



# MY DISTRICT TODAY

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## Government working together with community to fight crime

By: Sikelela Zokufa



Mobilising communities in the fight against crime is one of government's priorities. Based on this priority, the Minister of Police, Mr Nathi Mthethwa, responded to a call to interact with the community of Gugulethu on gang-related crimes such as looting and malicious damage to property.

A community meeting was held on 22 May 2012, at the Gugulethu Civic Hall in the Western Cape. The Minister received first-hand feedback from the community. He called for a partnership to be developed between the police and the community in the fight against crime.

Minister Mthethwa said, "We have to reinforce our partnerships as civic organisations, religious groups and youth organisations with the police and ensure that crimes such as gangsterism is eradicated from our communities."

He then added, "The police cannot stop crime without the support of communities. The police should not be lenient when they arrest criminals and these criminals must feel that they were touched by a policeman."

"We have a big problem of crime in our communities and we are doing our level-best to deal with it. However we also need the all role players to come on board," said Minister Mthethwa.

An emotional resident, Mr Lungile Sixhishe said, "We can't go on like this. The police are failing to arrive on time when they are called to deal with criminals, but when they are called to arrest a man who fights with his wife they respond immediately."

The South African Police Service Provincial Commissioner of the Western Cape, Lieutenant-General Lamoer said, "Community members must report any misconduct by any police officer to the station commander, Brigadier Mavoto, or the cluster commander, Major-General Bobbie Bobberts.

An investigation will be launched into allegations where police officers are accused of improper conduct, only if residents report these incidences."

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## Disability can't stop furthering studies at institutions of higher education

Doctrine Netshikweta: GCIS Limpopo

The Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities' mandate promotes the protection of the rights of people with disabilities and will guide, monitor, evaluate, coordinate and facilitate mainstreaming the issues relating to this sector, in terms of national priorities.

Based on the department's mandate, the Deputy Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, Ms Hendrietta Bogapane-Zulu, has urged the University of Venda's (Univen) management in Thohoyandou to develop a partnership with special schools around the area to accommodate people with disabilities so that the university could register more students with disabilities.

"We want the University of Venda to develop a partnership with the feeder schools that specialise with disabled students and that will ensure that the university registers more students with disabilities. We are excited to learn that the University of Venda has already established the Student Disabled Unit," said Ms Bogapane-Zulu.

The Deputy Minister was speaking at the Univen Council Chamber where she was engaging with some of Univen staff and students with disabilities to understand the status of the support the university provides to disabled students on campus.

The engagement forms part of the department's undertaking to consolidate various disability activities under a strategy that will inform the country's Disability Agenda. According to Ms Bogapane-Zulu her department will, where possible, help in the establishment of the Disabled Student Movement. She said that her department has a vision to explore partnerships with various stakeholders in the public and private sectors.



University of Venda's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Mbati, handing over a gift to the Deputy Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, Ms Hendrietta Bogapane-Zulu.

Vice-Chancellor and Principal of Univen, Professor Peter Mbati, appreciated the discussion with the Deputy Minister and the partnership that will be developed between the Department of Women, Children and People with Disabilities and the university.

Professor Mbati said, "Univen has registered more than 10 500 students for the 2012 academic year and about 125 students are disabled."

He further said, "We are now building infrastructure that is user-friendly for people with disabilities. In the past most of our buildings were not user-friendly for people with disabilities. Univen is celebrating 30 years of existence and we want our university to deliver quality education to all its students."