



DECUS NOSTRUM





6 Final Council Meeting Recognizes Service Excellence

Certificate Handover Ceremony Celebrates Long Service and Exceptional Achievements

7 Another Clean Audit For ODM

ODM receives 6th consecutive clean audit for the 2024/2025 financial year

FESTIVE SEASON OUTREACH: ODM CARES FOR ALL

8 Elim Home Outreach – Festive Hand-Over Ceremony

ODM spreads festive cheer to the Elim Home Outreach learners

9 Festive Outreach to the Elderly – Ons Huis Old Age Home

ODM staff come together to honour and uplift elderly residents by sponsoring a Christmas meal

10 Working Together for Water-Resilient Towns

Collaborative efforts underway to ensure reliable water supply across the Western Cape

12 Highlights from the last quarter

16 Working Together for Water-Resilient Towns

Two-day workshop strengthens local response and implementation readiness

17 Positioning the Overberg for Growth and Investment

Overberg DM engages investors at the Western Cape Investment Summit

19 Food Safety Matters This Festive Season

Simple food safety tips to keep you and your loved ones healthy this holiday season

22 Fire Season Arrives Early in the Overberg

Communities urged to remain alert and prepared as wildfire risks emerge ahead of the peak season

FESTIVE SEASON MESSAGE

FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR OF THE OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY

At the end of a year it is always a privilege to be able to reflect on the events of the preceding twelve months. As 2025 rapidly draws to a close, we are reminded that time really does fly by and we can look back and be grateful for another blessed year.

Our visitors to the Overberg, we wish you a warm welcome and trust that you will enjoy your well deserved holiday in this, the most beautiful part of our country. Cherish the time together with your family and friends this festive season.

However, during this period of festivity there are also those dedicated men and women in our emergency services who stand totally committed and ready to serve in their respective areas of duty. To you, and your loved ones, a special thank-you and appreciation for your noble being.

It is my wish that you experience the blessings of Christmas, and that the new year brings you peace and prosperity.

In closing, however, I must place emphasis on our water shortage. Please be alert, at all times, to the considerate use of water, it is our most vital source of survival.

ALD. SAKKIE FRANKEN
EXECUTIVE MAYOR





5-YEAR STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2022/23 – 2026/27

STRATEGIC GOALS



STRATEGIC GOAL 1

To ensure the well-being of all in the Overberg through the provision of efficient basic services and infrastructure.



STRATEGIC GOAL 2

To promote regional economic development by supporting initiatives in the District for the development of a sustainable district economy.



STRATEGIC GOAL 3

To ensure municipal transformation and institutional development by creating a staff structure that would adhere to the principles of employment equity and promote skills development.



STRATEGIC GOAL 4

To attain and maintain financial viability and sustainability by executing accounting services in accordance with National policy and guidelines.



STRATEGIC GOAL 5

To ensure good governance practices by providing a democratic and pro-active accountable government and ensuring community participation through IGR structures.



VISION

Overberg – the opportunity gateway to Africa through sustainable services.



MISSION

To render sustainable, customer-directed services and to be the preferred Provider of Shared Services within the Overberg, by:

- Promoting social and economic development;
- Utilising all available resources economically, efficiently and effectively;
- Ensuring the provision of optimal and quality services delivery; and
- Enhancing effective stakeholder relations

CORE VALUES



CARING

A total belief in collective caring principles – “Ubuntu”.



INTEGRITY

Higher levels of courtesy and professionalism in the workplace; behaving in a manner that reflects ODMs commitment to honesty, trust, transparency and ethical business operations.



COMMITMENT

To the development of people; regular consultation with customers on the level and quality of services.



TRANSFORMATION

Transformational leadership - corporate transformation begins with a shift in the values and behaviours of leadership; corporations do not transform, people do.



TRANSPARENCY

In accounting for our actions; responsible spending and utilisation of municipal assets.



EXCELLENCE

Setting quality standards for service delivery, measurement thereof to improve productivity and the discipline to take action to address the situation.



HONESTY

Contributes to a positive mind-set and facilitates morally acceptable behaviour.



RESPECT

For our natural resources and celebrating diversity.



HEAD OFFICE:
028 425 1157



info@odm.org.za



EMERGENCIES:
028 425 1690



www.odm.org.za



/OverbergDM



@OverbergDM



26 Long Street
Private Bag X22
Bredasdorp
7280





COUNCIL 2021 – 2026

Following the 2021 Local Government Elections, in terms of section 29(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act of 1998, the Overberg District Municipal Council for 2021-2026 was constituted on 6 December 2021.

Political Parties represented:



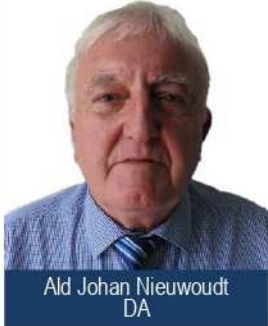
Ald Andries Franken
Executive Mayor
DA



Ald Helen Coetzee
Deputy Executive Mayor
DA



Ald Lindile Ntsabo
Speaker
DA



Ald Johan Nieuwoudt
DA



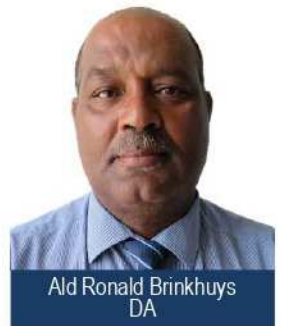
Cllr Steven Fourie
DA



Cllr Theresa Els
DA



Ald Roland Olivier
ANC



Ald Ronald Brinkhuys
DA



Cllr Carol de Bruyn Benjamin
DA



Ald Ntombizine Sapepa
ANC



Ald Annelie Rabie
DA



Ald Bongiwe Mkhwebiso
ANC



Cllr Unathi Mabulu
DA



Ald Derick Appel
ANC



Cllr Dawid Julius
DA



Cllr Melanie Du Plessis
ANC



Cllr Cuan Elgin
VF+



Cllr Mlamleli Mokotwana
ANC



Cllr Mbogeni Nomkoko
ANC



Cllr Jacobus van Staden
VF+



Cllr Connie Tafu-Nwonkwo
ANC



Cllr Bongani Sonqwenqwe
GOOD



Cllr Jonathan Smit
DA



ODM Council Concludes 2025 with Final Meeting and Recognition of Service Excellence

The Overberg District Municipality (ODM) Council held its final Council meeting for the year today, 8 December 2025, at the ODM Council Chamber.

The annual closing meeting provided the opportunity not only to conclude the year's official business but also to celebrate the achievements and the contributions of Councillors and officials throughout 2025.

During the session, long-serving ODM officials who have dedicated 20 years or more to the institution were recognised with service certificates.

The Council also celebrated officials who attained academic qualifications during the year, by acknowledging their commitment to continuous professional development and strengthened municipal service delivery.

Appreciation for Fire Services

A moment of appreciation was extended to the ODM Fire Services for their excellent efforts in combating several recent fires across the region. The Council expressed gratitude for their dedication, resilience, and swift response in protecting lives, property and natural resources.



Fire Services was a central focus of the agenda, with Chief Fire Officer Reinard Geldenhuys presenting the municipality's Fire Season Readiness Plan.

His presentation provided a detailed seasonal outlook based on key risk factors, including weather conditions, human-caused ignitions, and the impact of declining annual rainfall.

He highlighted how increasingly dry vegetation continues to elevate wildfire risk across the Overberg, Cape Winelands and Garden Route districts.

Council Recess & Closure of Offices

The ODM Council will be on recess from 8 December 2025 to 16 January 2026.

The ODM Administrative Offices will close at 12:00 on 24 December 2025 and will re-open on 5 January 2026. The ODM Roads Department will close at 11:00 on 19 December 2025 and will re-open on 19 January 2026.

ODM Emergency Services along with identified Municipal Health Services and Resorts personnel will remain on duty during this period.

OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY ACHIEVES 6th CONSECUTIVE CLEAN AUDIT

The Overberg District Municipality is proud to announce that we have received our 6th consecutive clean audit from the Auditor-General of South Africa for the 2024/2025 financial year!

This exceptional achievement reflects our unwavering commitment to good governance, transparency, and excellence in service delivery.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff, your hard work and professionalism make accomplishments like this possible. Together, we continue to raise the bar for the Overberg!



Sakkie Franken
Executive Mayor



ODM Hosts Heartwarming Festive Season Hand-Over Ceremony for Elim Home Outreach

As part of its annual Festive Season Outreach, Overberg District Municipality hosted a special hand-over ceremony for the learners and teachers of the Elim Home Outreach (Bredasdorp Legacy Project), a daycare service and school in Bredasdorp dedicated to supporting people with disabilities.

In preparation for the event, each ODM department was assigned a learner or young adult from the centre, ranging in ages from 4 to 26. Departments prepared personalised gift boxes filled with thoughtful items, ensuring that all 16 beneficiaries received something special to take home.

The day began with great excitement as the group was transported to the ODM head office using the Fire Services Bus. Their joy was unmistakable when the fire officials activated the sirens during the ride, making the journey a memorable part of the experience.

During the ceremony, each beneficiary was presented with their gift box. They were also treated to cupcakes, juice, and festive party packs to round off the celebration.

The ODM's Festive Season Outreach aims to uplift local communities, spread some goodwill, and support organisations that serve vulnerable groups in the region.

This year's collaboration with the Elim Home Outreach daycare service and school highlights the Municipality's continued commitment to inclusion, community care, and creating meaningful moments of joy.



FESTIVE OUTREACH TO THE ELDERLY

Sharing the True Spirit of Christmas

While many South Africans were spending the national holiday on 16 December with family and loved ones, some members of our community, particularly the elderly, are not always afforded the same comfort and attention.

In the true spirit of Christmas, Overberg District Municipality, through its Social Committee, hosted a festive outreach at the Suideroord Home for the Elderly, where a Christmas meal was sponsored for the residents.

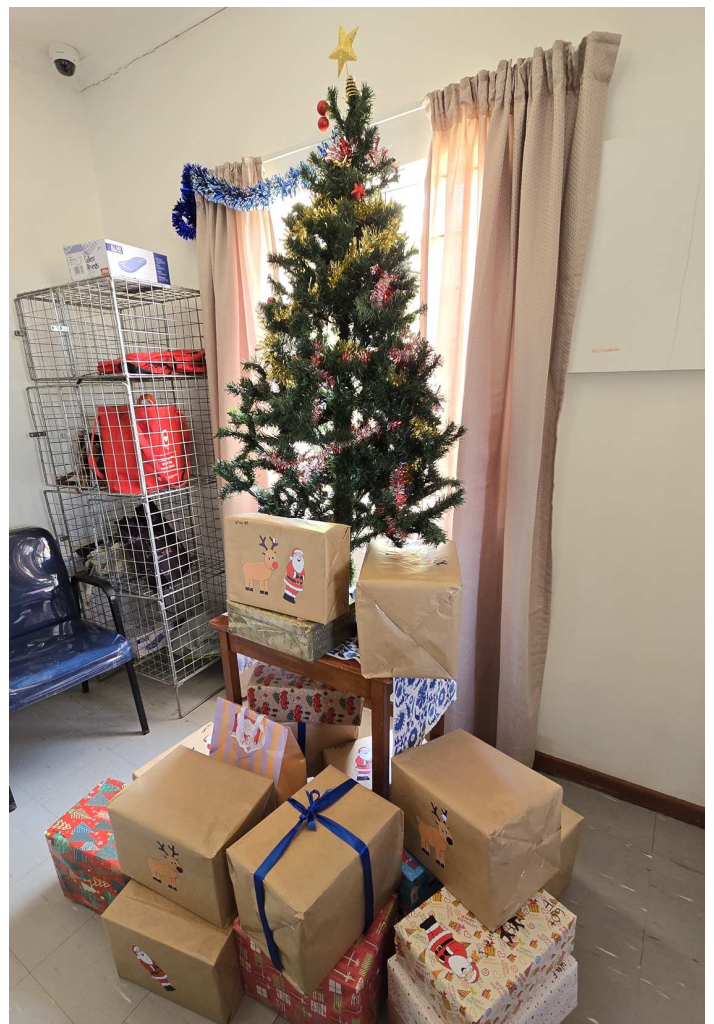
This initiative was made possible through the generosity of ODM staff members, who donated funds, sponsored food items and, in some cases, went the extra mile by preparing meals themselves.

Each elderly resident also received a gift box, made up from staff donations, as a token of love and appreciation.

The outreach was further enriched by a message of hope and a prayer shared by a local pastor, reminding all present of the true meaning of Christmas - compassion, generosity and togetherness.

The gratitude from both the elderly residents and the staff of the old age home was deeply moving, with tears of joy reflecting the impact of this small but meaningful act of kindness.

The staff of the old age home expressed their sincere appreciation to the Overberg District Municipality for bringing warmth and dignity to the residents on this special day. Because no one should feel forgotten this Christmas season.





WATER SECURITY IN FOCUS AS PROVINCE ENGAGES MUNICIPALITIES ON SEASONAL PRESSURES

The Department of Local Government (DLG), together with the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), attended a special District Coordinating Forum (DCF) meeting in Swellendam to engage local municipalities on the growing water challenges across the province.

With below-average rainfall expected and significantly higher demand anticipated over the holiday season, the provincial focus is clear: ensuring every municipality has the support, resources, and technical guidance needed to keep water systems stable now and into the foreseeable future.

During the engagement, several key concerns were highlighted, including declining dam levels in a number of towns, among them Swellendam, seasonal demand spikes, supply constraints in high-risk areas, and the ongoing need for responsible water use supported by stronger community awareness.

To respond proactively, DLG and DWS outlined a series of interventions already under way. These include conducting

Town-Based Assessments to inform targeted water-resilience planning, prioritising high-risk municipalities based on updated risk profiles, and coordinating the deployment of water tanks, trucks, and technical expertise where needed. Municipalities are also being supported in implementing water restrictions and reducing system losses through leak-management programmes.

Strengthened communication efforts form another key element of the response, ensuring that residents and holiday visitors have access to accurate, timely information about local water conditions and requirements.

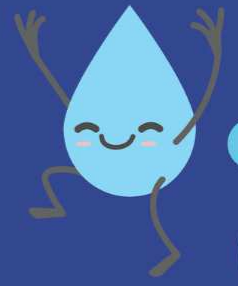
This collaborative provincial approach ensures that municipalities, particularly those facing immediate pressure, receive urgent attention and the necessary interventions to safeguard water security for households, businesses, and the seasonal influx of visitors.

Working together, DLG, DWS and municipalities remain committed to building resilient, water-secure towns throughout the Western Cape.

Water is precious, let's use it wisely.

Whether our dams are full or running low, every drop counts. Municipalities, residents, and visitors all play a role in securing this vital resource for the future.

Act now to protect our water supply.



1 Turn off taps while brushing your teeth or shaving.



2 Fix leaks on taps, pipes and household items like hoses immediately.



3 Only run dishwashers and washing machines on full loads.



4 Reuse water from bathing, showers, laundry or rain water to flush your toilet.



5 Use water-saving taps and shower heads.



6 Water your garden early in the morning or late in the evening.



7 Fix dripping taps - they can waste up to a bucket of water per day.



8 Fix all leaks around your home - a leaking pipe can waste 10 showers worth of water per day.



9 Cover your swimming pool - an uncovered pool can lose up to a bathtub's worth of water per day through evaporation.



Let's play our part in reducing water usage and report leaking pipes, faulty water outlets or irresponsible water usage, because **#Everydropcounts**.

To report water leaks, please call your local municipality.

HIGHLIGHTS

ODM SUPPORTS THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S SHUTDOWN



The ODM stood in solidarity with women across South Africa who participated in the National Women's Shutdown on 21 November 2025.

Women across the country paused for 15 minutes to raise awareness of the ongoing violence, injustices, and systemic challenges faced by women and girls. We unite our voices in calling for safety, equality and meaningful

change. ODM's female officials, with support from a few male colleagues as well as external stakeholders, gathered for a moment of solidarity, joining millions in saying: **Enough is Enough.**

Let us continue to advocate, support, and create spaces where women are safe, heard, and empowered.

IDP AWARENESS TO PROMOTE INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COLLABORATION

On 23 October, the Overberg District Municipality had the pleasure of hosting a delegation from Umeå Municipality, Sweden, who were visiting the Cape Agulhas Municipality as part of the ongoing ICLD Municipal Partnership Programme.

The visit formed part of a Youth Democracy Workshop, focusing on youth development and participation in local governance in the Overberg District. The engagement provided a valuable platform for sharing ideas, learning from one another, and strengthening collaboration between South African and Swedish municipalities.

The ODM remains committed to building strong local and international partnerships that empower



young people and promote inclusive, democratic communities.

from the last quarter

ODM STRENGTHENS COMMUNITY AWARENESS THROUGH SUCCESSFUL IDP WORKSHOP

21 November 2025 - The ODM's Integrated Development Planning & Communications department held an IDP Awareness Workshop to strengthen understanding of key municipal processes and encourage active participation in local development.

The programme covered several important topics, including climate change resilience, where Environmental Management Services highlighted increasing climate risks such as fires, drought, and flooding, and the need for coordinated adaptation efforts.

Municipal Health Services presented on food labelling and the monitoring of expired goods, emphasising how proper compliance helps prevent health risks within communities. Social Development also addressed mental health awareness, focusing on early intervention, access to support services, and the importance of community partnerships.

The workshop included an overview of ODM's communication approach, reaffirming the municipality's commitment to transparent,



accessible, and two-way communication with its stakeholders. The IDP & Communications team further presented on Integrated Development Planning, the role of public participation, and an overview of the Overberg District's profile.

The workshop, which was facilitated by the Manager: IDP & Communications, Mr Franco Ruiters, reinforced ODM's commitment to collaboration, informed communities, and inclusive development planning across the district.



**FRAUD & CORRUPTION AWARENESS**

ACTIONS CONSTITUTING CORRUPTION, FRAUD, THEFT AND MALADMINISTRATION

Offences constituting corruption, fraud, theft and maladministration collectively refer to, but are not limited to:

- any dishonest, fraudulent or corrupt act;
- theft of funds, supplies, or other assets;
- maladministration or financial misconduct in handling or reporting of money, financial transactions or other assets;
- making a profit from insider knowledge;
- disclosing confidential or proprietary information to outside parties;
- irregularly accepting, requesting, offering or giving anything of material value to or from contractors, suppliers or other persons providing services/goods to the Municipality;
- irregular destruction, removal or abuse of records, furniture and equipment;
- use of the municipality's assets for personal gain;
- any similar or related irregularity; and
- deliberately omitting or refusing to report or act upon reports of any such irregular or dishonest conduct.

The Anti-Corruption & Fraud Policy can be accessed on the municipality's website at www.odm.org.za

Overbergbewoners

Dinsdae vanaf 6 Januarie

21:30



NEW KYKNET DOCUSERIES CELEBRATES THE HEART OF THE OVERBERG!

We're excited to share that kykNET will soon be showcasing the beauty, stories, and people of our region in the brand-new season of Overbergbewoners – the fifth instalment of the Safta-nominated Bewoners docuseries.

This 13-episode journey takes viewers deep into the Overberg – from our rolling farmlands and extraordinary biodiversity to the rich cultural heritage that binds our communities. You'll meet

the conservationists, creatives, educators, farmers, and entrepreneurs whose stories truly embody the spirit of the Overberg.

Premieres: Tuesday, 6 January 2025

Time: 21:30

Channel: kykNET (DStv Channel 144)

Join us in celebrating the people and places that make the Overberg unforgettable. Don't miss it!

MINISTER SIMMERS OFFICIALLY OPENS UPGRADED BOONTJIESKRAAL ROAD



A R43.5 million Western Cape Department of Infrastructure (DOI) project to upgrade and conduct emergency repairs on Main Road (MR) 276 (Boontjieskraal Road) near Bot River was recently completed.

MR276 is a 6.7km road that runs from the N2 between Bot River and Caledon on one end, and the R43 between the N2 and Villiersdorp on the other end.

During the ceremonial opening of the road, Western Cape Minister of Infrastructure, Tertius Simmers was pleased to announce that the project created 113 short-term work opportunities and 6 885 person-days of work.

“R11.8 million was spent on procuring goods and services from targeted enterprises, and three local enterprises and four emerging contractors benefited from the project,” the Minister stated.

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DAY

ENSURING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

On 13 November 2025, the Municipal Health Services team marked World Environmental Health Day with impactful community outreach activities across Caledon.

In Riemvasmaak, officials led an educational session on proper handwashing practices and the importance of clean air for everyday health. Learners and community members were engaged through practical demonstrations and interactive discussions.

Meanwhile, another team conducted an oil blitz at 12 food premises in Caledon, focusing on safe oil usage, correct disposal methods, and overall food safety compliance. These inspections help ensure healthier environments and safer food for our communities.

By promoting awareness and strengthening good environmental health practices, the ODM continues to support a healthier, informed, and resilient Overberg region.



PROMOTING INTEGRITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACROSS THE OVERBERG

A workshop focusing on the Code of Ethical Leadership in Local Government was held on 17 October 2025, bringing together councillors and municipal officials from the Overberg District Municipality, Cape Agulhas, Overstrand, and Theewaterskloof local municipalities.

The session, facilitated by the Western Cape Government in collaboration with the South African Local Government Association (SALGA), provided an important platform to engage on ethical principles and leadership responsibilities within the local government sector.

Through insightful presentations and interactive discussions, participants explored practical ways to strengthen ethical conduct, promote transparency, and reinforce accountability in municipal governance.



The workshop also highlighted the importance of building a culture of trust and integrity to enhance service delivery and uphold the values of good governance.

The initiative forms part of ongoing efforts by the Western Cape Government and SALGA to support municipalities in developing ethical leadership practices that ensure effective and responsible local administration across the province.



ODM HOSTS CLIMATE CHANGE WORKSHOP TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The Overberg District Municipality (ODM) hosted a two-day Climate Change Workshop on 29 and 30 October 2025 at the ODM Council Chamber in Bredasdorp. The engagement brought together municipal officials, environmental specialists, and sector partners to assess the district's climate change needs and develop a practical implementation plan to guide local response efforts.

Overberg Climate Change Needs and Response Assessment

The workshop commenced with an opening and welcome by Mr. Eben Phillips, ODM Director of Community Services, followed by a presentation by Ms. Shandr  Laven, Control Environmental Officer from the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE), who highlighted ODM's key role in climate change response.

SALGA shared a case study from the West Coast District Municipality under the Municipal Support Programme for the Climate Change Act, providing insights into local government adaptation processes. The University of Cape Town's African Centre for Cities discussed lessons from the recent flood responses in Cape Agulhas, while SALGA explored the role of human resources in advancing climate resilience and a just transition.

The afternoon sessions included input from the Western Cape Government's Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, who unpacked the region's climate risks and vulnerabilities, and the Department of Energy, who presented on the Energy Security Programme under the Department of the Premier.

The DFFE introduced the Theory of Change Framework to guide the development of an implementation plan, followed by the Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, who discussed the importance of effectively communicating climate change.

Development of the Implementation Plan

The second day focused on consolidating discussions into actionable steps. The sessions encouraged departmental feedback on their respective roles and commitments to climate adaptation and mitigation. Officials worked together on institutional accountability measures to ensure long-term implementation of climate initiatives.

The workshop concluded with closing remarks by Mr. Richard Bosman, ODM's Municipal Manager, who thanked participants for their active engagement and reaffirmed the municipality's commitment to building a resilient and sustainable Overberg.

WESTERN CAPE INVESTMENT SUMMIT 2025

WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT THE OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY TOOK TO CAPE TOWN



The Western Cape Investment Summit (WCIS 2025), held at the CTICC from 5–7 November 2025, brought provincial government, district and local municipalities, investors and the private sector together to showcase pre-vetted “deal” opportunities across eight priority sectors and to accelerate private investment into the Western Cape economy. The Summit was hosted by the Western Cape Government’s Department of Economic Development & Tourism and positioned the province as a global investment destination of choice.

The WCIS 2025 was framed as a three-day, province-wide push to connect local, national and international capital with a pipeline of projects aimed at infrastructure, water security, tourism and other growth sectors - with a public target to significantly grow private investment in the region. Organisers released a Deal Book of pre-vetted projects to guide investor discussions and matchmaking at the Summit.

Provincial leadership, including Premier Alan Winde, presented the opening address, stressing investment as the engine of growth and the importance of coordinated public-private action to scale jobs and economic opportunity.

Overberg District Municipality at the Summit

The Overberg District Municipality participated in the Summit to present regional opportunities and to engage directly with potential investors and other municipalities. ODM and related Overberg tourism channels posted from the event, highlighting the District’s presence on the exhibition floor and noting a number of project themes they promoted, notably:



• Water Security / Overberg Dam Opportunity

- The Summit’s Deal Book included an Overberg Dam Water Security project listed as a potential regional investment. Overberg representatives used the Summit to place this project before investors looking at infrastructure and water resilience deals.

• **Tourism & Wine-route Development** - The ODM promoted wine-tourism development and other value-chain opportunities in the visitor economy.

• **Broader service-sector and innovation themes** - The District aimed to position itself for diverse investment types and forward-looking items like spaceports (as a conversation topic shared on social channels).

What this could mean for Overberg

i) **Follow up on Deal Book leads** - the Overberg Dam listing gives the District a concrete pipeline item to push toward feasibility, funding and investor diligence. Converting interest into proposals and public-private partnership (PPP) terms should be a priority.

ii) **Package tourism investments as investable projects** - investors respond to clearly scoped packages (land, regulatory pathway, projected returns). Overberg’s tourism/wine value chain items would benefit from investment-ready business cases.

iii) **Coordinate provincial & neighbouring district contacts** - networks formed at the WCIS create opportunities for co-funded or regional deals.



MUNICIPAL HEALTH & AIR QUALITY SERVICES APPRECIATION CEREMONY

The ODM's Municipal Health & Air Quality Services department proudly celebrated the dedication and extraordinary service of its officials.

From responding to major health-related challenges, including Listeriosis, COVID-19, regional flooding impacts, and the recent food poisoning emergency, the EHPs and support staff have consistently gone above and beyond to safeguard the wellbeing of our communities and visitors. Their long hours, rapid response, and unwavering professionalism remain a cornerstone of preventative health in the Overberg.

The ceremony featured inspiring messages from our leadership, including the Executive Mayor Ald Sakkie Franken, the Community Services Portfolio Chairperson Cllr Stephen Fourie, and the Community Services Director Mr Eben Phillips, who collectively honoured officials for their innovation, resilience, and exceptional contributions.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to every official in the Municipal Health & Air Quality Services Department. Your work protects lives, supports communities, and builds a healthier, more resilient Overberg.



FESTIVE SEASON FOOD SAFETY GUIDE

The festive season is a time of celebration, travel, and shared meals with family and friends.

Unfortunately, it is also a period when foodborne illnesses increase, largely due to factors like high temperatures, large gatherings, and improper food handling practices.

Food poisoning can affect anyone and may quickly turn festive celebrations into a health emergency.

By understanding the risks and following basic food safety guidelines, residents can help protect themselves and their loved ones throughout the holiday period.

Safe Food Handling Tips

- Keep it hot: Cook food thoroughly and ensure that hot dishes are kept at temperatures above 60°C.
- Keep it cold: Refrigerate leftovers within two hours to prevent bacterial growth.

- Avoid cross-contamination: Always separate raw meat from cooked foods.
- Hygiene first: Wash hands regularly, clean preparation surfaces, and use clean utensils.
- Do not leave food out: Bacteria multiply rapidly in warm weather.
- Travel smart: When travelling, store food in cooler boxes/bags to maintain safe temperatures.

Recognising Food Poisoning

Common symptoms of food poisoning include vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach cramps, and fever.

Medical attention should be sought immediately if symptoms worsen or if they affect vulnerable groups such as children, the elderly, or pregnant women.

By taking simple precautions and practising safe food handling, we can all contribute to a festive season that is happy, healthy, and safe.





PROTECT YOURSELF AGAINST BANK FRAUD

Never share your PIN, passwords or OTP and be cautious of unsolicited requests for personal information via email, phone, or text. Always monitor your accounts regularly for suspicious activity, use strong, unique passwords for your online accounts, and verify payment details before sending money. Be extra vigilant at ATMs by shielding the keypad when entering your PIN and never accepting help from strangers.

Vishing:

Fraudsters call pretending to be from your bank or a trusted institution to steal sensitive info, money, or install malicious apps.

Red flags to watch for:

Caller asks for usernames, passwords, OTPs, or banking details
 Claims of account issues or urgent action needed
 Received a suspicious call requesting you to process transactions to secure your funds
 Threats of account closure or legal action
 OTP received without transacting

Protect yourself:

Be cautious of unsolicited calls asking for confidential info
 Hang up and call the bank using a trusted number

Only use OTPs on the transactions you have initiated and always check what the OTP refers to.

Report suspicious activity immediately

Report fraud immediately with your Bank AND the South African Police Service (SAPS)

FNB: Call the FNB Single Fraud Line at 087 575 9444 or use the FNB App to report fraud. You can also report phishing emails by forwarding them to phishing@fnb.co.za.

Standard Bank: Call the fraud line at 0800 222 050. You can also email report-fraud@standardbank.co.za.

Capitec: Call the Personal banking fraud line at 0860 10 20 43 or use WhatsApp at 067 418 9565. You can also visit a Capitec branch or report it via the Capitec app.

Nedbank: Call the fraud helpline at 0800 110 929. You can also use the "Report Fraud" function on the Nedbank Money app.

Absa: Call the Fraud Hotline at 0860 557 557 or 011 501 5089, use the "click to call" function in the Absa Banking App or WhatsApp the fraud team on 0860 557 557. You can also report suspicious emails by forwarding them to secmon@absa.co.za.

ODM REMAINS COMMITTED TO PROTECTING YOUR PRIVACY

In today's interconnected digital landscape, safeguarding personal information is more important than ever.

Ensuring the security and integrity of personal data is a shared responsibility. South Africa's Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) is designed to protect individuals' privacy by regulating how personal information is processed. The Act came into full effect on 1 July 2021.

Municipal Manager Mr Richard Bosman serves as the ODM's Information Officer, supported by Deputy Information Officers Mr Eben Phillips, Mrs Vanessa Zeeman, and Chief Financial Officer Mr Shaun Stanley.

The Municipality has also established a POPI Co-ordinating Committee, chaired by Ms Celeste Domingo, Senior Manager: Contract, Legal, ICT, Building Management and Support Services. She is responsible for building capacity within the committee and ensuring compliance with the legislative framework, administered by the Manager: Administration, Mrs Alison Thompson.

Under POPIA, "personal information" refers to data relating to an identifiable, living person - or, where applicable, an identifiable juristic person - including but not limited to:

- ♦ demographic details (such as race, gender, age, and marital status);
- ♦ educational, medical, financial, criminal, or employment history;
- ♦ identifying details (such as ID numbers, contact details, and location information);
- ♦ biometric data;
- ♦ personal opinions, preferences, and confidential correspondence;
- ♦ opinions of others about that person; and
- ♦ a person's name when linked to any of the above information.

The Act requires organisations to inform individuals about how their personal information is collected, used, disclosed, and destroyed. It also compels organisations to uphold strict data protection standards and to report security breaches without delay.

Overberg District Municipality supports and empowers institutions to meet their POPIA obligations, including the prompt reporting of data breaches. Timely reporting ensures regulatory oversight and enables swift corrective action to mitigate risks to sensitive information.

To report a security incident, please contact the Information Officer, Mr Richard Bosman, at rbosman@odm.co.za.

The ODM remains committed to protecting your privacy and ensuring that your personal information is processed responsibly and in accordance with the law.



UNUSUALLY EARLY FIRE ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR VIGILANCE

Over the past few weeks, our region has already experienced multiple significant fire incidents, including fires around Bredasdorp, Grabouw, Bot River, Hermanus and Villiersdorp, well before the traditional height of the fire season. Historically, the fire season in the Overstrand area begins on 1 November, with the wider Overberg typically entering full fire-season readiness by early December.

That makes the current spate of fires, including the major Gansbaai blaze, unusually early, and a stark reminder that wildfires don't always "stick to the calendar." The early onset underscores the need for constant vigilance, especially under the increasing influence of changing climatic and environmental conditions, dry vegetation and wind.

Now more than ever, we urge everyone in the community to be alert. Here are a few important pointers for this fire season:

- ✓ Clear and maintain defensible space around homes, barns and outbuildings. Remove dry leaves, dead wood, overgrown vegetation, and keep gutters and air vents cleared.
- ✓ Ensure fire-breaks are in place and access routes are clear enough for fire trucks, especially on properties bordering fynbos or mountainous terrain.
- ✓ Watch the daily fire danger index (FDI) and avoid any open-air fires (burn-offs, debris burning, etc.) on "Red" or high-risk days.
- ✓ Report any sign of smoke or fire immediately, even if it seems small, to local fire control. Early detection and rapid response saves lives, homes, and natural habitat.
- ✓ Keep your firefighting equipment (bakkie-sakkies, hoses, nozzles, tools) serviced, checked and ready.

To our fire fighters, volunteers and support crews - we send our deepest gratitude, strength and solidarity. And to our communities: stay alert, stay safe and stay ready.

#FireSeason25/26

FIRE SEASON IS HERE, AND CONDITIONS ARE CHANGING FAST

www.overbergfpa.co.za

**Hot, dry and windy weather means higher
veldfire risk.**

Please make sure that:

- Your firebreaks are cleared
- There's open space around infrastructure
- Your bakkie sakkies and other equipment are in working order
- Access routes are kept open.

Stay alert and report any smoke or fire immediately.



SAVE THESE NUMBERS:

- 📞 Overberg Fire Services: 028 425 1690
- 📞 Overstrand Fire Services: 028 312 2400
- 📞 goFPA: 063 690 7899

Fire season in the Overberg region begins on November 1st for the Overstrand area and December 1st for the rest of the Overberg, though the peak period typically starts in late November and can last around 18 weeks.

The season starts earlier in some areas to account for early fires that may start due to hot, dry conditions. Stay alert, report smoke or fire immediately to 028 425 1690, and help keep our communities safe.



FIRE SEASON AWARENESS



 **EMERGENCY NUMBER : 028 425 1690**

HOW TO REPORT A FIRE:

- Remain calm
- Give a brief explanation on what is burning
- Supply an accurate address of where the fire is
- Supply a contact number
- Only hang up once the emergency personnel to do so



**24/7
OPERATING CONTROL ROOM**

Here are some tips to help you prevent fires from starting or spreading:

- Report veldfires immediately
- Do not leave open fires unattended
- Make sure there are no illegal electrical connections in or near your home
- If you see someone playing carelessly with fire, matches or lighters ask them to stop
- Do not flick cigarette butts out of your car window

**BE AWARE AND
STAY SAFE!**

No fireworks during fire season

Fireworks can cause wildfires during fire season because they are often set off when it is drier and hotter



FESTIVE SEASON 2025/2026

CLOSURE OF OFFICES

ODM ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

Close: Wednesday, 24 December 2025 (12:00)

Open: Monday, 5 January 2026

ODM ROADS DEPARTMENT

Close: Friday, 19 December 2025 (11:00)

Open: Monday, 19 January 2026



Emergency Services will remain open.

For emergencies, please call
028 425 1690



*Wishing you a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*



26 Long Street
Private Bag X22
Bredasdorp
7280

OFFICE HOURS

Tel: 028 425 1157

Fax: 028 425 1014

EMERGENCIES - 24 HOURS

Tel: 028 425 1690

info@odm.org.za

www.odm.org.za

Follow us on Facebook
/OverbergDM