

# Court looks even older, sadder

**Avis MacIntyre**

**The heavy downpours have recently revealed the state of the magistrates' court, which is at its most wretched.**

Funds are trickling in but not enough for work to start early in the New Year.

So far, apart from a pledge of R26 000, R10 966,64 is in the bank. The target to redecorate the building after 29 years of neglect is R91 321,25. If this amount cannot be raised, just the façade will be painted.

One whimsical donor deposited the odd amount of R466,64. On enquiry we found out this was the prison number of Nelson Mandela. It shows how fun supporting civic-minded projects can be.

Although that famous number is taken, there are many more – birth dates, for instance. It's time to dig deep into your pockets before Christmas gobbles up all disposable income.

Every R10 will help, so people mustn't be discouraged by the big amounts that have already been donated or pledged.

Email letters have been sent to Minister of Public Works Patricia de Lille and two of her colleagues in the department, explaining why funds are being raised for the court building and inviting them to see it for themselves, which may perhaps prompt some action from them. Should they respond favourably and take responsibility, all donated monies will be returned to donors.

The Hermanus Tourism information office supports the project and offered the use of its bank account to ensure transparency.

Its details can be obtained from *Hermanus Times*, the Info office, or an email can be sent to [avism@hermanus.co.za](mailto:avism@hermanus.co.za). If possible, once the donation has been made, send a proof of payment to the same email address so the tourism office can keep tabs on what is coming in.