**MEDIAVERKLARING / PRESS RELEASE**

**ISSUED BY:**

**Municipal Manager: Dean O’Neill**

Tel: 028 313 8003 | mm@overstrand.gov.za

Overstrand Municipality

**MEDIA ENQUIRIES:**

**Riana Steenekamp**

Tel: 028 313 8043 | rsteenekamp@overstrand.gov.za

**EMBARGO: Immediate release**

  **18 August 2022**

**Overstrand Municipality to tackle land invasions**

Illegal land invasions are becoming a major concern in the Western Cape and more specifically so in the Overstrand Municipality. This practice is unacceptable as it impedes proper planning and the provision the basic services. In most instances the invasions are also on land that might not be suitable for settlement.

To mitigate and to prevent any further illegal occupation on municipal land after the lapsing of the Red Ants contract on 30 June 2022, Overstrand Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie, indicated that a strategic decision was taken by Council to not outsource the function again.

The decision was based on the municipality’s need for creating opportunities for local job creation and capacity building and it would also allow the Protection Services Directorate to be more responsive and hands-on in curbing illegal land invasions.

Mayor Rabie says as soon as the prescribed procedures have been completed, 18 members will be appointed to the Land Invasion Unit. Six members each will be allocated to Kleinmond, Gansbaai and Hermanus on a 24-hour shift schedule to ensure availability of law enforcement officers.

END/EINDE

Issued by:
Dr Annelie Rabie
Office of the Overstrand Executive Mayor