



**UNFAIR:** Social Justice Coalition and other civil rights organisations, along with residents from the city's most crime-ridden communities, picketed outside SAPS provincial head office to oppose the approval of a R100 million infrastructure budget allocated to the Muizenberg police station.

Picture: BHEKI RADEBE

## Outcry over 'unjust' police station revamp

**Dominic Adriaanse**

CIVIL rights organisations and community members from Cape Town's most crime-afflicted areas claim that R100 million earmarked for an upgrade of Muizenberg police station is "unjust".

Social Justice Coalition and Equal Education, along with residents from Khayelitsha, Langa, Nyanga and Grassy Park picketed in front of the SAPS provincial head office in Green Point, demand-

ing that the funds be allocated to areas where it was most needed.

Safety and Justice programme head Chumile Sali said the allocation of resources by SAPS was "discriminatory". "This is unjust and wrong for an area where the residents can afford private security and state-of-the-art systems are being serviced in such a way," Sali said.

"Last year, Nyanga had 10 times more murders to those reported in Muizenberg, so

how can this area be prioritised above the townships and the Cape Flats?"

He said the unfair distribution of resources was why civil rights organisations took the acting national police commissioner, Khomotso Phahlane, and the provincial police head, Khombinkosi Julia, to the Equality Court.

Police spokesperson Novela Potelwa said the planned upgrade of Muizenberg police station was a Department of Public Works project, which

was in the design stage.

Public Works spokesperson Thamsanqa Mchunu said it only maintained state infrastructure and was tasked to upgrade or extend according to departments' needs. Mchunu said the department had also just begun work on the renovation project and that the R100m budget had been provided by SAPS.

Therefore it could not say why Muizenberg police station was prioritised over other areas.