

## THE WEEKLY

### VOLUNTEER REWARDED FOR CRIME FIGHTING

May 25, 2012 | Filed under News | Posted by editor



For the good ... Community Development Worker award winner Madikela Isaac with Matjhabeng mayor Sebzile gangelizwe and speaker Chris Stofile

The Community Development Worker representing Ward 10 in Kutlwanong in Odendaalsrus, Madikela Isaac Vani, was commended for his sterling work last week. At the Provincial Police Commissioner's Awards, which were held in Bloemfontein, Vani received the Free State Community Policing Forum's (CPF) Best Chairperson Award from the provincial commissioner, General Sithole.

"This award means so much to me and the community of Kutlwanong, because it has shown that our hard work and efforts has not gone unnoticed," Vani said.

Amongst the important guests who attended the event were the national deputy minister of police, Maggie Sotyu, and the MEC for Police, Roads and Transport, Butana Komphela. The MEC for Education, Tate Makgoe, the Lejweleputswa executive mayor, Mathabo Leeto, and the executive mayor of the Matjhabeng Municipality, Sebzile Ngangelizwe, also attended.

Vani was nominated by the Kutlwanong and Odendaalsrus police (SAPS) station management. He is the deputy chairperson of CPF in Kutlwanong and Odendaalsrus under the leadership of his mentor, Advocate Sephiri Moshodi.

Vani, in collaboration with the CPF and police, and with the community's support conducted a number of anti-crime campaigns in the community from 2010.

Vani also organised an anti-gangsterism campaign in 2011. The campaign was supported by the Department of Social Development, Department of Police, Roads and Transport, Department of Education, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Hlasela TV, and Kutlwanong rehabilitated Ex-Offenders (KREO). "This event made a huge impact on the community, because over 300 young people took part in the campaign from the first day until the very last day," Vani said proudly.

During the main event, 2 000 community members attended the event at the Kutloanong Community Stadium where young people participated in different sport activities. According to the police of Kutlwanong and Odendaalsrus, over 900 pupils in the Kutlwanong schools were searched during the campaign and one arrest was made during the door-to-door campaign.

"In brief, the campaign was a success and one of the best in the province. This was one of the highlights during 2011 for the police and one of the factors that gained Vani the honour," said Sithole.

According to Vani, this shows that the community development workers are well positioned to assist in all the department of the Matjhabeng Municipality and NGOs to speed up service delivery.

"Sometimes as members of the community we sit back and complain about the things the municipality is not doing, but the people we chose to represent us need our help in identifying areas in the community that needs to be addressed and rectified."

He also challenged the community to join the CPF and the police to fight gangsterism and crime in their community. Vani thanked the community, his colleagues, CPF members, the CPO of Odendaalsrus, and the police in Odendaalsrus.