

THUGS ROB COP SHOP!

Hobos make station their home

By NTEBATSE MASIPA

THESE cops work hard to serve and protect their community.

But their cop shop is not safe to work in.

Last Monday night, thugs pounced on them and stole air-conditioners and other items.

Now the cops from KwaThema Police Station in Ekurhuleni are working in fear.

They fear one of them would one day lose their lives as the cop shop is not safe.

The police station's fence has collapsed, making it easy for thugs to get in and out as they please.

Even hobos have been seen living in some parts of the dilapidated building.

The community said nothing changed much after *Daily Sun* ran the story in 2017.

They said the government only brought containers after the story was

published, but not all of the cops could be accommodated.

"Some are still using the old police station, which they share with the hobos," said resident Refilwe Moshe.

The community said they didn't understand what was taking the government so long to fix the old police station.

"It has become a home for hobos and our cops are now soft targets," said another resident, Mlungisi Dyantyi.

"We once handed over a memorandum to then minister of police Fikile Mbalula after he visited the police station in 2017."

Station Commander Colonel Elsie Thobejane said they were not asking for a five-star hotel, but a decent and safe building.

"We are sitting on a time bomb and nobody seems to take us seriously," she said.

This cop shop scoops awards almost every year for its outstanding performance.



Constable Media Khoza in the office that was broken into.

Photos by Muntu Nkomo

Last year, it received the Colonel Station Award.

"I told my staff to focus on working because we are here to serve the community," said Thobejane.

Public works spokesman Thami

Mchunu said police should provide a budget to fix the building.

Police spokesman Brigadier Vish Naidoo said he would have to look at how far the process of planning for a new police station was.