

**KERNEELS**



# Zero Tolerance 4 Zinniaville

...From P1

The leadership of the Zinniaville community has overtime held numerous meetings with the SAPS and the Rustenburg's directorate of public safety. Consequent to these engagements, Zinniaville residents made a donation to the SAPS in the form of a vehicle that was to be used for the purposes of combating crime in the Zinniaville area. Furthermore, the SAPS committed to opening a satellite police station in the area. In response, a building was donated by the municipality and renovated by the Zinniaville community at a very high cost. To date the building remains unused. The residents of Zinniaville is proactive in nature; different community members have provided 42 guards to patrol Zinniaville – this figure excludes guards of security companies such as ADT and Chubb, also doing their rounds.

The access control gates were kept open between six o'clock in the morning and 7 o'clock at night, after which entrance was controlled through monitored access. Ever since access to this area has been restricted, the crime rate has in fact decreased to nearly ZERO – even the illegal dumping (which was a daily occurrence) came to an end.

At 11 o'clock on Monday morning, a security guard notified one of the local residents that the municipality has put up a notice at one of the gates, giving them till 12 o'clock Tuesday to remove the gates, giving them only 24 hours to comply. On the same day (Monday), one of the community members contacted the director of public safety, pleading for more time, after which he gave them until Friday to "get rid" of the controlled access measures.

In the meantime, some Zinniaville residents start-

ed to take down the gates, as demanded from them.

Great was their surprise on Tuesday when the authorities brought in heavy duty machinery, destroying their last stand against crime; NOT giving them until Friday as agreed upon.

On Wednesday, a holy day for them, their community was once more 'invaded' by an entourage of officials and armed forces.

The gates already removed and stacked were 'collected' by public safety trucks 'without any official notice'.

The Platinum Weekly contacted the Rustenburg Local Municipality to get their side of the issue. To date, no official press release has been issued. According to Butler Matlapeng, Communication Specialist, the municipality acted within the law, as "it is illegal to block roads". The mayor of the Rustenburg Local Municipality was not available for comment at the time of going to press.

Many facts are stated, many ideas have been raised, many accusations have been thrown around, many tears have been shed... but somewhere in this madness one truth stands out – the municipality might have had the right to take down Zinniaville's safety measures, but was it necessary?

Victims of crime are beginning to organise themselves, and are demanding a more central role in the criminal justice system.

South Africans in general have acquired knowledge of their rights as set out in the constitutional law. In what is supposed to be a modern constitutional democracy such as ours, there is an understanding around the issue of safety and security that transcends

the traditional approach, and that allows for the creation of new and formidable obligations on the part of the state, as well as on non-state actors in appropriate instances to undertake positive duties to enhance the safety and security of a defined or general group of people.

In latent terms, the constitutional law acts as an umbrella, which specifically takes the context of a situation into consideration before any attempts of informed choices are made. The right to safety and the need to feel secure has been central in the process of promoting a human rights culture. South Africa is blessed with many cultures and denominations... this you can clearly observe in Rustenburg. However, Zinniaville encompasses 'n stronger feeling of 'ubuntu-ness' than the rest of Rustenburg. The way they stand together to combat crime is but one example.

The residents of Zinniaville are disappointed in the way this matter was handled. We hope for amicable solutions to this matter.

**"Together, we can combat crime"**



Fazel Africa (Zinniaville Resident)  
"Every human being has a basic right to feel safe and to protect their families."



Johan de Klerk (Secretary; Rustenburg Rate Payers Association)  
"Het die munisipaliteit 'n alternatiewe oplossing om hul veiligheid te verseker?"

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