2020 – June 2021) amount to R101,304.00 (incl. VAT).

8. Staff Implications

None

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9. Comments from other Departments, Divisions and Administrations

None

10. Annexures

None

RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL:

that the reduction to the amount of R1,810.00 (incl. VAT) of the launching tariff with code S1J2B at the Kleinbaai PLS, for the duration of the lockdown alert levels as per the COVID-19 Regulations issued in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 for a maximum consideration for the 2020/2021 Financial Year, **be approved.**

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL :

F MYBURGH

TARGET DATE FOR IMPLEMENTATION :

1 DECEMBER 2020

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**THIS MATTER SERVED BEFORE THE JOINT PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON
17 NOVEMBER 2020, WHICH COMMITTEE RECOMMENDED AS FOLLOWS:**

RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL:

that the reduction to the amount of R1,810.00 (incl. VAT) of the launching tariff with code S1J2B at the Kleinbaai PLS, for the duration of the lockdown alert levels as per the COVID-19 Regulations issued in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 for a maximum consideration for the 2020/2021 Financial Year, **be approved.**

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