

# STOP illegal occupancy or land invasion



Illegal land occupancy and land invasion pose serious risks, including social, economic, and environmental problems. They can lead to unsafe housing, lack of basic services, and increased health risks, as well as negatively impacting planned development and property values. Additionally, they can strain municipal resources and disrupt essential infrastructure.

## Social and Environmental Dangers:

- **Unsafe Housing:**

Illegal settlements often lack proper planning and building regulations, resulting in unsafe and inhabitable structures.

- **Environmental Degradation:**

Occupation of unsuitable land or land with environmental sensitivities can damage ecosystems.

- **Disruption of Services:**

Illegal connections to water and electricity can disrupt services and cause outages for adjacent communities.

- **Increased Disease Risk:**

Overcrowding and poor sanitation in informal settlements can lead to increased risk of diseases and ill health.

- **Conflict with Landowners:**

Land invasions can lead to confrontations between invaders, landowners, and government.

## Economic and Financial Dangers:

- **Loss of Property Value:**

Informal settlements can devalue surrounding properties.

- **Financial Burden on Municipalities:**

Securing sites against invasion can divert funds from other essential services, such as housing.

- **Disruption of Development Plans:**

Land invasions can obstruct planned development projects and infrastructure, impacting local economies and future housing.

- **Reduced Investment:**

The threat of land invasions can deter investors from putting money into property development.

## Legal and Security Dangers:

- **Lack of Security of Tenure:**

Occupiers have no legal claim to the land, making them vulnerable to eviction.

- **"Queue-Jumping" for Housing:**

Illegal land invasions can bypass the legal housing system and deprive legitimate beneficiaries of affordable housing.

**The Public/Community is urged to report any suspicious activities on the Municipal Customer Care line on 066 372 0390.**