NPC Registration 2020/053218/08

# Egoli Youth Empowerment Impact Report

February to September 2026. Building Soweto's first community squash, padel and action football centre.

## $300 raised of our $94,000 goal.

Our donors' investment covered part of our tutor's fees and our coaches' facilitation sessions. That helped make possible the English support for 12 Soweto high-performance players and the sports and life skills sessions that reached 412 learners, including 25 girls in GIRLS CAN. Without our donors' support, none of this would have been possible. Thank you.

## Lerato's story



Lerato, a young woman from Soweto, was looking for direction. Today she is a youth leader in her own community, a graduate of the Laureus Sport for Good Foundation national leadership programme, and someone younger children look up to on and off the squash court.

**“It is never about where you come from, it is about where you are going.”**

That was her message to the girls in our programme, and it sits at the centre of everything we do. Lerato now manages the Soweto Girls programme.

The community sports centre we are building at Gazankulu Primary School will give many more young people a permanent place to find their direction, just as Lerato did.

Barry Hendricks, Craig Van Der Wath, Dave Barrow, Glenn Lazarus, Lesley Cowan
**The Egoli Squash Board**
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# On the courts

Every Wednesday and Friday, Gazankulu comes alive.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **412** | **17** | **40** |
| learners reached at Gazankulu and Hitekani Primary Schools | weekly sports and life skills sessions | intermediate players at April holiday clinics |

Squash, street racket, soccer and netball.

**25**

**GIRLS CAN** runs every Friday. A safe space where girls can play freely, lead confidently, and grow into who they are meant to be, together.

## Coach Thulani leads from the front



Thulani Makamu, our current Programme Head Coach, lives in Soweto and has been pivotal in facilitating our sports sessions and encouraging our players. He is now a role model in the community. He has invested a great deal in our players and helps them achieve their goals.

Donor support helps cover our coaches' facilitation sessions, so it reaches players through coaches like Thulani. The community sports centre we are building at Gazankulu Primary School will give him and our coaches a permanent home to keep investing in even more young people.

# In the moment

Photos from our sessions.



Warming up with a ball game, led by a coach



Warm-up drills in the sun



Chess on the steps



Warming up on court



Soccer, one of the sports we offer



Racket skills on court

# A path to the top

## Gauteng Interprovincial qualifiers: our biggest team yet

6 players from Soweto, of the 15 who qualified from the entire Egoli programme.



2026 EYE players who qualified for Inter-Prov

## Savata, from Soweto

Qualified for the Gauteng Interprovincial team and currently ranked:

**9th** **in the SA Top 10 in the country (U16)**



# Learning off the court

## 12 Soweto high-performance players

Our learners speak Xitsonga, and many struggle with English, the language of their classrooms. They attend English support on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings with tutor Gugu Bungane.

## 3 bursaries won

Mikateko, Ntebulo and Chris won bursaries into flagship schools after Maths and English tutoring with us.

## Urban farming



Players also took part in our urban farming programme.

Thank you to **Elsie Shiphamele**, Head of PEO Impact Gardens and our partner, who has played a great role in facilitating the urban farming sessions.

Planting seedlings



English support session

## Nobody walks alone

| 2 | 1 | 5 |
|---|---|---|
| Soweto coaches trained as Mental Health First Aiders | new Buddy group launched for Soweto players | players paired with each coach in the Buddy group |

Our two trained Soweto coaches are Lerato Maake and Khwatsi Baloyi.

### The Buddy group

We launched the Buddy group for our Soweto players so that every one of them knows a caring, nurturing adult is there for them. Each coach is paired with 5 players and offers them support, whether it is on the court, at school or in life.

## What's next

| **Renovate** | **Build** | **Upgrade** |
|---|---|---|
| our two indoor courts | the outdoor multi-sport space | courts and equipment, guided by player feedback |

**Thank you to our donors for investing in our programme.**

The Egoli Youth Empowerment team