

MEC FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS TO GIVE CLARITY OF HIS VISIT: Simmers pays yet another visit to Overstrand to inform affected communities firsthand about progress being made with their housing needs

Within two months from his initial visit to Overstrand to conduct an on-site inspection of progress made with housing developments in the Greater Hermanus area, Tertius Simmers – MEC for Human Settlements in the Western Cape – returned to provide feedback to the community and to inform them personally about some promising changes that have been made to the province's criteria for prioritising housing allocation.

In the past, beneficiaries registered on the waiting list for housing were prioritised according to four criteria: the elderly, the disabled, households headed by children and people who have been on the list for a long time. Now, a fifth criterion has been added, namely backyard dwellers.

Furthermore, all new housing projects are to include affordable rental options for qualifying beneficiaries under the age of 35.

Simmers said he has issued an executive directive to all municipalities in the province to include backyarders in their housing allocation criteria, adding that his department will embark on a weekend registration and verification drive during November to ensure the housing waiting lists across the Overstrand are accurate and that all the details are correct.

However, it remains the responsibility of potential beneficiaries to make use of these registration opportunities to ensure that their details have been captured correctly on the housing database.

In his address to the affected communities, Simmers also went to great lengths to explain the need to form a Social Compact Committee to represent them so that all discussions can be conducted with a structured body. To this end, he urged the communities to select representatives who have the best interests of the community at heart.

He also appealed to the community to refrain from further unlawful land invasions since "this will delay and slow down the process. It will work better if everyone works together," he added.

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT STATUS QUO AS AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS

AREA	PROCESS	WAY FORWARD
Paradise Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agreement to buy 3 ha bordering on R43 could not be reached due to disagreement on value of property Profiling survey to establish needs and qualifying criteria for subsidised products concluded Social Compact Committee formed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent evaluators have been appointed by MEC and owner in an attempt to agree on a purchase price All attempts are being made to find an amicable solution
Zwelihle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchase price of R31.7 million agreed upon and deed of sale of Schulphoek property is being finalised 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social Compact Committee still to be formed 7 500 housing opportunities to be developed as part of Schulphoek Better-living Model
Mount Pleasant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> R16,2 million has been allocated for housing in the area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is to commence in April 2020, in other words shortly after conclusion of the current provincial fiscal year

HANDY KNITTERS GO ALL OUT TO HONOUR MADIBA

On Mandela Day, Overstrand Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee and Cllr Riana de Coning were very impressed with the knitted articles they could hand out to the elderly in Herberg-aan-See in Gansbaai, Silwerjare in Blompark, Pearly Shells in Hawston, Siyazama Service Centre in Zwelihle, Huis Lettie Theron's frail care centre in Hermanus and the Lombardi Centre in Mount Pleasant.

No fewer than 198 pairs of socks and a couple of blankets were gifted by the handy knitters in Hermanus and Stanford and Gansbaai.

"Thank you very much to everyone who has supported this project by either knitting or donating wool. It was also humbling and reassuring to see how the staff handle and care for the elderly in their charge. I want to thank them for looking after our senior citizens in such a gentle manner," the Mayor said.

Cllr Riana de Coning applauded her knitting group from Gansbaai, as well as the Needles and Pins Wool Shop, for their dedication and contribution to the Mayor's knitting project for 2019.

The bed socks and blankets in wonderful colours that this group and other individuals had knitted and crocheted were handed out to crèches and care facilities for the elderly in the Gansbaai area.

"I want to thank everybody who either contributed their knitting skills, time, wool or money to buy material. Next year, come winter and Mandela Day, we will do it again!"



MAYOR PAYS A VISIT TO HUIS LETTIE THERON: Pictured here with Mayor Dudley Coetzee and Cllr Riana de Coning (far right) are Kobus Theron (technician), Aletta de Kock (resident), sister Julliane Bacon (back), Annatjie Henn (resident, centre), staff nurse Lilly Jacobs (front), staff nurse Mathilda Abrahams (front), sister Ansie Uitenweerde (back) and Ronnie Esterhuizen (wheelchair, resident).

INCREASED ELECTRICITY DEPOSITS

If a client apply for a new connection and no history of his/her consumption exist, the following deposits are applicable for the 2019/2020 financial year:

Domestic & Commercial Single Phase Credit Meter (Two Part Tariff) Electricity	R2 471.71
Domestic Three Phase Credit Meter (Two Part Tariff) - Electricity	R4 327.19
Commercial Three Phase Credit Meter (Two Part Tariff) - Electricity	R9 890.23
Domestic & Commercial Single Phase Pre-paid (Two Part Tariff) - Electricity	R 568.74
Domestic & Commercial Three Phase Pre-paid (Two Part Tariff) - Electricity	R1 137.48

Since July 2011 all electricity deposits are adjusted annually, by the average increase for electricity as announced by the National Electricity Regulator of South Africa (NERSA). During the draft budget process for 2016/2017 financial year, which was open for public participation, the under mentioned change to the Customer Care, Credit Control & Debt Collection Policy was suggested and approved.

The Policy states as follows:

Item 7.6.3 - Security deposit will be adjusted annually, which will be equal to twice the average consumption during the preceding 12 months.

The following is applicable for pre-paid electricity meters:

The deposit for consumers who are making use of pre-paid electricity meters increases to R568.74, or the difference between the existing deposit and RX amount if a deposit had already been paid earlier. If there are pensioners who qualify for the indigent grant, their deposits will be adjusted in accordance with the approved tariff applicable.

The following is applicable for credit electricity meters:

The deposit for consumers with credit electricity meters, was calculated by averaging the previous 12 months monetary value and multiplying it by two.

The aforementioned adjustment may result in consumers receiving a credit on their monthly account in August 2019, because the deposits on hand at the time might have been higher than their average consumption charges over the preceding year. During the 2018/2019 financial year the deposit for a single phase meter was R4 674.25.

Consumers with credit meters are advised to consider converting to pre-paid meters, which will result in a deposit of R568.74 for single phase and R1 137.48 for three phase meters. The remainder of the current deposit on hand, will be allocated towards the cost of the conversion. Tariffs for pre-paid electricity units are slightly cheaper than that of credit meters.

Consumers who are unable to pay the annual increased deposit in a single payment are welcome to contact Client Services at your closest Municipal Office to make arrangements to settle this amount in instalments. Please direct all enquiries regarding customer service to 028 313 8000 or send an e-mail to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za

Contact us:

KLEINMOND: 33 5th Avenue, Kleinmond; Tel: 028 271 8400

HERMANUS: Magnolia Street, Hermanus; Tel: 028 313 8000

STANFORD: 17 Queen Victoria Street, Stanford; Tel: 028 341 8500

GANSBAAI: Main Road, Gansbaai; Tel: 028 384 8300

BABOONS HENCEFORTH TO BE MANAGED AND CONTROLLED BY OVERSTRAND

The Department of Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, the Western Cape Nature Conservation Board and the Overstrand Municipality jointly agreed that they will do their best to find a collaborative solution to address the baboon problem in the Overstrand area.

Those talks resulted in the formulation of a Strategic Baboon Management Plan (SBMP), clarifying the method, duration and applicable budgets allocated to each authority involved in the management of baboons.

Subsequently, the SBMP has been submitted to and approved by the provincial cabinet.

Accordingly, Overstrand has been authorised to appoint a specialised service provider to manage and control baboons in the area by means of a "virtual fence", which basically boils down to employing baboon monitors.

It is estimated that the municipality will need to budget around R2.6 million in the current year to sustain and evaluate the baboon management plan that is already underway in Voëlklip and Pringle Bay before the plan can be expanded to other areas.

Once the procurement process has run its course and a suitable service provider has been appointed, that service provider will then be in a position to monitor the current population dynamics of the baboon troops and to study the impact of the baboon-human conflict in the area.

Keep in mind that around two to three weeks will be required to appoint baboon monitors, to take care of all related administrative and financial matters, and to finalise the protocol and standard operating procedures (including authorisation from CapeNature to capture and collar specific baboons where necessary) before this project can kick off.

Nevertheless, Overstrand Municipality is confident that this operation will be up and running by the end of October 2019 and welcomes all inputs and contributions from the community.

Details regarding the SBMP and its implications can be obtained by calling Liezl de Villiers on 028 316 3724 or e-mailing on: ldvilliers@overstrand.gov.za

REGISTER ON OVERSTRAND'S SMS DATABASE

Account holders can make use of the municipality's SMS database to register their cellphone numbers in order to receive the latest updates on service delivery notifications, such as

- Emergencies, e.g. veld fires, floods and traffic problems;
- Scheduled interruptions during which municipal electricity and water networks will undergo maintenance or repairs, excluding Eskom-controlled interruptions.



HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE MUNICIPALITY'S SMS SERVICE:

Please send an email to enquiries@overstrand.gov.za or contact a Client Services Officer at your nearest Rates Hall if you want to activate the SMS service. Please use your municipal account number as your reference.

KLEINMOND: 33 Fifth Avenue, Kleinmond; 028 271 8400

HERMANUS: Magnolia Street, Hermanus; 028 313 8000/8111

STANFORD: 17 Queen Victoria Street, Stanford; 028 384 8500

GANSBAAI: Main Road, Gansbaai; 028 384 8300

• Your contact information will be treated as confidential and will not be disclosed to other parties.

Hannie Morgan appointed as new PR councillor

Hannie Morgan has been appointed as the new proportional representative (PR) councillor of the Democratic Alliance (DA) Overstrand Municipality on 28 August 2019.

The appointment of Cllr Morgan follows the tragic passing of Cllr Moira Opperman in July this year. Councillor Opperman served on the Overstrand Council as a proportional representative of the Democratic Alliance.

Executive Mayor Dudley Coetzee congratulated Cllr Morgan on behalf of the Council and wished her well.



OAK to host Steinway Maestro



On Sunday 25 November, the stage in the Hermanus Auditorium will belong to South Korean pianist **JONGDO AN**. Having walked off with many an international award and being designated a Steinway Artist, his programme promises to enrapture all who love classical piano: *Suite in G major* by d'Anglebert; *Chromatic Fantasy and Fugue in D minor* by Bach; *Nocturne in F minor*, *Nocturne in E flat major* and *Ballade No. 1 in G minor* by Chopin; and *Davidsbündlertänze / 18 character pieces* by Schumann. The concert will start promptly at 15:30. Tickets are R150 (R60 for students) and are available from the Tourism Office, tel. 028 312 2629. Contact René du Plooy on 082 940 4238 for further enquiries.