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VUIL: Castle area has become a dumping ground

# Castle squatters could riot

BY BYRON LUKAS

THE chief executive of the Castle of Good Hope is worried that squatters will riot as the deadline for their eviction looms.

The Castle's moat has become a dumping ground and is clogged up with *vullis*, as scores of homeless *mense* squat at the historic landmark.

In September, the Western Cape High Court issued an eviction order to the National Public Works Department (DPWI) regarding the illegal occupation of the area surrounding the Castle.

However, the court-mandated relocation deadline of 17

October 2024 has already been missed.

The Castle's CEO, Calvyn Giffellan, believes the squatters will resist eviction despite assistance with relocation offered.

Giffellan says: "Any act, even if they [the Sheriff's department] break up one tent, will be seen as an act of aggression."

"It's not like the community did not have an opportunity through the court order to take up the City's offer for safe spaces."

The Castle, recognised as the

oldest structure in *innie Kaap* and a designated Grade 1 National Monument, has faced challenges in recent years with *mense* putting up makeshift tents.

## Eviction

According to Giffellan, the eviction will take place in the next two to three days, but believes the homeless were not adequately informed about their impending eviction.

He says: "If people don't vacate, then a new process kicks in. The Sheriff of the court now has the necessary permission to relocate the people."

But the City of Cape Town says social workers have been working with the DPWI to document the unlawful occupants through on-site interviews.

The City says no specific date has been set for the eviction.

The City confirms: "Offers of transitional shelter at City Safe Spaces and NGO-run night shelters have been made, and remain available."

The DPWI did not respond to queries.

Earlier this year, squatters at several City-owned locations were removed and accommodated.