

The Weekly

LEJWELEPUTSWA SAYS ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

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The police have launched a project to register every resident, their household and everyone who works for them by taking their fingerprints and IDs

The executive mayor of Lejweleputswa, Mathabo Leeto, together with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the community of Riebeeckstad held an official Imbizo recently, to discuss the killing and rape of women the area.

In response, the Riebeeckstad SAPS has divided Riebeeckstad into blocks in order to identify the most crime-prone areas with a view to focusing more crime fighting resources in such places.

Captain Leticia Rothman, of the Riebeeckstad SAPS, said each street must choose and register a leader who will be in direct contact with the police and report any suspicious or unfamiliar activity.

“Longer streets, or streets that have been identified as crime hot spots, are permitted to have three or four leaders. We believe that in order to fight the reoccurring crimes that have been happening in the area, we need to get the community involved as much as possible.

“The task of the committee is to introduce themselves to their neighbours around them and to get acquainted with their area so that we are all alert whenever there is something or someone suspicious in the neighbourhood,” said Rothman.

Rothman said police in the area have already started various projects in order to fight crime. An ‘identify yourself’ project has been running since the beginning of this year.

The project involves registering every resident, their household and everyone who works for them. The process requires an Identity Document (ID) and finger prints of each individual. Police also visit local schools in order to educate the children about crime and how to prevent it.

Leeto said the cooperation between the municipality, police and the community in fighting crime is aimed reviving the spirit of Ubuntu.

“This is the beginning of the actualisation and realisation of the values and ideas enshrined in our constitution, by using all available resources and harnessing all initiatives in government, business and civil society to fight crime.”

She said the initiative follows the recent killing of two women in the area and the subsequent public outcry.

“When we voted as a democracy in 1994, we did not hand over our freedom. Yet more and more of our homes have become like prisons where we keep ourselves and our families safe. We fought for a democracy where everybody should be free and, therefore, I challenge every resident here to participate in regular discussions like this in order to come up with solutions to the various challenges we still face as a country,” added Leeto.

Two weeks ago, a gardener was arrested for the brutal rape and murder of his employer. One Paul Nqakalatsane (28) had been released on parole just two weeks before he committed this gruesome act, after serving time for house robbery.

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In the same street, last year, the wife of a senior prosecutor, Anna Molotsi (58), who was found strangled in her house.

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