

## Robberies in upmarket suburb linked to gang

LYNDON KHAN and  
MARY-ANNE GONTSANA

DURBANVILLE police believe the same gang of robbers are targeting the northern suburb of Kenridge.

Within the space of an hour on Tuesday night, three thieves robbed two households of more than R100 000 worth of electronic equipment, jewellery, cellphones and wallets.

In both crimes, the three men used knives as weapons and entered the homes just after the owners arrived home.

Yesterday, Durbanville police station spokeswoman Bernice Laäs-Bezuidenhout said: "On Tuesday, at 10.30pm, three unknown men entered a residential home in Tafelberg Street, Kenridge, and locked them inside the bathroom.

The family, who had been out celebrating a 36th wedding anniversary, had just arrived home. The suspects entered the house and allegedly asked for cash and valuables.

Two of the suspects wore balaclavas, while the third man, armed with the knife, did not cover his face. The second suspect brandished a wooden stick and wore white socks over his hands. The third man went through the house, searching for valuables.

"The suspects fled with jewellery, three cellphones, a handbag, wallets, cash and cameras

all to the value of R25 000," said Laäs-Bezuidenhout.

However, the 63-year-old home owner, who did not want to be named, said the value of the stolen goods was much more than R25 000. He said his wife's diamond ring alone cost R45 000.

The robbers kept asking for money, but the family did not have cash on them, even offering their credit cards, which the robbers refused. Laäs-Bezuidenhout said no one was injured and a case of house robbery had been opened.

In the second incident, which happened about 30 minutes later, 200m away, three men entered a house through an unlocked front door.

"The home owner heard his dogs barking and on investigating, he saw the suspects inside the house," she said.

Laäs-Bezuidenhout said they took one HP laptop and one Dell laptop, a 3G SIM card and a Nokia 6300 all to the value of R 21 800. No one was injured and a case of house robbery has been opened.

She urged residents to be alert and to lock the front door after entering their homes.

Anyone with information can contact Vincent Saunders at the Durbanville Detective Branch at 021 970 5600/31 or Crime Stop at 08600 10 111.

*lyndon.khan@inl.co.za  
mary-anne.gontsana@inl.co.za*