

Chamber intervenes to curb noise

MBOMBELA - The Kruger Lowveld Chamber of Business and Tourism (KLCBT) has stepped in to fight the continuing noise pollution in the city after residents failed to have their complaints addressed.

The KLCBT's chief operating officer, Linda Grimbeek, said the noise last weekend, May 27 to 29, was worse than ever. That gave residents the opportunity to test the City of Mbombela's (CoM) 24-hour dedicated number (013 753 3331) that deals with noise pollution.

"We are aware of a number of complaints last weekend whereby people called the given number but were told to call the police. Residents were forced to deal with the noise until 04:00 in the morning and the number was not useful to the residents. We had a discussion with the CoM general manager for public safety, Lukie Sihlangu, who initiated disciplinary action against officials, as well as investigations into the noise complaints that were received last weekend," Grimbeek said.

'People are encouraged to contact the KLCBT when they are not assisted with noise complaints'

Grimbeek also said residents who failed to obtain assistance from CoM concerning the loud music at night can now report it to the KLCBT via email (linda@klcibt.co.za).

The KLCBT will ensure the matter is properly addressed with the municipality.

"People are encouraged to contact the KLCBT when they are not assisted with noise complaints, with reference numbers received when they made their complaints to the municipality. Residents should call when the noise is actually happening, not the next day. The by-law enforcement team will go and investigate. If the noise is repeated, call again and insist on getting a reference number after each call and the name of the official spoken to," she said.

The spokesperson for CoM, Joseph Ngala, said that people should make use of the dedicated 24-hour line to report complaints and they would be dealt with accordingly.

"The City by-laws state that no loud noise is permitted on any day from 22:00 until 06:00. We expect all people to adhere to that or they will be fined. I must emphasise that the City is working around the clock to curb the noise pollution," he said.