

Young leaders step up at Groot Kloof training programme

Bryan Goliath

Young pupils from across the northern areas were empowered to step into their potential as future leaders during an engaging Leaders in Training (LIT) programme hosted by I Protect Me (IPM) at the Groot Kloof Centre in Hillside this week.

Participating primary schools included Republiek, Strelitzia, Alfonso Arries and Kroneberg.

The LIT programme is designed to help young people discover their leadership potential, build confidence, develop essential life skills and become positive role models within their schools and communities.

According to Jolene Slingers, school co-ordinator and training officer at IPM, excitement quickly grew among the pupils as the programme got under way.

"Initially, the children were quiet and unsure of what to expect."

"Grade 6 and 7 pupils arrived feeling curious and a little nervous, but it did not take long for the room to be filled with laughter, energy and the formation of new friendships,"

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she said. Pupils from different schools were given the opportunity to connect, learn from one another and support each other through a variety of fun activities and discussions.

One of the highlights was an educational hike hosted by the Groot Kloof Centre.

During the excursion, pupils explored nature while gaining a deeper understanding of the environment.

They were taught the importance of plants, fresh air and caring for the earth, and how these contribute to healthy living and overall well-being.

"Breathing in the fresh air and exploring the open field is something that will stay with them for a long time," Slingers added.

Throughout the programme, IPM encouraged pupils to recognise their self-worth, believe in themselves



Northern areas pupils participating in the Leaders in Training programme go for a hike

and understand that their voices matter. The initiative created a safe

and supportive space where pupils could openly discuss challenges such as bullying and

the importance of respect, discipline, self-confidence and self-worth.

A Strelitzia Primary School pupil shared that the programme had helped her

remain true to herself and not shy away from speaking the truth — a statement that was

met with loud applause from her peers.

Slingers further described working with young leaders as a privilege, emphasising the importance of equipping and empowering them to inspire others.

"We currently run the LIT programme at five primary schools."

"It focuses on developing confident, respectful and caring young leaders who can make a positive difference in all areas of life."

"It proves that learning can be fun, meaningful and life-changing at the same time," she said.

By investing in young leaders, IPM hopes to contribute to building stronger, safer and more supportive communities in the future.

Slingers said schools played a vital role in the lives of children, and the organisation was firmly committed to supporting pupils where possible.

The excited youngsters left the programme with a renewed sense of hope and dignity, having broadened their horizons and formed dozens of new friendships.

Knysna celebrates hometown rugby star's continental triumph

● Tournament saw Springbok Women face off against Uganda, Madagascar and Kenya

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Pride is running high in Knysna as local rugby star Siphenthi "Thamie" Yeko continues to make her mark on the international stage, recently having helped SA secure yet another major title at the 2026 Rugby Africa Women's Cup in Nairobi, Kenya.

The tournament, held from May 23 to 31 at the RFUEA Sports Grounds, saw the Springbok Women compete against Uganda, Madagascar and Kenya.

In a commanding performance, SA clinched the championship by defeating the host nation, the Kenya Lionesses, 35-20 in the final on Sunday May 31 — bringing home their fifth consecutive continental title.

For 28-year-old Yeko, who plays flyhalf for the SA Women's team, the victory is more than a personal milestone.

"With hard work, dedication and a strong support system, anything is possible," she said.

"Representing my country and playing alongside some of the best players in rugby, and being part of a great team that wins trophies, is not just something to be proud of for myself."

"It is also a big achievement for my community and for the small rugby teams that keep going without proper equipment, even when they feel overlooked."



Knysna women's rugby star Siphenthi Yeko

"I want to encourage them to never give up."

Yeko's journey to the top has been years in the making.

She first received a call-up to the Junior Springbok squad in May 2018, followed by her inclusion in the senior squad at the end of the 2019 season.

She has also earned a reputation as an incredibly versatile utility back. Now living in White Location in Knysna, Yeko reflects on her rise with gratitude and faith.

"Only God knows how much I've been waiting for this."

"To play for the Springboks has been my dream. I wanted to do this for my family, for my community, and for the people who saw potential in me. It is a dream come true," she said.

'To play for the Springboks has been my dream. I wanted to do this for my family, for my community and for the people who saw potential in me'

Her success has not only elevated her own career but has also inspired a new generation of young players in her hometown.

According to Titans Rugby Academy director of rugby and head coach Aschin Klein, Yeko's impact has been profound.

"Siphenthi's success is a powerful reminder to young women in Knysna of what can be achieved through hard work," he said.

"It highlights the significant impact of the Titans Women's Rugby Programme."

"Since her national call-up and outreach visits to local schools, our participation numbers, especially at the primary school level, have more than doubled."

Klein, who has mentored Yeko since 2017 after she moved to Knysna from Qonce, has witnessed her growth firsthand.

He played a key role in her recent rise, including her nomination during a national search for talent.

"During the 2025 season, the Springbok head coach engaged with all provincial head coaches looking for fly-half recommendations."

"I confidently put her name forward, following it up with a formal written nomination."

"Siphenthi then backed up that recommendation herself, delivering stellar, high-performance displays throughout the 2025/2026 provincial seasons to secure her spot," he said.

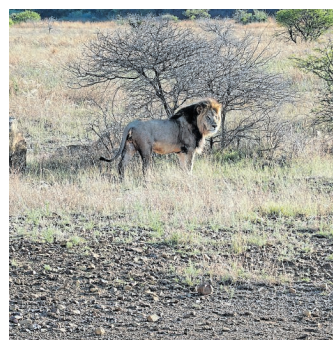
Adding to her growing list of achievements, Yeko was also called up to the Springbok Women's Sevens team in late 2025 — a milestone that paved the way for her current inclusion in the senior 15s squad, where she has already earned her first three Test caps.

The Herald



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Lion on the loose in northern KZN



A team is on the hunt for a lion seen roaming near the R66 in northern KwaZulu-Natal (file image) Picture: ELIZABETH SLEITH

Northern KwaZulu-Natal residents are on high alert after a lion was spotted roaming near the R66 between Nongoma and Pongola on Sunday night.

A team of wildlife experts and trackers is searching for the animal.

Ezemvelo KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife spokesperson Musa Mntambo confirmed the sighting.

"Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife was made aware of a lion seen roaming on the R66 around

Nongoma and Pongola before the Vryheid turnoff."

Mntambo said it was suspected that the lion had come from Mkuze Falls Private Game Reserve.

However, the reserve's Thulani Dlamini said it could not be one of their big cats, as they had done a count and all their lions were inside their property, which was closed for renovations.


Dlamini said they were assisting in the search because there were several

communities nearby.

Mntambo said there had been no reports of cows or other animals being attacked, and urged the public to report any wild animal sightings.

In January last year, there was a lion call-up headed by a professional hunter after several sightings and livestock killings in Glückstad near Vryheid.

A call-up is a method of attracting an animal to an area for capture, treatment or relocation. — TimesLIVE

 nelson mandela bay MUNICIPALITY
TENDERS

TENDERS ARE INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Documents for the following tenders can be obtained at the applicable non-refundable amount per set at Supply Chain Management Tender Office, Harrower Road, North End, Gqeberha 6001, fax 041 506 1969, tel. 041 506 7531, or by prior notification from the Supply Chain Management Office, 17 Sellick Street, Kariega, tel. 087 121 3032 or 087 121 3031.

This after payment has been made in Gqeberha at the cashiers, Mfanasekhaya Gqobose Building (formerly Eric Tindale Building), Govan Mbeki Avenue or in Kariega at the Treasury Office, Market Street.

When payment is made, please quote the following information:

On cash / cheque payment: Vote 00154776

On bank transfer payment: Bank account number: 4079533826, Code 632005

Account name: N.M.B.M. Deposit Account / Primary Deposit Account

Bank: ABSA Bank, P.E.

Reference: Vote 00154776

Proof of payment must be provided.

FORMAL TENDERS		
SCM No.	Tender Description (Including clarification meetings, where applicable)	Tender Fee
SCM/1358/S/2025-2026	CONDUCTING OF SOCIAL FACILITATION SERVICES ON INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS UPGRADING PARTNERSHIP GRANT (ISUPG) PROJECTS Validity period: 90 days	R830.00
SCM/1220/G/2024-2025	SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND TRANSPORT OF CHEMICALS AND GASSES FOR THE TREATMENT OF WATER, WASTEWATER AND SWIMMING POOLS Validity period: 90 days	R1 661.00

All tenderers must be registered on the Municipality's supplier's database through the NMBM database. The Municipality reserves the right not to consider the tenders of tenderers not registered on the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality's supplier's database. Please phone the NMBM database at 041 506 3274/3266 to register, if not yet registered.

Tenderers arriving 10 minutes late will not be allowed into a clarification meeting.

SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF TENDERS

Tenders must reach the Municipality by **not later than 11:00 on 6 AUGUST 2026.**

The tenders in sealed envelopes, clearly stating the contract number and description, must be placed in the tender box at either the Supply Chain Management Offices in Harrower Road, North End, Gqeberha, or at the Supply Chain Management Purchase Offices, 17 Sellick Street, Kariega between 08:00 and 16:00 weekdays.

Tenders will be publicly opened simultaneously in the boardroom, Supply Chain Management Office, Harrower Road, North End, Gqeberha and the Supply Chain Management Purchase Offices, 17 Sellick Street, Kariega, shortly after 11:00 on the applicable Thursday.

The Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tenders and late tenders will not be accepted.

The Council promotes the use of previously disadvantaged small and medium contractors. Details of the preference formula appear in the Supply Chain Management Policy of the Municipality and can be obtained from the Director: Supply Chain Management, Harrower Road, North End, Gqeberha.

As per Section 22(1)(b)(ii) of the SCM Policy, bids may be submitted only on the original stamped bid documentation provided by the NMBM, and the date, time and venue of any compulsory site meeting or briefing session as per Section 22(1)(b)(iii) of the SCM Policy, and Section 22(1)(b)(iv), a bid from a prospective bidder who did not attend a prescribed compulsory site meeting or briefing session referred to in subparagraph (iii) will not be considered.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON THE OFFICIAL FORMS PROVIDED BY THE MUNICIPALITY NOT TO BE RE-TYPED OR COPIED

CORRECTION

Please note that the following tender, advertised on Wednesday, 3/6/2026 (Ref. 24), regarding the venue of the compulsory clarification meeting, is as follows:

SCM No.	SCM Description & correct venue for Compulsory Clarification Meeting
SCM/1294/C/2024-2025	PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES: DESIGN AND MONITOR THE INSTALLATION OF CIVIL ENGINEERING SERVICES IN VISTARUS, BETHELSDORP (570 SITES) Compulsory clarification meeting: 30 June 2026 at 10:00 at Pieter Rademeyer Hall, Algoa Park

Please note that the following tender, advertised on Wednesday, 3/6/2026 (Ref. 24), has a CIDB Grading as per the table below:

Contract No.	Description
SCM/1085/C/2022-2023	TRIENNIAL CONTRACT FOR PROVISION OF BASIC SANITATION SERVICES: CLUSTERS 1 - 6 CIDB Grading: 6CE or Higher Closing Date: 23 July 2026

Please note that the advertising period for the following tender, advertised on Wednesday, 3/6/2026 (Ref. 24), has been shortened. The new closing date is stated in the table below:

Contract No.	Description	New Closing Date
SCM/1046/G/2022-2023	SPECIALIZED FIREFIGHTING VEHICLES	22 June 2026

Ref. 27 – 10 June 2026

Under the hand of the Acting City Manager, Ms Charity Sihunu

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