

Charity wins tracking award



KAMINI PADAYACHEE

CONSTABLE Charity Mantshule, an officer in the Crime Prevention Unit at the Sydenham police station in Durban, was honoured at an awards ceremony, held in Gauteng yesterday, for her work in recovering stolen vehicles.

The annual National Tracker and SAPS awards are presented in recognition of units and police officers who have helped to combat vehicle-related crime.

Tracker spokesman Gareth Crocker said Mantshule was one of the first policewomen to have received an award in the individual category. He said she had been chosen because she had often tracked and recovered stolen vehicles outside her patrol area.

"She has been involved in the recovery of about 160 stolen motor vehicles in the past year. She also often trains new recruits... Police officers who work with her have clearly benefited from her work ethic and expertise and are performing well in their own right.

"Charity has been fired upon on several occasions... yet remains firmly committed to her work.

"It is not uncommon for her to single-handedly pursue vehicle criminals and effect arrests."

The commissioner of the Sydenham police station, Superintendent Glen Nayager, said that Mantshule's colleagues were excited at her achievement.

"She has done us proud."

Mantshule won a trophy and an international trip to her choice of training seminars run by the International Association of Auto Theft Investigators.

Also, a cash donation is to be made on her behalf to a charity of her choice.

Constable Charity Mantshule of the Sydenham Crime Prevention Unit has won the Tracker award for her role in recovering stolen vehicles.

PICTURE: ETIENNE CREUX