

February
2012PO Box 20
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Bulletin

Official newsletter of the Overstrand Municipality

ANNUAL REPORT SHOWS THE WAY AHEAD

AUDIT OPINION UNQUALIFIED FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The 2010/2011 annual report of Overstrand Municipality was tabled by the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, at a special council meeting held on 25 January 2012, and the big news is that we received an unqualified audit report for the fifth consecutive year.

In her foreword the Mayor said that any organisation's annual report is extremely valuable and helps to navigate through the obstacles and pitfalls of the past, to benchmark standards of performance and to set goals for improvement.

The report, which is in a new format that is very readable and easier to use for reference purposes, will be open for public scrutiny and comment by other role players until the end of February. It can be accessed on the municipal website www.overstrand.gov.za and hard copies will be available at the municipality's administrative offices in Hermanus, Gansbaai, Kleinmond and Stanford as well as at public libraries.

Council will consider the annual report together with all comments and representations received, at a meeting scheduled for 28 March 2012. This meeting will be open to the public.

The Mayor called on all stakeholders, especially the ratepayers' associations and community organisations, to use this document to give the municipality feedback, proposals and comments as Overstrand is in the process of compiling

its Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for the next five-year cycle. "Many needs and challenges are revealed in this document and with the current slowdown in the economy it is not going to be easy to address them. Difficult decisions will have to be made and we are going to rely on community input to lead us in the right direction," she said in closing.

She thanked staff for the professional leadership they had provided and said this proved once again that our human resources are the municipality's greatest asset.

In his last report as municipal manager and accounting officer, Adv Werner Zybrands pointed out that the unqualified audit opinion is indicative of the sound financial management of the Municipality, especially since, as a high capacity municipality, it is compelled to comply with the very stringent GRAP (Generally Recognised Accounting Practice) directives.

Although no credit rating of the Municipality was done, the Municipality had no difficulty in obtaining loans from the private capital market at extremely competitive rates. It is clear that financial institutions have a high regard for Overstrand Municipality's ability to honour its loan obligations.

During the year under review the top management team remained unchanged and all Section 56 positions were filled. This has created a stable platform of management expertise that can guide the Municipality into a prosperous future.

FOCUS AREAS OF THE NEW IDP

Five focus areas of the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) for the 2012 to 2017 cycle are identified by the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, in her foreword to the latest annual report of the Overstrand Municipality. They comprise the following:

- Basic service delivery which covers, inter alia, the efficient development, management and maintenance of the municipal infrastructure.
- Social upliftment and economic development, emphasising the development of sustainable human settlements, creation of an environment conducive to local economic development, and the development of strategies and projects that will uplift vulnerable groupings.
- Optimisation of financial resources by means of efficient financial management.
- Good governance supported by efficient cooperative government within the constitutional mandate, efficient communication and community involvement, and healthy municipal administration.
- A safe and healthy environment in which, inter alia, efficient public safety, disaster management and the efficient management of the environment is promoted.



SAFETY AND SECURITY FIRST

In terms of its mandate, Hermanus Public Protection (HPP) is continuously seeking ways of improving the safety and security of residents and visitors making use of public areas within the geographic area assigned to it. During the past summer holiday period a mobile security kiosk was provided by HPP in the Hermanus area and manned on a daily basis by security and law enforcement officers to receive complaints of crime, disregard for by-laws, and civil disturbances at major events and crime hot spots. This undoubtedly contributed to one of the best holiday seasons ever in the area. At the commissioning of the mobile unit were from left Marius Hendriks, (head of Law Enforcement), Executive Mayor Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, HPP chairperson Treurnicht du Toit, HPP board member John Tunstall, Lt. Col. Francois de Wet of the Hermanus SAPS, and Wayne Bean and Quintin Gombert, both from the security firm ADT.

ELECTRICITY PURCHASES CANNOT BE CANCELLED

Requests to cancel purchase vouchers for prepaid electricity are often received but, for good reason, this cannot be done at Overstrand Municipality. The purchase of electricity is a cash transaction similar to buying airtime for your mobile phone. Once the transaction is completed it cannot be reversed.

One of the chief reasons for cancellation requests is that an incorrect meter number is given to the cashier. If you buy electricity against someone else's meter number it is your responsibility to approach the person concerned to take over the coupon from you.

Another problem is that children or friends are sent to pay service accounts but that they misunderstand their instructions and buy electricity instead.

It is the account holder's responsibility to ensure that the correct information is provided to the cashier.

If your service account is in arrears a certain percentage is deducted as an auxiliary amount (indicated by "aux" on the account). If you pay the entire arrears amount you should, before buying electricity, go to the collections department to have the "aux" removed. If you fail to do this the auxiliary amount will be debited to your account.

Clients should also note that their service account number does not appear on the electricity token. Should they wish to pay their service account at the same time as buying electricity they must, if necessary, first obtain a printout of their account from client services.



Director of Community Services, Mr Roderick Williams, explained the importance of title deeds to Betty's Bay housing project beneficiaries.

TITLE DEEDS HANDED OVER IN BETTY'S BAY

Twelve beneficiaries of the Betty's Bay housing project received an early Christmas gift when the Executive Mayor, Cllr. Nicolette Botha-Guthrie, handed over their title deeds at a ceremony held on Wednesday, 21 December 2011. "I am very excited and thrilled to be part of this highlight. This is the best Christmas present I could ever have imagined handing out to a person. My wish is for all of you to take good care of your houses and to look after them," the Mayor said.

Also marking the occasion was the fact that audio contracts accompanied the title deeds – a first ever in South Africa. These recorded agreements, compiled by Business Law: Informal Sector Solutions (BLISS), will empower the beneficiaries to understand private ownership rights and to act within the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act. The act regulates the provision of services to the low-literate, and aims to promote the social and economic welfare of disadvantaged consumers.

Audio contracts are an insightful step to provide local communities where literacy is low, with proper knowledge

about their contractual relations. BLISS undertook this project as a charitable endeavour to assist local government in its service delivery to the poor. A similar project is planned for the Kleinmond development. The provincial human settlements office has also shown an interest in the contracts.

Overstrand Municipality was recently identified by Urban Landmark, an NGO dedicated to making urban land markets work for the poor, as one of the few municipalities in the country which are tackling the legal problems associated with the transfer of title deeds to beneficiaries of housing subsidies.

According to Urban Landmark, South Africa is losing the opportunity to raise billions of rands as collateral on government-provided housing which could be used to improve dwellings, acquire household goods and even to borrow capital to start small businesses.

Of the 3 million houses provided by government since 1994 only 1,44 million were formally registered at the Deeds Office.

LIVE BY THE MORAL VALUE OF

RESPECT



Respect for your fellow human is surely one of the most fundamental values that defines the moral character of the human and his/her community. It largely determines how values such as caring, fairness, dependability and responsibility come to life in the attitude and behaviour of people toward each other and toward their environment.

When we think of respect as a value, concepts such as esteem, regard, consideration and plain good manners come to mind.

Respect reflects a deep-seated appreciative and tolerant attitude toward life and toward other people. It acknowledges unconditionally the other person's dignity, individuality, independence and right to an own opinion. "Respect... is the appreciation of the separateness of the other person, of the ways in which he or she is unique" – Annie Gottlieb.

How do we recognise people whose way of life reflects respect as moral value?

- They are inherently humble and therefore always act politely, in a civilised manner and tolerantly toward others, regardless of the circumstances or the beha-

viour of others. Because the dignity of others is important to them, their courtesy pays homage to other people.

- Their showing of respect is not influenced by aspects such as status, prestige, position, origin, race, gender or faith.
- They are always willing to really listen to others and to try to understand profoundly what the other person feels or says. Through eye contact and body language they show that you as a person, and what you say, is important to them.
- They do not use violence or aggression to handle conflict but rather employ civilised conversation and mutual influencing.
- They live by the golden rule of "do unto others as you would have them do unto you".
- They are respected by others because they show respect to others.

Do you think the moral character of our community reflects a culture of mutual respect?

(Enquiries: Ernst Kretschmer at 082 412 4538 or email ernstes@vodamail.co.za)

NATIONAL FRAUD HOTLINE 0800 701 701

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WALTZES, POLKAS AND MARCHES

Two top-class concerts will be presented by Overstrand Arts/Kunste (OAK) in the Civic Auditorium in Hermanus over the next few weeks.



SATURDAY, 11 FEBRUARY at 19:00: Enjoy a unique opportunity to experience one of the finest Viennese ensembles. The Johann Strauss Ensemble Wien will delight you with Viennese waltzes, polkas and marches in an authentic display of typical Viennese charm.

SATURDAY, 3 MARCH at 19:00: One of the world's very best brass quintets, Harmonic Brass Munich, will perform highlights of classical music entitled *Concerto Festivo!*

Phone BELLINI on 028 312 4988 for bookings. Tickets are R100 (R50 for students). Further enquiries to René du Plooy on 082 940 4238.

