

Fighting crime together

By **VELANI LUDIDI**

THESE men and women from Strand, outside Cape Town, are ready to fight crime in their kasi.

They are members of Strand neighbourhood watch.

At the weekend, they were trained and given uniforms to help them tackle criminals in their area.

The two-day training session was organised by Western Cape community safety services at Lwandle municipal offices. The members were taught things such as the handling of suspected thugs, attending to com-



Strand neighbourhood watch members attended a training session at the weekend.

Photo by Velani Ludidi

plaints and reporting a crime. Silulami Swartbooi, chairman of the neighbourhood watch, said the training opened their eyes to many things.

“We were taught not to assault suspected thugs and that it’s wrong to behave as if we are cops.

“Our job is to maintain peace in the community,” Silulami said.

“We’re also told about the channels to follow when the CPF and cops don’t see eye to eye.”

Lwandle CPF chairman Siyabonga Makaula said the training was necessary.

“It was important because it gave the neighbourhood watch members knowledge about the journey ahead. There are rules and regulations which apply to neighbourhood watch.”

He said neighbourhood watch should be part of the expanded public works programme.

“After all, the training of neighbourhood watch members should be recorded in the database.

“They must also be paid a stipend for the work they do.

“This will encourage them to work extra hard.”