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Page: 3

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Tracey Lynch, Hillcrest CPF chairperson, and Colonel Zama Mabaso, Hillcrest SAPS station commander.

Hillcrest SAPS' image restored

A DETERIORATING fence at the Hillcrest police station was not only diminishing the station but was also a danger to passersby.

With the concrete palisade crumbling down, the Hillcrest Community Policing Forum (CPF) took it upon themselves to find sponsors to replace it.

A few weeks later, the station looks like a new place with a 120m wire wall.

Lester Jones, the CPF's PRO, said they recognised that the station was in dire need of intervention regarding the sad

state of the building and facilities. We initiated a meeting with the Department of Public Works and pointed out the need for serious repairs and maintenance. The station has not had any attention for many many years," he said.

Jones said the Hillcrest station was also surrounded by big trees, and the branches were lifting the old fence.

"Those trees have been cut, and we are planting grass and beautiful gardens to make it more presentable. The situation was so bad that we feared the crumbling fence would fall onto someone.

"This beautiful fence has uplifted the whole appearance of the station. I believe the staff are now also motivated to work in the beautiful surroundings. I also believe even the public will have more faith in our police officers and be comfortable to come inside and report cases. The police need the community to help fight crime by reporting it," he said.

Jones added that this would not have been possible without the sponsors who donated money and the materials needed.

"I wish to thank all the

businesses and the security company," he said.

Colonel Zama Mabaso, Hillcrest SAPS station commander, thanked the active CPF for going the extra mile to uplift the station.

"I also wish to thank all the sponsors as the station now looks presentable and professional – our image has been restored – we are very thankful. I am just beyond words – our CPF is assisting to restore this station by not only fixing the fence but by doing painting and plumbing work," she said.