

# George Municipality's fire stations display four locally manufactured fire fighting vehicles

Junior fire fighter Denmark King and fire fighter Brad Bussack with (middle) Santa Sternsdorf, Johan Brand, newly appointed divisional commander for George Fire and Rescue Services, Sivuyile Mtila, senior manager of Environmental Services, Councillor Charlotte Clarke, Brandon Woolley of Ramcom Trucks, Alderman Leon van Wyk and CFO Cornelius Barnard, (right) fire fighter Moses Mongo, junior fire fighter Simpiwhe Sikhosana, junior fire fighter Heinrich Pienaar



The George Municipality recently took delivery of new additions to its fleet including a refurbished Scania major pumper, a Toyota Land Cruiser with a skid unit, a rescue vehicle also built on a Toyota Land Cruiser chassis and a Polaris 4x4 vehicle with trailer. The Scania major pumper refurbishment,

skid unit and the rescue vehicle was built by local manufacture, Ramcom Trucks based on the Garden Route.

The Municipality is proud to show off the new additions to its fire fighting fleet and the Executive Mayor of George, Alderman Leon van Wyk, accompanied by the portfolio

councillor for Community Safety, Councillor Charlotte Clarke, received the fleet in a special handover event that took place at the George Fire Station on Tuesday, 16 May 2023.

Also present at the official handover of the vehicles were senior manager of Environmental Services Sivuyile Mtila, who represented the Community Services' directorship, the manager for George Municipal Fire and Rescue/ Disaster Management, CFO Cornelius Barnard, the station commander Training, Santa Sternsdorf and the newly appointed divisional commander for George Fire and Rescue Services, Johan Brand.

"I am delighted to be receiving these vehicles that have been specifically manufactured for us by a local manufacturer," said Mayor van Wyk, as he received the vehicles from a local business owner, Brandon



CFO Cornelius Barnard, Brandon Woolley, Executive Mayor Leon van Wyk and Councillor Charlotte Clarke



## Manufacturers of Fire Fighting Vehicles

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## New equipment



*The new Toyota Land Cruiser skid unit fitted with state-of-the-art polypropylene unit as well as the new rescue vehicle*

- ▶ Woolley. "We are extremely proud to take ownership and start using these vehicles," said Cornelius Barnard, manager for Fire and Rescue/Disaster Management. Handing over the vehicles to the George Municipality, Woolley, the director and owner of Ramcom Trucks, a George-based company, said, "We are privileged to be able to build these vehicles for the George Municipality Fire Services out of a new material called polypropylene,

which is very durable, lightweight and I think for the fire department it will be a good addition to their fleet. We are very proud of the vehicles we've manufactured and we are glad that we can serve and make a difference in the community with our products.

At the George Fire Station, Santa Sternsdorf, the station commander Training, described each of the four new additions in the George Municipality's fleet.

"Engine 1, built on a Scania chassis, is our major pumper, a vehicle for structural fire fighting, which was completely rebuilt after an accident; we're very proud to welcome her back to the fleet. Then we have one of our new vehicles a Toyota Land Cruiser V8 with a skid unit fitted with a state-of-the-art polypropylene unit that allows us to increase the water carrying capacity to a 600-litre tank to join the fleet." The skid unit is fitted with a Davey twin wide medium pressure pump.

"Next, we have the Toyota Land Cruiser V8 rescue vehicle, again state-of-the-art polypropylene canopy that now is being introduced as part of the rebuild for the vehicle where we gain weight advantage but we have a vehicle fit-for-purpose for rescue, with the Jaws of Life and all the needed equipment that we need for mass rescues", said Sternsdorf.

"Finally, the Polaris 4x4 vehicle allows us to diversify rescue and fire fighting overall; a good off-road vehicle to add to the fleet of George Municipality," Sternsdorf added.

**Photos by Deidré Cloete** ▲

*George Municipality is proud to show off the new additions to its fire fighting fleet*

