

Basketball spreads anti-violence word

OWN CORRESPONDENT

The Centre for Justice and Crime Prevention and Africa Unite, under the theme: "Youth Combating Violence against Women – These Hands Don't Hurt" held a basketball tournament on Saturday, between Excelsior Secondary School - Belhar and Gugulethu. At the Belhar Sports Centre, a friendly basketball tournament was meant to raise awareness and launch a petition in opposition to Violence against Women in celebration of Women's Month.

Before the actual game had commenced, the captains of each team delivered a message of support in celebration of Women's Month and the "Combating Violence against Women" notion. They described how they, and other youth, can positively use their hands to do good, not hurting an innocent individual – but instead do the opposite.

Judging by the intensity of applause from the crowd, it was evident that both heartfelt messages had touched and resonated throughout.

Mr Norman Jantjies, a representative from the Ministry of Community Safety, was the guest speaker of the day. Jantjies delivered an all-

round encouraging speech. He expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to take part in such an important and commonly interesting initiative for both the organisations involved, as well as the Ministry of Community Safety.

Elaborating on the efforts made by his department on combating gangsterism in the Cape Flats and townships, it was again made evident the level of violence against women (and youth in general of both genders) and how the Ministry of Community Safety are doing all they can to combat and campaign against it – supporting organisations who petition in opposition, as it is proven to be important.

The two teams: Excelsior Secondary School and the Gugulethu representatives took to the court and made better use of their hands by playing an excellent game of basketball. They provided exhilarating entertainment for all, and had everyone on the edge of their seats.

The final score led Gugulethu to victory, leading with 56 points to Excelsior's 31. However, at the end of the day – there were no losers.

Mr Norman Jantjies presented both teams with identical medals and a certificate of participation as a reward on their achievement. Al-



Some youth from Gugulethu played basketball with Excelsior Secondary School during a tournament, at Belhar on Saturday.

Photo: Supri

so in attendance were some of Gugulethu's youth gang members who were selected by Gugulethu Joint Safety Committee – and as they looked on, they too were inspired and possibly set a few new goals for their lives since. Refreshment was served and there was food for every-

one.

The overall objective of this tournament was to change attitudes and behaviour of young men, and youth in general towards women and women's rights at large. It was an alternative and an example for youth to use their hands in positive

ways instead of drugs, gangsterism or in harming women physically. Also to foster social cohesion as two teams were made of young people from different backgrounds as well as foreign nationals. Both communities of Belhar and Gugulethu pledged their support to the ca-