

Harbour vendors evicted

ESTÉ BEERWINKEL

Vendors have handed a petition to the harbour master to keep their trading spot at the harbour after the Department of Public Works (DPW) sent police to forcibly removed them from the premises on Friday May 17.

These vendors claim the Hout Bay harbour master gave them permission to use this building after it was set on fire during protest action on August 12 2018.

Before the fire, vendors paid the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF) R12 per table and R65 per permit per day to sell fish and use this building commonly known as “the shed”.

Since the fire, DAFF made no other provisions for these vendors which resulted in them cleaning the burnt shed and selling their fish from there. According

to vendor Wayne Vlotman, they weren't aware that this wasn't allowed.

“After the fire we initially sold our fish on our own tables under gazebos in front of the shed, but the harbour master Pumla Feni-Gela said we had to stop due to health and safety complaints. We then proceeded to clean up the shed, and even installed our own water pipe. Pumla knew we were doing this, and said it was okay. She even said no one would remove us from the shed since we've always worked there.”

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■ Harbour vendor Wayne Vlotman shows where many of the fish vendors have been cleaning and selling their catch of the day. This building was set alight in August 2018 during protests. Since then, the vendors have been working in the ruins – they claim the Hout Bay harbour master Pumla Feni-Gela gave them permission to do so.