

## MAYORS CUP PROMOTES CRIME PREVENTION IN COMMUNITIES

By Judy Ngoloyi

( Picture taken by Sandiswa Mahlangabeza )

**BUTTERWORTH:** The Mayor's Cup is a knockout challenge for youth in the Amathole District amongst the various local municipalities in the sporting codes of soccer, netball and rugby. The matches of semifinals and finals were placed at the Walter Sisulu University in Butterworth on Saturday, 21 June 2008.



Those who participated braved chilly weather to witness which local municipality had the willpower to win through and take the trophies.

Portfolio Head of Community Safety of Amathole District Municipality Councillor Laverne Jacobs urged young people to take the Mayor's Cup seriously. Jacobs emphasized that since the establishment of this initiative in 2006, young people had proved beyond reasonable doubt that they were capable of staying away from criminal activities if they were engaged in activities such as sport.

Sketching the background of the Mayor's Cup, Jacobs said this was the initiative of the Executive Mayor of Amathole District Municipality and ever since its inception, the ADM has been working together with the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts & Culture as well as the Amathole Sports Association. She said the programme is included in the municipality's Integrated Development Plan (IDP) as a crime prevention initiative.

**“The impact of the Mayor's Cup is huge. When the matches were played at local municipalities, no acts of violence were reported to police.....”** said Jacobs.

So far we have identified three sporting codes such as soccer, rugby and netball in an effort of occupying the minds of young people throughout the district.

She said the hosting of the Mayor's Cup had been rotated amongst the eight local municipalities that are within the jurisdiction of Amathole District Municipality especially those that have sports-friendly facilities. “For instance we have discovered that Great Kei is still lagging behind when it comes to such facilities. Fortunately the provincial Department of Sports, Recreation Arts and Culture has set aside an amount of money to change the current picture at Great Kei,” said Jacobs.

She also reiterated ADM Executive Mayor, Sakhumzi Somyo's comments and congratulated the way this year's Mayors Cup had been organized. "The impact of the Mayor's Cup is huge. When the matches were played at local municipalities, no acts of violence were reported to police. This is also a clear indication that sport is really making a meaningful contribution in the lives of our young people throughout out district," said Jacobs.

Jacobs said our communities look forward to the Mayors' Cup as at the beginning of each year the youth are already talking and asking questions as to when it will be scheduled to take place. She said: "To me the young ones have something that they look forward to and this is a step in the right direction".

"During the 2008 Mayor's Cup we managed to get all our sports federations under one roof to pick some of our best players for their under 21 teams and for the benefit of the Amathole region. This initiative is for all our young people out there, so we encourage them to take this opportunity and run with it. Who knows where it will lead to in their future," she said.

Ends.