

End of 'unlawful' occupation

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The provincial Department of Transport and Public Works has begun the process of notifying each of the occupants of the Helen Bowden Nurses Home site, located in part of the Somerset precinct and close to the V&A Waterfront, about their decision "to engage with them to bring to an end their current unlawful occupation of the site."

The site has been dubbed Ahmed Kathrada House by Reclaim the City.

MEC for Transport and Public Works, Donald Grant, said the site is currently unlawfully occupied by supporters of the group Reclaim the City, a Cape Town-based campaign for desegregation and affordable housing development in the inner city as the unlawful

occupation was encouraged and begun by activist group Ndifuna Ukwazi, almost a year ago.

Mr Grant said the provincial government has been forced to contract additional security for the site at a cost of close to R3 million a month since the unlawful occupation took place. Prior to the "unlawful" occupation, the department was spending in the region of R300 000 a month on security. This cost has grown exponentially since the occupation almost a year ago. In this current financial year alone, the provincial government has spent over R35 million on securing this property against continued invasions, vandalism and theft."

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