

# Manenberg women on a cleaning mission

Bronwyn Davids

IT'S GOING to be good and clean and fresh, and the gangs can lump it or leave it.

This is the goal 48 women have as they go about cleaning up Manenberg, one of the most notorious areas on the Cape Flats.

The women are part of a group of 787 employed by the City's Women in Rental Stock Programme, launched in July in nine areas – Athlone, Hanover Park, Lotus River, Lavender Hill, Manenberg, Uitsig, Ravensmead, Ocean View and Macassar.

The women are paid a stipend through the city's Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) which stands at R11 million at the moment.

Sharon Benjamin said: "When we clean up the children are eager to help out. Then you get the gangsters, they want to sit here and smoke and mess up the walls. The children see all that.

"As community workers, we are going to stop all that." Manenberg councillor Bonita Jacobs said with the city and community in partnership to "develop, uplift and upgrade", they hoped to change the area's negative image.



**OPERATION:** Manenberg women take back their area through cleaning up, painting, gardening and implementing community-driven care projects for young, old, vulnerable and abused people. Kamelah Field and Elaam Bester paint a graffiti-laden wall opposite Gail Court.

PICTURE: TRACEY ADAMS