

Evicted from vacant, vandalised houses

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A GROUP of people who are being evicted from vacant, dilapidated state houses that they are occupying in Hartswater and Jan Kempdorp, want government officials to intervene.

The residents, who gathered outside the police station in Jan Kempdorp yesterday, stated that if they were not allowed to stay inside the houses, they should be demolished so that they can build their own homes on the land.

“The houses have been vandalised and we have been maintaining the buildings to prevent them from being used as crime havens and drug dens.

“The taps have been broken, windows have been removed and there is no electricity and the electrical plugs do not work, as the copper wires were stolen. We are taking care of the houses and replaced the locks to the doors that were broken.”

They added that they had cleared the overgrown weeds around the houses and repaired the broken ceilings. We cleaned out all the rubbish as the houses had been turned into dumping sites.”

Some of them said that they had

moved into the houses while they were still waiting for their rental agreements.

“We have decided that those who do not have any title deeds should vacate the houses until the matter is cleared up. Different departments and entities are laying claim to the houses. We want government officials to come to visit us by Thursday (tomorrow).”

Police spokesperson, Brigadier Mohale Ramatseba, said that the matter was brought to the attention of the Hartswater police after a 33-year-old man was arrested on charges of housebreaking with the intent to trespass and trespassing on January 20.

Ramatseba said that the accused had illegally occupied a house that was rented out to police members in Hartswater. “The house belongs to the Department of Roads and Public Works.”

Ramatseba added that the Department of Water and Sanitation, which had claimed that its properties were illegally occupied by community members in Jan Kempdorp, was in the process of laying formal charges.

“A meeting was also held at the Jan Kempdorp police station with the relevant persons involved. The investigation continues.”



DUMP: One of the vandalised houses.

