**MEDIAVERKLARING / PRESS RELEASE**#Overstrand4all

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**EMBARGO: Immediate release**

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**Alleged illegal building activities in Overhills**

Overstrand Municipality has been lambasted of late by the perceived increase in the number of informal houses in the Overhills Informal Settlement in Kleinmond.

It must be noted that that the Municipality makes use of a number of controls to limit the possibility of new informal structures being erected. These include foot patrols and the use of visual comparisons of images taken on a daily basis.

It has also been proven of late, by the above mentioned image taking, that there are a number of false reports being made by certain members of the public of illegal building taking place.

Further to this, Overstrand Municipality is also in the process of appointing additional foot patrol staff as well as procuring vehicles and related resources to improve the monitoring.

Unfortunately, once a structure is erected and occupied an eviction order must be sought from a competent court. This has proven to be a long and drawn out process.

It should be noted that due to the materials being used to erect these structures, it needs constant maintenance and repairs - specifically after rains and hence an increase in building activities has been noticed during these times.

Effective management of informal areas is complex and requires extensive resources. The view is held that the Municipality is doing well with this function considering the available resources.

The public is urged to please ensure that they have the right information before posting it on social media platforms and to kindly refrain from spreading unconfirmed information on social media and WhatsApp groups.

END/EINDE