



# OVERBERG

DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY • DISTRIKSMUNISIPALITEIT • UMASIPALA WESITHILI

EXTERNAL NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 20 | DECEMBER 2023



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## EDITING

Developed by the  
IDP & Communications  
Department of the  
Overberg District Municipality

# Season's Greetings from the Executive Mayor



*Executive Mayor, Ald Sakkie Franken*

To our visitors to the Overberg 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.

To our highly motivated and totally committed men and women in emergency services, I salute you and your loved ones who continue to provide the much needed support in the Overberg.

May the joy and celebration of Christmas also be with you and your loved ones during this time.

Mag ons, Overberg Gemeenskap, asook al die besoekers aan ons streek, 'n ware Christusfees ervaar hierdie jaar.

Ek en my Raad wens u almal 'n vreugdevolle feesseisoen en 'n voorspoedige 2024 toe.



# COUNCIL 2021 – 2026

## 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:

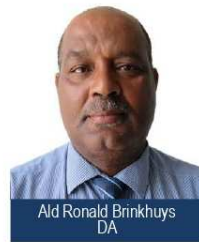
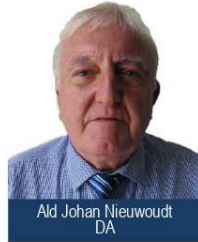
Contributes to a positive mind-set and facilitates morally acceptable behaviour.

### Respect:

For our natural resources and celebrating diversity.

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:



## 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

## STRATEGIC GOALS

- SG 1:** To ensure the well-being of all in the Overberg through the provision of efficient basic services and infrastructure.
- SG 2:** To promote regional economic development by supporting initiatives in the District for the development of a sustainable district economy.
- SG 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.
- SG 4:** To attain and maintain financial viability and sustainability by executing accounting services in accordance with National policy and guidelines.
- SG 5:** To ensure good governance practices by providing a democratic and pro-active accountable government and ensuring community participation through IGR structures.



# 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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## Conferment of Aldermanship and other milestones celebrated during last council meeting for 2023

On 4 December 2023, during the Overberg District Municipal Council's last ordinary meeting for the year, the Executive Mayor Ald Sakkie Franken and Municipal Manager Mr Richard Bosman, bestowed the title and status of Aldermanship upon the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Helen Coetzee.

The title "Alderman" is a historical title derived from the Anglo-Saxon position of ealdorman, literally meaning 'elder man'.

The title is thus a fitting one to be bestowed upon councillors who, amongst other criteria, have served on one or more local government bodies within the Republic of South Africa over the course of several years.

The honorary title is conferred once a year as and when councillors reach the required milestone. They retain the title even after they leave public office.

The Council also presented certificates in recognition of long service to the municipality for 30 years or more to officials who have reached these milestones.

Long Service Certificates are awarded to employees as a gesture of appreciation for services rendered in recognition of the employee's length of service.

The Executive Mayor, on behalf of the Council, thanked the recipients for their continuous and dedicated service to the municipality. "Thank you for being such valuable members of our workforce. We appreciate your commitment to the municipality over the years and wish you well for the years to come."

**Photo right: Executive Mayor Sakkie Franken, Mr Elbie January, Ms Hannelie Eksteen, Mr Reinard Geldenhuys, Cllr Archie Klaas and Municipal Manager Mr Richard Bosman.**



## New ODM councillor sworn in

Ms Michele Mathews was sworn in as a ODM councillor during the Council's last meeting for the year, which was held on 4 December.

Cllr Mathews also serves on the council of the Theewaterskloof Municipality and replaces Cllr Jennifer Mckenzie on the ODM council. Cllr. Jennifer Mckenzie from the GOOD Party resigned as Councillor to the Overberg District Municipality and the vacancy was declared in terms of item 11(1) of Schedule 2 of the Local Government: Municipal Structures Act, 1998 (Act 117 of 1998).

Cllr Mathews took the Oath and Solemn Affirmation as per Section 26(2) of the Local Government: Municipal Systems Act 1998, which provides that a person assumes office as a councillor when declared elected or appointed.

Hereby she vowed to carry forward the directive given to her by the District's Council in line with the municipality's vision and mission.



*Cllr Michele Mathews and ODM Speaker, Ald Lincoln de Bruyn.*



AUDITOR-GENERAL  
SOUTH AFRICA

## 4<sup>th</sup> CONSECUTIVE CLEAN AUDIT *for the Overberg District Municipality*

The Overberg District Municipality is happy to announce that we have received a clean audit.

The Auditor General of South Africa (AGSA) announced late on the night of 30 November 2023, that the ODM achieved a clean audit for the 2022/2023 financial year - its fourth consecutive Clean Audit!!

A clean audit means that it is an unqualified audit opinion with no findings and that all laws and regulations that were set, are met.

The Overberg District Municipality is committed providing good, clean governance and sound financial management.

The Municipal Manager, Mr Richard Bosman, expresses his heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the CFO, the administration, all personnel, and the Council for their efforts in ensuring a clean audit.

**Pictured right: The Finance Directorate, led by the CFO Mr Nantes Kruger, took the opportunity to celebrate the Clean Audit during their end of year function.**



# DISTRICT SAFETY NEEDS HIGHLIGHTED

The Overberg District Municipality together with the local municipalities in the region, attended a District Safety Meeting hosted by the Western Cape Minister of Police Oversight and Community Safety, Reagen Allen, and his Department to discuss safety needs and opportunities for the Overberg.

The Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety aims to increase safety for all the people in the Province by improving safety through effective oversight of policing, making safety everyone's responsibility and optimising safety and security risk management.

The department's work is underpinned by, amongst others, the Western Cape Community Safety Act (3 of 2013), and further rooted in Provincial Strategic Objective 5 (PSO5) "Increasing Safety" - which aims to make every community in the province a safe place in which to live, work, learn, relax and move about.

Minister Allen and his Department rolled out intergovernmental municipal engagements (IGMEs) in all the Districts in the Province during September and October to ensure that greater collaboration is strengthened in the fight against crime across the province.

The aim of these engagements are to:

- Discuss the Western Cape Safety Plan (WCSP) and ensure a shared vision and focus;
- Unpack the LEAP - Law Enforcement



Advancement Plan;

- Understand the provincial safety budget;
- Engage with the crime statistics per district;
- Integrate, mobilise and utilise a wide range of knowledge, capacity and resources; and
- Align efforts that will lead to a safer Western Cape.

The ODM Executive Mayor, Ald Sakkie Franken, and the Municipal Manager, Richard Bosman, presented on the Overberg District Safety Plan, and representatives from the local municipalities in the region also

presented on their local safety plans.

Minister Allen said: "We will always engage with the different spheres of government and relevant stakeholders, to ensure our residents live in dignity, without fear and where murders no longer happen in our communities. Our commitment as the Western Cape Government is to see that this becomes the safest province in the entire country. The more we continue to work together, the more successes we will achieve in our fight against all forms of crime."

## OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY & CHRYSALIS ACADEMY CONSTRUCTIVE ENGAGEMENT HELD TO ENHANCE SAFETY IN THE REGION

On 2 November 2023 a delegation from the Overberg District Municipality led by Mayor Sakkie Franken, Cllr Stephen Fourie and Municipal Manager, Mr Richard Bosman, together with officials from the Department of Police Oversight and Community Safety, held a constructive engagement with the Chrysalis Academy.

Discussions centred on capacity building of law enforcement officials, community renewal through partnerships, and the possibility of a community-based Chrysalis Academy type programme in the Overberg area.

The rationale is for everyone to work in a much more integrated way, with less time on reinventing the wheel. Further discussions will be held that could benefit even more youth from the area, and enhance overall safety in the province.



## COUNCIL VOTES FOR (RE-)ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Alderman Lincoln de Bruyn was re-elected as Speaker of the Overberg District Municipal Council during a special Council meeting held on 14 August 2023.

The position of Speaker became vacant when Ald de Bruyn, who served as a proportional representative on the ODM Council, was elected to serve on the Theewaterskloof Municipal Council, and was then seconded back to the ODM Council as a TWK representative.

At its first sitting after the election, or when necessary to fill a vacancy, a Municipal Council must elect its Speaker from among the Councillors.

The process for the election of the Speaker was led by the ODM Municipal Manager, Mr Richard Bosman. The Municipal Manager of the municipality, or if the Municipal Manager is not available, a person designated by the MEC for local government in the province, presides over the election of a Speaker.

The election of the Speaker was done in accordance with Chapter 3 of the Local Government Municipal Structures Act no.1998, which states that the Municipal



Ald Lincoln de Bruyn was re-elected as Speaker of the Overberg District Municipal Council. Here he is with ODM Deputy Mayor Helen Coetzee and Executive Mayor Sakkie Franken.

Council must have a chairperson who will be called the Speaker.

Following the voting process, Ald de Bruyn was elected by the majority of the Council members and was therefore reinstated as the Speaker.

Upon accepting his role, the Speaker said that it is a great honour to continue to serve on this Council and thanked the Council

members for once again entrusting him with this responsibility. He cited the importance of working together as a council to enable him to execute his duties diligently.

ODM Executive Mayor, Ald Sakkie Franken, congratulated Ald de Bruyn on his re-election as the Speaker of Council. He reiterated his trust in Ald de Bruyn's capabilities, given his experience in this position.

## Fezile Dabi District Municipality Visits ODM



The Overberg District Municipality hosted a delegation from the Fezile Dabi District Municipality for a 2-day engagement aimed at the sharing of good practices.

The Fezile Dabi District Municipality, formerly known as the Northern Free State District Municipality, is one of 5 districts in the Free State Province of South Africa and is situated in Sasolburg.

A delegation which consisted of the municipality's Mayco Members, the Executive Mayor and the Municipal Manager visited the ODM with the purpose of gaining knowledge from the ODM, specifically in terms of its external service delivery arm.

Sharing good practices is an excellent way to improve the performance and productivity of organisations by learning from one another.

This process can involve the sharing of ideas, strategies, processes, and techniques. The sharing of good practices can help organisations fill knowledge gaps, improve efficiency, encourage leadership, and more.

The visit from the Fezile Dabi DM provided the ODM with an opportunity to showcase the actions and methods that have proven most successful in achieving or contributing to the municipality's objectives.

Day one of the visit focussed on the

administrative aspects, with presentations on the ODM's recently approved organisational structure as well as an overview of its financial practices. The external services departments also presented on their respective functions and successes.

The delegation visited the Fire & Disaster Management Center and Roads Depot in Bredasdorp and ended the day with a trip to the Southernmost Tip of Africa monument in L'Agulhas.

Day two focussed on site visits to the Karwyderskraal Landfill Site, the ODM's Resorts and the Municipal Health Services office in Hermanus.

# Swellendam municipality rocked by violent protest

A planned protest by disgruntled residents of the informal settlement in Swellendam resulted in chaos for the town as its municipal building was set alight and various properties vandalised on Wednesday, 16 August 2023.

Hundreds of residents took to the streets to protest against service delivery issues, relating to high electricity tariffs, the provision of water and the requirement for households to register for indigent support. Various businesses in the main road and in Railton were looted and damaged amid police presence. Local law enforcement agencies, as well as Overberg District Municipality's Fire Services, were deployed to the area to monitor and take action against any further unlawful activities.

Community leader Monwabisi Mtyanga said that another reason for the protest was because of racism and neglect. "As a community we are suffering, we can't afford to buy electricity, we can't afford to pay water because the prices are too high" Mtyanga stated.

As attempts to discuss and offer solutions was unsuccessful due to the unavailability of the community representatives, Swellendam Executive Mayor Francois Du Rand conveyed the Council's position on the municipality's Facebook page.

The Mayor also highlighted the spreading of false information as a contributor of unhappiness and anger in residents, which can lead to unlawful behaviour. "Recently, we have witnessed the power and reach of misinformation in ways we could not have imagined before. Observing how false information and communication can fuel antisocial behaviour and even incite violence is disheartening. Such actions disrupt the peace in our beautiful municipality and pose significant challenges to the law enforcement agencies working tirelessly to maintain order."

Approval was granted for a peaceful march which took place on 30 August, under the



strict supervision of law enforcement agencies, for residents to hand over a memorandum of concerns and requests from the informal settlement to the Mayor.

"Turning to the peaceful march Wednesday, I want to provide insight into the process and considerations involved. Under the Gatherings Act 205 of 1993, which is rooted in the Constitution of South Africa, every individual has the right to free movement and the ability to engage in peaceful protest actions. By this principle, the Municipality received an application for a peaceful march, and we have followed the

established protocol to evaluate and address potential risks." said the Mayor in his statement on the clarification regarding the peaceful march.

Mayor Du Rand accepted the memorandum and promised that the concerns would be discussed and considered.

The list of demands includes that the municipality undertake an urgent review of its indigent policy, as well as lowering electricity tariffs and giving pensioners free units.

Another concern was the lack of adequate sanitation and other infrastructure in informal settlements.



Swellendam residents during the peaceful march on 30 August 2023.



Mayor du Rand accepted the memorandum and promised to respond to the demands.

# STORM WREAKS HAVOC ACROSS THE OVERBERG



*The Bot River broke its banks in the town of Botrivier, flooding wide areas of the N2 highway and making it completely inaccessible.*

## The Western Cape experienced heavy rain and destructive flooding over Heritage Weekend, leading to significant damage to road networks, water & electricity supply and farm infrastructure.

On 24 September the South African Weather Services issued a level 9 orange weather warning for very cold, wet, and windy conditions for the Western Cape, as the result of an upper air cut-off low pressure system. This was the highest ever recorded weather warning for the Overberg region.

The storm, which occurred during Heritage Weekend between 24 and 26 September, wreaked havoc and left hundreds of holiday-makers stranded especially in coastal towns such as Struisbaai and Arniston in the Cape Agulhas area.

The heavy flooding left many towns cut off from the outside world as various bridges and roads were washed away, which led to a long list of road closures across the district. This includes major highways such as the N2 which was completely flooded at Botrivier on 25 November. Motorists were redirected at impasses and had to make use of alternative routes to reach their destinations.

All towns were affected by the storm, although some towns suffered more severe damage to critical infrastructure. In some parts of the region, towns were left without water and electricity supply for days due to the impact of the flooding.

Homes in low-lying areas were severely flooded, informal settlements along river banks flooded and suffered major damage. Many residents had to evacuate their homes and flee to safety. Shelter for displaced

residents was provided by local municipalities and organisations who offered their facilities.

Three fatalities were reported as a direct result of the storm.

### Road Closures

A total of 154 roads had to be closed across the Western Cape following the adverse weather. At the height of the floods, the Overberg region had 68 roads closed and affected. Thanks to National, Provincial and District roads departments, most roads have been repaired and reopened, whilst steady progress is being made to reopen all affected roads.

The South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL) has completed its work on repairing the section of the N2 at Botrivier and the road was reopened to traffic on 30 October 2023.

Repairs to Clarence Drive, the Palmiet Bridge and the R43/R44 intersection near Kleinmond are progressing well. The Hemel-en-Aarde Road between Caledon and Hermanus has been opened with Stop-&-Go systems implemented.

Clarence Drive, which suffered serious damage as a result of a number of significant landslips and rockslides, have since been open for one-way traffic.

Premier Alan Winde have stated that the restoration process would not be finished overnight, and called for patience while repairs were under way. The Premier estimated the cost of damage to provincial roads following the devastating storms at R500 million, and repairs could continue well into 2024.



*Clarence Drive was reopened for one-way traffic on 11 December 2023.*

### Humanitarian Efforts & Support

Local communities and all spheres of government assisted the Municipalities in their rescue and relief efforts.

The majority of the rescue efforts were focussed on reaching persons in need of medical assistance in water isolated areas, responding to the needs of displaced communities and reaching isolated towns and

communities who were low on water and food supplies.

The South African Air Force Base in Overberg also played a vital role in saving lives and assisted flood-stricken communities in the region.

The Air Force in partnership with the Overberg Disaster Management Centre deployed a BK 117 helicopter as well as

disaster management personnel to various areas, including certain farming communities that became inaccessible due to the floods. They delivered food and medical supplies, as well as fresh water to those affected by the floods.

It was reported that an estimated R1.4 billion in agricultural losses were inflicted across the region due to the heavy rains.



## FRANSCHHOEK PASS: DAILY CLOSURES FOR CONSTRUCTION

The Franschhoek Pass, which connects Franschhoek and the towns of Grabouw and Villiersdorp, will be closed between 08:00 and 17:00 on weekdays for construction purposes.

The closures will take effect on Tuesday (28 November) and will be in place until Friday (15 December).

The pass will then be open (with the proceed-when-safe arrangement and weight restriction) till 7 January 2024 and closed again from 8 January 2024 till the end of February 2024.

The pass was reopened to selected

categories of light motor vehicles after it was closed following a severe weather system that hit the Western Cape during the Heritage Day long weekend. The teams started working on temporary repairs as soon as the engineering team was satisfied that the landslips had stabilised sufficiently to start work.

The works have reached a point where the pass must be closed daily to initiate the soil-nailing process, of phase 1. Soil nailing is a technique used to stabilise existing slopes. This soil reinforcement process uses metal tendons which are drilled and grouted into the

soil to create something that represents a gravity wall. For this to be done, the pass needs to be closed due to the size of the equipment that is used and the size of the working area required.

Light motor vehicles will be able to traverse the pass outside of the closure times. The use of the pass, even during times when the pass is open, by vehicles with a mass of more than 5 tons remains strictly prohibited.

Disregarding road signs and restrictions is a serious concern. Road users are strongly advised to continue using alternative routes.



*Daily closures for construction will be implemented for the Franschhoek Pass from 28 November to 15 December 2023.*

# Strengthening Intergovernmental Relations

The IDP & Communications Department of the Overberg District Municipality hosted an Overberg District IDP Strategic Engagement in Gansbaai on 26-27 October 2023. The 2-day session formed part of the Overberg District IDP Managers Forum.

The purpose of the engagement was to strengthen alignment between IDPs and sector departments, and to develop a clear understanding in terms of each of these sector departments' inputs to the IDPs.

The overall objective of the forum is to continue enhancing and strengthening intergovernmental relations in the Overberg District, as well as to ensure sector integration and align planning activities across the region, especially in terms of the progress of Public Participation & Sector Engagements.

Many government services that affect communities at local level are delivered by provincial and national government departments, for example: police services, clinics and schools.

Municipalities must take into account the programmes and policies of the various departments. The departments should also participate in the IDP process so that they can



be guided on how to use their resources to address local needs.

Municipal IDPs are based on the needs and priorities of the community. The different

spheres of government are encouraged to work in a co-ordinated manner to tackle the development needs within the respective local communities.

## PERFORMANCE & RISK MANAGEMENT IN THE WORKPLACE

Staff members of the Directorate Corporate Services recently attended a Performance & Risk Management Workshop.

In an effort to educate personnel on the importance of performance and risk management, the Director Corporate Services, Ms Vanessa Zeeman, invited all the staff members employed in the Directorate to attend the session, which took place on 20 November 2023 in the ODM Council Chamber.

Risk management is the process of identifying, assessing and controlling threats to an organization's capital, earnings and operations. These risks stem from a variety of sources, including financial uncertainties, legal liabilities, technology issues, strategic management errors, accidents and natural disasters.

By identifying, assessing and managing risks, organizations can make more informed and balanced decisions, respond to changes and uncertainties, and evaluate alternative courses of action. This enables them to make better choices that align with their risk appetite and objectives.

Integrating risk with performance management is critical. By doing so,

organizations are more likely to identify potential risks faster, respond to them quicker and prepare for them better. To incorporate risk into performance management, organizations must:

- Prioritize risks based on greatest impact and likelihood of occurrence.
- Create a line of sight working backward from the identified risks and their root causes.
- Correlate risks within and across silos.
- Adjust for the compounding effects of seemingly independent risk events.

- Plan for different scenarios. By identifying different scenarios, the organization will be able to develop various risk response plans that are applicable to many possible events, not just the specific scenario developed.

Furthermore, integrating risk with performance management means enhancing monitoring and reporting. Effective reporting helps organizations sense risk, respond faster and reduce its negative effects.

The Directorate is responsible for functions such as HR and Building Maintenance.



# RAISING AWARENESS: IDP, SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT & FIRE COMBINE EFFORTS TO REACH RESIDENTS

The IDP & Communications department, together with the Social Development Department and Fire & Disaster Management rolled out awareness on Wednesday, 6 December 2023 at the Anene Booysen Centre in Bredasdorp.

The awareness is part of the municipality's District Awareness Campaign and public participation process. Previous awareness

engagement was focussed on specific groups who would be invited to the ODM's Council Chamber for the sharing of information and programmes.


This time around, the municipality targeted the residents, more specifically the youth, and decided to go out into the community to reach the target audience directly.

With exams completed and most schools

allowing students to stay home, the awareness was primarily focussed on young children. It was especially important to inform them of fire risks during the hot and dry summer season.

The kids enjoyed getting educated on fire as well as social issues within communities. Various awareness materials were distributed to the residents and the youth.





**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)

# Overberg Fire Season: Off to a 'Hot' Start



*A large wildfire broke out in the DFFE plantation, known as 'Blok K', opposite KROMCO and caused a short closure of the N2 between Grabouw and Houwhoek. Thanks to the efforts and cooperation of everyone involved the fire was contained later that afternoon.*

The Overberg District Municipality's Fire & Disaster Management launched its Fire Season Readiness on Monday, 4 December 2023, at the Disaster Management Centre in Bredasdorp.

The 1st of December marked the official start of the fire season, although fires have already started to flare up in some parts of the region, an indication of the busy fire season that is expected.

ODM Deputy Mayor, Ald Helen Coetzee, gave the key note address and thanked all the role-players for their continued support and efforts in ensuring that the Disaster Centre has proper and capable equipment and that the firefighters are trained and skilled

for fire and rescue efforts.

A special thank you was given to Santam for their partnership and contributions to disaster management in the region. The Deputy Mayor together with a representative from Santam also cut the ribbon to officially open the new container at the training facility, which will allow for more learning opportunities at the facility.

Cape Agulhas Municipality Executive Mayor Paul Swart was also in attendance to receive the handover of fire extinguisher trolleys to be deployed in the area. This will greatly assist the municipality with their firefighting efforts.

MEC Anton Bredell, Western Cape Minister for Local Government, Environmental Affairs

and Development Planning, launched the Provincial Fire Season in Stellenbosch on 27 November 2023.

In his address, the Minister stated that 25% of wildfires are started intentionally, while about 75% are as a result of negligence. He said less than 3% of wildfires happen through natural causes, such as lightning.

"Last season, a total of 7215 wildfires broke out in the Western Cape. The Provincial Government approved air support for 38 of these. 85% of fires in high-risk areas were contained in the initial attack phase. With a view to the coming fire season, the Western Cape Government have budgeted R16 million for wildfire responses."



*ODM Fire Chief Reinard Geldenhuys addressing the stakeholders during the ODM's Fire Season launch event.*



*Cape Agulhas Executive Mayor Paul Swart and ODM Deputy Mayor Helen Coetzee during the handover of the fire extinguisher trolleys.*

## WILDFIRE READY: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Western Cape is divided into Districts. Each of these has its own Emergency Number to report wildfires.



**ALL EMERGENCIES: Dial 112 from any cell phone toll free**

Report Wildfires Immediately.



**Wildfire is Coming**  
**Are you #WildfireReady?**

Wildfires are unplanned fires that burn in forests, grasslands and other ecosystems, and they can start with a natural event like a lightning strike, or as the result of human activity. Campfires, discarded cigarettes, and electrical equipment like downed power lines all spark wildfires.

Drought can be a contributing factor to wildfire. Dry, hot, and windy weather combined with dried out (and more flammable) vegetation can increase the probability of large-scale wildfires.

The Western Cape is divided into Districts. Each District has its own emergency number to report wildfires:



### Here's a tip for the visitors to our region

If you're visiting our district these holidays, please stay alert to wildfires. Save these numbers to your phone to report fires:

- Overberg Fire control room: 028 425 1690
- Overstrand Fire control room: 028 312 2400

The first few hours are the most important to contain fires. So reporting fires quickly can help to save lives, infrastructure, livelihoods and the environment.

Please don't make fires in undesignated areas and avoid areas with active fires. Report wildfires immediately!



*Firefighters from the Overberg District Municipality are standing by and ready for action. We thank our brave firefighters for their unwavering dedication and exceptional service.*

# Promoting Social Cohesion in Youth



The Department of Cultural Affairs and Sport, in partnership with the Overberg District Municipality, National Department of Sports Arts and Culture, and Cape Nature, hosted the DCAS Social Cohesion Camp, at the Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve from 1-3 December 2023.

The aim of the event was to utilise alternative methodologies such as arts and Culture activities, Zumba, stretching, drama, and Mindfulness, to foster conversations around social cohesion, social well-being and Gender-Based Violence.

Dr. Jocelyn Solomon, one of the facilitators from the University of Stellenbosch explained the purpose of one of the activities on social cohesion, "The objective of this activity is to empower participants to independently construct their conceptualization of social

cohesion. Crucially, it aims to underscore their agency in shaping and influencing social cohesion dynamics within their communities. The identified themes, while not exhaustive, encompass crucial elements for consideration in this activity, with emphasis placed on those highlighted as particularly significant."

In other activities such as Zumba, stretching and mindfulness, the aim was to equip participants with knowledge on how to utilize these activities, not only as a means of expression but also as a coping mechanism for their mental- and social well-being.

The participants hailed from Swellendam, Villiersdorp, the Metro and Bredasdorp had an opportunity to show of their talents in the impromptu "Talent show" on Saturday evening and mesmerized the audience with their amazing dancing and singing skills.

## Future initiatives

To ensure sustainability, recommendations were made which include a case study of the activities as a project where the participants who attended are tasked to become community agents for social cohesion in their communities and to report back at a follow up camp in June 2024.

Pending the approval from their respective departments, Officials will continue the conversation on the expansion of this project, particularly in terms of Mindfulness not only as a catalyst for cohesion but for improving the social, mental, and emotional well-being of the public.

This is an example of how all three spheres of government, through collaboration created platforms for community conversations to social cohesion.



## DISCLAIMER: OVERBERG DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY RESORTS



The Overberg District Municipality, owners of Uilenkraalsmond Resort and Die Dam Resort (subsidiaries of the municipality), wishes to inform the general public that no official websites and/or social media pages exist for these Resorts.

Bookings for the Resorts may only be done telephonically or via email to the administrative official/s at the Resorts. Authorized information for the Resorts can be found on the Overberg District Municipality's Website and Facebook page. No person, business or entity is allowed to advertise and/or solicit bookings of the Resorts for personal gain. Any unauthorized commercial use of the Resorts' names or their materials is expressly prohibited.

By this disclaimer, the Overberg District Municipality dissociates itself from any unauthorized business carried out with the names of Uilenkraalsmond Resort and Die Dam Resort. The Overberg District Municipality exempts itself from all possible liability claims that may occur through the use of illegal websites and social media pages, or any unauthorized person, business or entity.



**WE ARE HIRING**



## ELECTORAL STAFF

**Job Purpose:** To contribute towards strengthening electoral democracy processes by assisting in coordinating and implementing the voting and results programmes of the Electoral Commission at voting station level.

**This position is available at all the Voting Stations in your Local Municipality.**

**Closing date: Thursday, 29 February 2024**

**Only Online Applications through the official IEC Website is allowed.**

Follow the link below or scan the QR Code to get access to our JOBS page



<https://www.elections.org.za/pw/About-Us/BrowseJobs>

*Create your profile on the website and apply for available positions once advertise*

**Tenders are hereby invited from suitable service providers for the following:**

- **T10-2023/24:** SUPPLY, SERVICING, REFILLING OF FIRE EXTINGUISHERS, HOSE REELS, SIGNAGE & BRACKETS AND SUPPLY OF HOSES, NOZZLES AND FOAM FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2026
- **T11-2023/24:** TSUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF CLEANING MATERIAL, TOILET PAPER, AND BLACK REFUSE BAGS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2026
- **T12-2023/24:** PERSONAL PROTECTIVE GEAR AND VARIOUS ARTICLES OF HUMAN PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT
- **T13-2023/24:** SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF COLD MIX ASPHALT POTHOLE FILLER (ROADSAVER TYPE) FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 30 JUNE 2026
- **T14-2023/24:** SUPPLY OF ROAD MARKING PAINT – REFLECTIVE GLASS BEADS AND THINNERS

**Closing Date: 26/01/2024**



## TENDERS / QUOTATIONS NOTICE



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

# Celebrating World Environmental Health Day 2023



This year's theme for World Environmental Health Day was Global Environmental Public Health: Standing Up to protect Everyone's Health Each and Every Day.

Environmental Health is one of the largest fields within public health because of the myriad of ways external forces can impact how people eat, live, and grow. These forces can be about addressing our natural environment (as in the case for clean water or sanitation), but they can also be the consequence of human actions.

Overberg District Municipality and the Department of Health in collaboration with various other stakeholders joined the global community to commemorate World Environmental Health Day on 26 – 27 September 2023. On the first day various speakers delivered speeches related to the

theme of the event. The last day the National Environmental Health Bill was discussed and review of the National Environmental Health Policy was done.

It was the first time ODM's Municipal Health Services was represented at a combined World Environmental Health Day event.

ODM Environmental Health Practitioners Mr Neville Dreyer, Ms Bulelwa Mtakati and Ms Busisiwe Jim of the Municipal Health Services' Technical Committee attended the event in Simondium. Unfortunately not all the technical committee members could attend the event due to road closures caused by the storm in September.

An exhibition on Protective Clothing for the Environmental Health practitioner was done along with a display of various informative pamphlets and materials.

## MUNICIPAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDES WATER SAMPLING ASSISTANCE TO ENSURE SAFE WATER SUPPLY FOLLOWING HERITAGE WEEKEND STORM



Potable water supply to residential areas and businesses in the Hermanus, Greater Hermanus and Kleinmond area was interrupted due to damage to the water supply infrastructure caused by heavy rains during the Heritage Day weekend storm.

To prevent possible water and food borne diseases outbreaks, an extensive Municipal Health Programme was implemented during this water supply interruption.

Overstrand Municipality supplied water via JoJo tanks throughout the communities. Water trucks transported water to these tanks from the municipality's water purification plant in Stanford and the Buffelsrivier plant in Hangklip.

Sampling of the water from these tanks was done on a daily basis. Water from the water trucks was also sampled. The Environmental Health Practitioners also rolled out water quality monitoring and food safety monitoring by taking water samples, food samples, doing water safety and food safety awareness and conducting food premises inspections in the Hermanus and Theewaterskloof areas.

## FOOD SAFETY BLITZ ROLLED OUT IN CAPE AGULHAS



On 20 September 2023, Environmental Health Practitioners (EHPs) did a second Food Safety Blitz for the year, this time in the Cape Agulhas sub-district in Bredasdorp.

The blitz entailed sampling food contact surfaces using the swab technique, handing out food safety information materials to the premises' management and personnel, and also providing hand soap to them.

Swabs were collected from fast food/take-away shops, a butchery, as well as kitchens in a hospital, an old age home, a school hostel and a crèche. A total of 48 swabs were taken of which 30 complied with the General Hygiene Regulations for Food Premises.

Environmental Health Practitioners Lukhanyo Mafuduka and Sisonke Simelane thoroughly examined and sampled food preparation surfaces and also took swabs from food serving utensils.

# Voet van Afrika 2023: ODM Social Committee manages water station



The Overberg District Municipality's Social Committee, along with a few volunteering officials, represented the municipality at the annual Voet van Afrika Marathon in Bredasdorp. The Marathon this year took place on 22-23 September 2023.

The Voet van Afrika event is Africa's southernmost marathon close to the tip of Africa in the Overberg. It consists of four categories - the 42km marathon, the 21km half marathon and the 10km which takes place on the Saturday, and then the 4km fun run/walk (also known as the 'Toontjie') which takes place on the Friday.

ODM was invited to manage a water station for the marathon race held on Saturday the 23rd of September. Water stations are placed at regular intervals along the routes for the supply of water, coke and oranges to the runners. Medical assistance is also provided at the water station.

Managing a water station on the day of the marathon is an exciting and fun experience. It is also great for team building and helps in raising awareness for the municipality.

A big thank you is extended to all the volunteers and to the Social Committee for taking the initiative and organising the activity.





**WE ARE TAKING A  
BREAK!**

## OFFICE CLOSURE

### ODM ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

**Close:** Friday, 22 December 2023 (12:00)

**Open:** Tuesday, 2 January 2024

### ODM ROADS DEPARTMENT

**Close:** Thursday, 14 December 2023 (11:00)

**Open:** Monday, 15 January 2024

**Emergency Services will remain open. For  
emergencies, please call 028 425 1690**

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

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



*Wishing all our residents and  
visitors a happy and safe festive  
season*

