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**EMBARGO: Immediate release**

  **26 September 2022**

**Two women mugged in Fernkloof**

Two women in their 60's were robbed by two men carrying knives and wearing black balaclavas while hiking in the Fernkloof Nature Reserve on Friday, 23 September 2022.

The incident occurred at approximately 14:15 on the contour path at the waterfall and Lemoenkop routes.

The women immediately reported the incident to the Fernkloof Rangers's office, who phoned Law Enforcement and the Police.

The police quickly arrived on the scene and HPP camera footage was requested for further assistance. A drone was also dispatched and the Fernkloof Rangers patrolled the area but to no avail.

The women, from Betty's Bay, were robbed of their cell phones, cash, wallets and jewelry. Thankfully, they were not injured but badly shaken by their ordeal and were very concerned about their personal information on the taken cell phones.

The Mayor discussed the issue of personal safety in public areas at length with her Mayco members and senior staff this morning.

She indicated that a wider strategic consultation with SAPS and all other security providers is needed to ensure collaboration and efficiency.

The Municipality has already increased its law enforcement's presence in Rotary Drive and will do the same in Fernkloof. However, Fernkloof Reserve is not enclosed and has almost twenty access points which makes entry easy, but difficult to control.

END/EINDE

Issued by:

Overstrand Executive Mayor, Dr Annelie Rabie

