



# DECUS NOSTRUM





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# New Councillors Sworn in

The Overberg District Municipality has sworn in new councillors during the recent months.

Section 26(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act 117 of 1998) provides that a person assumes office as a councillor when declared elected or when appointed. The first council meeting must provide for councillors to swear or affirm faithfulness to the Republic and obedience to the Constitution.

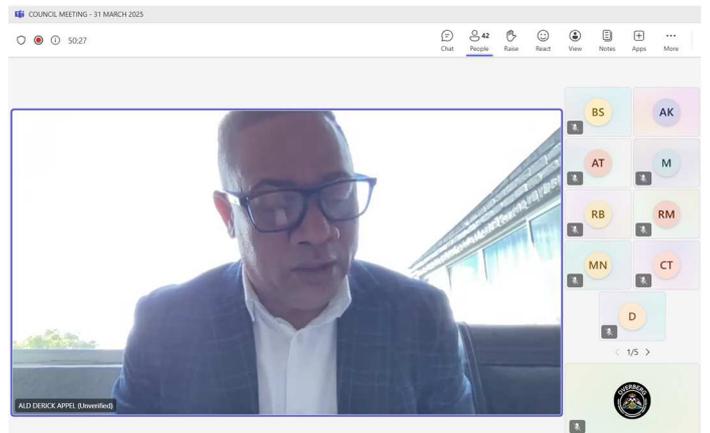
New Councillors are required by law to swear or affirm their faithfulness and obedience to the Republic of South Africa, at any time by arrangement before the Speaker and the Council.

Cllr Bongani Sonqwenqwe was officially sworn in as a Overberg District Municipality councillor. Cllr Sonqwenqwe hails from Swellendam.

Cllr Jonathan Smit, from the Theewaterskloof Municipality, was sworn in as a councillor of the Overberg District Municipality during a special council meeting held on Monday, 27 January 2025.

Alderman Derick Appel was sworn in during a virtual Council meeting held on 31 March 2025. Cllr Appel hails from Grabouw in the Theewaterskloof municipal region.

The Chief Electoral Officer of the Independent Electoral Commission officially declared Cllrs. Sonqwenqwe, Smit and Appel as Councillors of the Overberg District Municipality.



**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](http://www.odm.org.za)



# 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.

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# 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:

DA  
12

ANC  
8

VF+  
2

GOOD  
1



Ald Andries Franken  
Executive Mayor  
DA



Ald Helen Coetzee  
Deputy Executive Mayor  
DA



Cllr Archie Klaas  
Speaker  
DA



Ald Johan Nieuwoudt  
DA



Cllr Steven Fourie  
DA



Cllr Theresa Els  
DA



Ald Roland Olivier  
ANC



Ald Ronald Brinkhuys  
DA



Ald Ntombizine Sapepa  
ANC



Cllr Msa Nomatiti  
DA



Ald Mbogeni Nomkoko  
ANC



Cllr Unathi Mabulu  
DA



Cllr Melanie Du Plessis  
ANC



Cllr Mlamleli Mokotwana  
ANC



Cllr Cuan Elgin  
VF+



Cllr Bongiwé Mkhwibiso  
ANC



Cllr Jacobus van Staden  
VF+



Cllr Dawid Julius  
DA



Cllr Connie Tafu-Nwonkwo  
ANC



Cllr Carol de Bruyn Benjamin  
DA



Cllr Bongani Songwenqwe  
GOOD



Cllr Jonathan Smit  
DA



Ald Derick Appel  
ANC

# ANNUAL ODM STRATEGIC SESSION SUCCESSFULLY HELD



*The Overberg District Municipal Council and Administration attended a Strategic Session which was held in the ODM Council Chamber.*

**The Overberg District Municipal Council and Management attended a strategic planning session on 24 February 2025, with the purpose of deliberating on the proposed MTREF 2025/2026 Budget and the proposed IDP Amendment for 2025/2026.**

The annual strategic session is vital as it offers council and management an opportunity to discuss and set goals, strategies, and priorities for the municipality's future, aiming to improve service delivery and guide resource allocation.

The effectiveness of this strategic session articulates not only where the municipality is going and the actions needed to make progress, but also measure the success and impact of its strategic plan.

**Integrated Development Plan Review Process**  
IDPs are required to be undertaken by all District and Local Municipalities. The IDPs set out the development vision for the municipality and allies this to dedicated projects to be undertaken over the life span of the IDP (5 years). IDPs are

constructed to a five year plan but are required to be reviewed periodically.

The IDP & Communications Manager, Mr Franco Ruiters, presented to Council the proposal for the amendment of the 2022/23 – 2026/27 Integrated Development Plan. Section 34(b) of the Municipal Systems Act (MSA) states that “a Municipal Council may amend its IDP in accordance with a prescribed process which is set out in Regulation 3 of the MSA.

The process to be followed when amending an IDP, which can only be proposed by a member or a committee of council, entails the following:

- ◆ Submitting a memorandum setting out the reasons for the proposal and should be aligned with the framework adopted.
- ◆ The amendment to the IDP must be adopted by a decision taken by the municipal Council.
- ◆ Reasonable notice must be given to the members of Council about the proposed amendment, and it must be published for public comment for a period of at least 21 days.

In addition to the amendment process, Districts and B-municipalities must consider the following:

**(i) District Municipality must**

- ⇒ Consult with its local municipalities; and
- ⇒ Consider all comments provided to it by the B-municipalities before a final decision is made;
- ⇒ Take all comments submitted to it by the district municipal departments into account before a final decision is made.

The amendment of the IDP is necessitated by key structural, environmental and developmental changes that impact the municipality’s strategic direction and service delivery.

Considering these critical factors, the amendment of the IDP is essential to ensure that the ODM remains adaptive, forward-thinking and capable of delivering on its mandate in an evolving governance and environmental landscape.

Two policies were also workshopped during the engagement, namely the Public Participation Policy and the Fleet Management Policy.

**Public Participation Key for All Municipalities**

Municipal public participation is governed by key

legislative provisions that mandates municipalities to encourage and prioritise community involvement in local governance and policymaking.

The Municipal Systems Act mandates municipalities to develop a culture of participatory governance, specifically encouraging community involvement in the preparation, implementation, and review of IDPs.

The IDP and Communications department developed a policy to outline mechanisms, processes and procedures that will be used by the municipality to facilitate effective and community centered public participation processes.

**Council Meeting sets the tone**

A Special Council meeting preceded the Strategic Session on 24 February 2025. The meeting provided an introduction to the items that were presented during the strategic session.

The council, alongside the municipal officials, reaffirmed their unwavering dedication to working together and utilizing resources to their fullest effect, despite the escalating economic challenges, both locally and globally.



*Mr Franco Ruiters, IDP & Communications Manager, presented on the proposal for the amendment of the Integrated Development Plan.*

## New Chief Financial Officer Appointed for Overberg DM

# Welcome, Shaun Stanley



**ODM's newly appointed CFO is no stranger to the municipal finance sector and even has history with the municipality as a former employee.**

Born and raised in the coastal town of Struisbaai in the Cape Agulhas municipal region, Mr Stanley brings with him years of valuable financial experience in the municipal space.

Shaun's background in finance started back in the early 2000's as a financial specialist for First National Bank, where he was involved in all general banking activities for the bank. He then made the transition to local government when he started working for the Overberg District Municipality as a financial intern from 2004 to 2008.

"Local government was a career I stumbled upon following the completion of my studies. My general understanding of municipalities were that they were only responsible for cleaning the streets and collecting waste from residences!" He soon discovered that there are far more processes and operations involved in local governance.

"I'm grateful for having ended up in local government because as an official your main purpose is to serve the community, which I am

very passionate about. I believe that your work as a local government servant should be to the betterment of society and as a financial official, I want to believe that my efforts in ensuring sound financial management in the municipality is contributing to the principle of serving."

Shaun also has previous work experience at the Garden Route District Municipality, where he worked as a Senior Accountant in the Budget & Treasury office from 2008 to 2015. He returned 'home' when he was appointed Manager of the Budget & Treasury Office at Cape Agulhas Municipality from 2015 up until his move to the ODM this year, commencing in his new position from March 2025.

Outside of the office, Shaun is an avid runner and believes in partaking in activities that helps his personal development and understanding of humanity. He also has a keen interest in DIY projects. "I am always learning and I love to read, but I also enjoy getting my hands dirty whenever I can! I am also passionate about youth development and striving for the improvement of our young people."

His goals for his new role include: Serving the community by enabling the service delivery departments to execute on their legislative mandate and functions per the Constitution and related legislation; Ensure the liquidity and sustainability of the municipality is improved to continue delivering services for future generations; and Develop the human resource capacity of the municipality to ensure a capacitated financial department that can execute all activities.

Shaun boasts notable achievements, but states that his greatest achievement is the blessing of family and the gift of life itself. "Live your life with gratitude and remember daily how lucky you are."

# ODM welcomes new Roads Manager

**Mr Hein Uys was appointed as the Senior Manager: Roads Services from 1 February 2025.**

Hein grew up in the small town of Kuruman in the Kalahari. His journey in road construction and transport infrastructure maintenance began when he studied Civil Engineering in Bloemfontein and thereafter, postgraduate studies at Tuks University (Pretoria).

“Growing up in the Northern Cape I spent my holidays working in the local mines. When I completed my studies in 2010, I started working as a Road Geometric Design Engineer for 6 years.”

Hein joined the Western Cape Government as a Road Asset Manager in 2016. In 2020, he joined the Paarl District Roads Engineer as Lead Operations Manager where he was responsible for the in-house Specialized Road Construction and Routine Road Maintenance Division.

His achievements and qualifications include: B.Tech Civil Engineering (Central University of Technology), BSc (Hons) Transportation Engineering (University of Pretoria) and Professional Registration with Engineering Council of SA (PrTech Eng).



When he's not working on improving our roads, Hein is a keen adventurer and nature lover. “I'm very passionate about motorcycles, whether just riding locally or going on long tours. I also love riding my motocross (offroad bike) as well as my dual-purpose adventure touring bike.”

Hein states that his objective is to uphold the construction and maintenance operations and standards of the ODM Roads Department. “I joined the Overberg District Municipality because I am impressed by the high standard of service delivery. The passion and work ethic of the people resonates with my goals and vision to make a difference and to be the best.”

## ODM BIDS FAREWELL TO COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

The Overberg District Municipality said farewell to Ms Marlene Boyce, who resigned in February 2025 as she will be taking up a new position at Knysna Municipality.

Ms Boyce served as the Director of Community Services, who is responsible for the delivery of basic services in terms of: Fire & Disaster Management, Municipal Health Services, Provincial Roads Services, Environmental Management, Economic Development, Tourism and Resorts.



# WESTERN CAPE MINISTER OF MOBILITY HOSTS MUNICIPAL ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS ON ROAD SAFETY



*Western Cape Minister of Mobility, MEC Isaac Sileku, met with roads and transport stakeholders from the Overberg region to discuss road safety issues and to enhance collaborative efforts between local government sectors and other key role players.*

**The Western Cape Minister of Mobility, Isaac Sileku concluded a series of municipal roundtable sessions in March 2025. The sessions focused on addressing critical road safety issues affecting road users across the province.**

The sessions were aimed at enhancing collaborative efforts between municipalities, traffic authorities, and other key stakeholders and brought together local government representatives, law enforcement agencies, and road safety experts.

“Safe, reliable and affordable public and private transport are essential if we are going to kickstart our economy, and we need our partners across the province to work with us,” said Minister Sileku.

The roundtable discussions, which are part of the Western Cape Government’s ongoing commitment to reducing road fatalities and injuries and improving traffic safety, covered a wide range of topics, including:

- Improving Traffic Enforcement: Strategies to

enhance compliance with traffic laws and improve road safety measures.

- Infrastructure Development: Identifying key areas for infrastructure upgrades to reduce accident hotspots and improve pedestrian safety.
- Public Awareness Campaigns: Developing innovative approaches to educating road users about safe driving and walking practices.
- Data-Driven Decision Making: Sharing accident statistics and analysis to support targeted interventions at the municipal level.

Minister Sileku emphasised the importance of municipal-level collaboration, stating, “Road safety is a shared responsibility that requires all levels of government and civil society to work together. The roundtable sessions are a crucial step in ensuring that the Western Cape is a safe environment for all road users, so that we can all get safely to and from work. By pooling our resources, knowledge, and expertise, we can create effective, localised solutions that will save lives and help our economy grow.”

## **Overberg Stakeholders Meet with MEC Sileku**

On Tuesday, 18 February 2025, the Overberg District Municipality welcomed Western Cape Minister of Mobility, MEC Isaac Sileku, and his team who hosted a Overberg Ministerial Road Safety Roundtable, to reflect on the 2024/25 festive season and road safety initiatives throughout the region.

The representatives from the municipalities, along with provincial road traffic officials, discussed key issues impacting the region's roads and reviewed road safety efforts during the 2024/25 festive season.

"In light of the 2024/25 festive season, the need for heightened road safety efforts is more critical than ever. Despite ongoing challenges, we remain focused on addressing the road carnage. This roundtable will unite district leaders, traffic officials, and law enforcement to develop coordinated strategies that will ensure safer roads and reduce fatalities and injuries," said Minister Sileku.

The Western Cape has seen significant progress in addressing road safety issues, but challenges remain. These sessions are part of an ongoing collaborative effort to ensure that municipalities and key stakeholders continue to innovate and implement effective strategies.

In particular, the sessions aimed to promote proactive, sustainable measures that prioritises the safety of motorists, pedestrians, cyclists, and other vulnerable road users.

Minister Sileku also highlighted the province's focus on using technology to enhance traffic monitoring and compliance of road traffic laws, and improve safety, with several municipalities exploring the implementation of intelligent transport systems (ITS) and real-time data collection tools to better manage traffic flows and reduce congestion.

Minister Sileku concluded, "These discussions mark the beginning of a stronger partnership between our municipalities, law enforcement, and road safety advocates. Together, we are paving the way for a future where fewer families are affected by the devastation of road crashes. Sadly, too many lives are lost on our roads daily and by working collaboratively with our road safety partners, we can turn the tide. Road safety is everyone's responsibility. If we are going to keep our commitment to making the Western Cape a thriving, jobs-rich economy, we must ensure that everyone can get to and from work and recreation safely, in reliable and affordable public and private transport."

**Source: Western Cape Mobility Department**



*Minister Isaac Sileku during his meeting with Overberg stakeholders at the Overberg District Municipality.*

# DEPUTY MINISTER COLLABORATES WITH MUNICIPALITIES TO ADDRESS ENERGY ISSUES AFFECTING THE REGION

**On 23 January 2025, the Overberg District Municipality welcomed the National Deputy Minister of Energy and Electricity, Samantha Graham-Maré, to the Overberg as part of her roadshow to engage with municipalities on energy issues affecting the region. The meeting took place in the ODM Council Chambers.**

Also present were the Executive Mayors and Municipal Managers of the Overberg District-, Cape Agulhas- and Swellendam Municipalities, as well as key staff members from the respective Local Municipalities' Infrastructure Services Directorates. The municipalities presented on their respective municipalities' energy challenges, projects, and programmes specific to their areas.

Further discussions focused on addressing the challenges faced by Eskom, improving the financial sustainability of municipalities, and advancing energy initiatives such as Independent Power Producer (IPP) procurement, wheeling frameworks, small-scale embedded generation, and waste-to-energy projects.

The meeting gave the Deputy Minister a greater insight into the challenges faced by Municipalities in the energy and electricity space, in the hope of finding solutions to support them in their service delivery mandate.

The Deputy Minister emphasised her commitment to building on the work already undertaken by the Western Cape Government's Energy Council and the Premier's Energy Team. She outlined the National Department's plans to support and complement these efforts to ensure the successful implementation of energy workstreams across the district.

*\*The Deputy Minister also visited Overstrand Municipality earlier on the same day to engage them on their energy challenges and initiatives.*

Recently, the Deputy Minister also welcomed the approval of the South African Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM) for implementation. The masterplan focuses on solar and wind energy, lithium-ion battery and vanadium-based battery storage technologies and is designed to be a living document.

"I'm thrilled that Cabinet has approved the SA Renewable Energy Masterplan (SAREM) - we will take this opportunity to leverage and support the massive potential for local manufacturing and job creation in the renewable energy sector."

Cabinet has welcomed the addition of 800 megawatts of new generation capacity to the national grid after Eskom successfully brought Kusile Power Station's final generation unit online. This achievement marked a crucial step toward completing one of South Africa's largest infrastructure projects.



# OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING FORUM WORKSHOP

The Western Cape Department of Local Government's Municipal Infrastructure Division hosted a planning workshop for Municipalities in the Overberg District on 29 January 2025. The engagement took place at the Anene Booysen Skills Development Centre in Bredasdorp.

The purpose of the workshop was to provide a platform for municipalities to share their 5 to 10-year infrastructure pipelines, long-term financial planning, human settlements or private sector, residential development, and catalytic infrastructure to grow the economy.

Special focus was placed on integrated, coordinated planning, budgeting, and implementation across the three spheres of government.

The primary objectives of this meeting were to support municipalities to carry out medium- to long-term infrastructure planning, to enable all spheres of government to participate in the integrated, coordinated planning and budgeting for infrastructure for each municipality, and to identify Catalytic Infrastructure Projects for potential access to alternative financing.

Municipalities presented on their respective 15-year prioritised infrastructure pipeline, which is aligned to the MSDF, CEF, the LTFP and the

engineering master plans, sector plans, asset management plans, HSPs, IDP priorities, and MSDF's and include private and/or public catalytic business projects. It was also preferred that projects should align with the respective MSDF growth strategies, as well as contain both funded and unfunded projects.

The information provided by the municipalities will be used to:

- ◆ Develop a comprehensive understanding of the current and future infrastructure needs for each municipality over the next 10 years.
- ◆ To understand the status of municipal planning as it relates to the engineering master planning, sector planning, spatial planning and ultimately the development of a Capital Expenditure Framework.
- ◆ Align municipal plans with national and regional development goals.
- ◆ Identify areas where sector department support is needed to overcome challenges and ensure successful project implementation.

Mr Francois Kotze, Manager: Environmental Management Services presented on behalf of the Overberg District Municipality.

The main focus of ODM's presentation was the Karwyderskraal Landfill Site and the development of a 5th Cell.



# ESSENTIAL HEALTH AND HYGIENE TIPS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRES (ECD)

Every year there are several new ECD centres opening in our communities. Early Childhood Development (ECD) refers to children from birth to nine years. An ECD centre can be a crèche, day care centre for young children, a playgroup, a pre-school or after school care.

It is essential to follow some of the following tips to ensure a safe and healthy environment for children:

## Handwashing Practices

Encourage children and staff to wash hands frequently with soap and water, before meals, after using the toilet and after outdoor play. Provide age-appropriate handwash stations and teach proper techniques.

## Sanitization, Disinfection and Clean Environment

Regularly clean and disinfect tables, chairs, toys and play equipment. Maintain a tidy environment both indoors and outdoors. Properly dispose of waste and encourage children to participate in cleaning after each activity. Ensure that cleaning products are stored in a safe and lockable storage area away from children.

## Food Safety

Ensure that food is stored, prepared and served hygienically. Wash fruits and vegetables before serving. No food should be stored on the floor and all perishable food products should be stored in the refrigerator including babies' milk and kids lunch boxes. Ensure staff follow food safety guidelines to prevent foodborne illnesses. All ECD's providing food to children must apply for a Certificate of Acceptability, through ODM's local Municipal Health Services offices.

## Ventilation and Lighting

Ensure proper ventilation and lighting in classrooms. Open windows to reduce the risk of airborne illnesses and to keep air fresh inside the classrooms.

## Sick Children

Establish a policy for keeping sick children at home to prevent the spread of illnesses. All ECD centres must have a sick room/bay and procedures for isolating sick children in case of an outbreak.

## Health Education

Teach children basic hygiene habits in a fun and engaging way, like brushing teeth, covering their coughs, washing hands and using tissues.

## Did You Know???

Health Surveillance of Premises Service, forms part of Municipal Health basket of Services which are rendered by Overberg District Municipality by Environmental Health Practitioner's (Health Inspectors) Officials. Environmental Health Practitioners are allowed to enter any Early Childhood Development (ECD) premises for the purpose of conducting inspections, conducting environmental health investigations, and providing health education to pre-schools and childcare centres to ensure healthy environments. ECDs are advised to request proof of identification before allowing such officials to enter the premises.

## PLEASE NOTE

All Early Childhood Development Centres planning to open must ensure they apply for Health Certificate and Certificate of Acceptability, as per Overberg District Municipality Municipal Health By -Law of 15 July 2019 and Regulation R638, regulations Governing General Hygiene Requirements for Food Premises, the Transport of Food and Related Matters, 22 June of 2018, promulgated under the Foodstuffs, Cosmetics and Disinfectants Act 54 of 1972. The applications need to be done before operating and all existing ECDs must be renewed annually for a new Health Certificate.

# Guidelines to Prevent FOODBORNE ILLNESSES

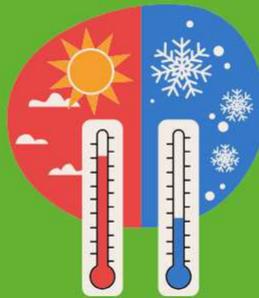


STOP FOODBORNE ILLNESSES AND KEEP  
YOUR FAMILY SAFE WITH THESE TIPS



## WASH HANDS OFTEN

Wash hands with soap before, during, and after preparing any food and after touching raw meat, poultry, seafood, or eggs.



## CORRECT STORAGE TEMPERATURES

Do not store food at room temperature for longer than two (2) hours. Store food in a fridge after it has cooled down (at 4°C). Do not keep leftover food in the fridge for longer than three (3) days.



## WASH FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Rinse under running water even before you peel them, so dirt and bacteria aren't transferred from the peel onto the produce inside.



## AVOID CROSS-CONTAMINATION

Separate raw meats from other foods. Use different cutting boards/surfaces for meat and vegetables.



## LUNCH BOXES

When preparing lunch boxes for your children, ensure that the food is not expired or contaminated. Avoid packing food that require refrigeration.



**Cape Agulhas:** 028 425 1157



**Overstrand:** 028 313 1243



[facebook.com/OverbergDM](https://www.facebook.com/OverbergDM)



**Theewaterskloof:** 028 212 1120



**Swellendam:** 028 514 1182



[www.odm.org.za](http://www.odm.org.za)



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# OVERBERG FIRE SEASON

**It's been another tough fire season for the Overberg region, with wildfires running rampant and some lasting for days on end. As fire season in the Western Cape typically runs from December to April, it's crucial to remain vigilant and be prepared.**

The Western Cape experiences its fire season during the summer months, from December to April. The fire season is influenced by dry conditions, high temperatures, and strong winds.

The number of vegetation fires has been increasing in the Western Cape, with a steady rise in incidents over the past few years.

Some areas in the region also experienced 'red days', which refer to very hot, dry and windy days that present high risks of fire for that particular area. Red days offer the perfect conditions for veldfires to ignite and burn out of control.

## **Protect your home against veldfires**

There's some concern around those

homeowners who live next to open fields of vegetation and mountains - known as the Wildland Urban Interface.

The worry is that many of these homeowners aren't doing enough to prevent the loss of their homes due to veldfires. One of the challenges (a well-recognised global obstacle) is that many believe firefighters will always save their homes. As a result, they are reluctant to make changes needed to protect their homesteads, or simply don't take responsibility.

Reducing the risk of fire is everyone's responsibility, including property owners.

## **Resources Available**

A helicopter and spotter plane are based at Bredasdorp from the beginning of December to end April. Additional resources can be contracted.

Except for the response from the Fire Services, additional resources could be made available in the form of ground crews and aerial support.





*ODM Municipal Manager, Mr Richard Bosman, With Cape Agulhas Municipal Manager, Mr Eben Phillips, and Overberg Fire Chief, Mr Reinard Geldenhuys during the Mierkraal fire (Bredasdorp) in January 2025.*

Arm yourself with the knowledge of what to do in times of fire. Learn the basics of fire preparedness, or how to report a fire to the appropriate authorities.

The numbers to save on your phone - whether you live in the Overberg, or you're just visiting here during fire season (up to April 2025):

- Overberg Fire Services (Overberg excluding the Overstrand): 028 425 1690
- Overstrand Fire Services: 028 312 2400
- goFPA: 063 690 7899

**We are all responsible**

Firefighters are heroes, but that doesn't mean everyone else is helpless. It is our responsibility to protect our homes and our land. By being proactive, being aware of fire hazards, and simply putting basic plans in place to decrease our risk, we can help keep our families, communities, and land safe.

**Three sources you can trust to share accurate information on veldfires in the Overberg during fireseason:**

- goFPA Facebook page
- Overberg District Municipality Facebook page
- Overstrand Municipality Facebook page





# ODM RESORTS

The Overberg District Municipality manages two resorts.

**Uilenkraalsmond Resort** is situated 7km from Gansbaai, and **Die Dam Resort** is situated 40km from Gansbaai.

Both resorts comprise of chalets and caravan sites.



*We look forward to welcoming you to our coastal paradise!*



## BOOK NOW

For inquiries and bookings, please contact us:

**Telephone:** 028 050 0894 / 028 050 0895

**Email:** [uilenkraalsmond@odm.org.za](mailto:uilenkraalsmond@odm.org.za) / [diedam@odm.org.za](mailto:diedam@odm.org.za)

For more information, or for application forms and rates, visit our website at: [www.odm.org.za](http://www.odm.org.za)



**VANDALISM  
COSTS YOU**

**A BETTER  
QUALITY OF LIFE**

**Last year, approximately R40 million was spent fixing vandalised infrastructure. Millions are spent annually fixing damage caused by vandalism. Millions that could have been spent creating jobs and giving people access to a better life.**

REPORT VANDALISM TO YOUR LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



Western Cape  
Government  
FOR YOU



KAAP AGULHAS MUNISIPALITEIT  
CAPE AGULHAS MUNICIPALITY  
E. BASTIEN & W. VAN DER MERWE



Munisipaliteit • U-Munispala • Municipality  
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