

Proposal: Establishment of the First Community Squash, Padel & Action Football Centre in Soweto, South Africa

Egoli Squash Youth Empowerment (EYE)

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Egoli Youth Empowerment

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Egoli Squash Youth Empowerment Board of Directors
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1. Community & Demographic Context

About Soweto

Soweto (South Western Townships), with over 1.27 million residents, is the largest township in South Africa. It is home to vibrant but underserved communities, with more than 355,000 households, the majority of which face challenges related to poverty, unemployment, and overcrowded infrastructure. Approximately 98.5% of Soweto's residents are Black African, and the dominant languages include isiZulu, Sesotho, Setswana, and isiXhosa.

About Chiawelo

Chiawelo is a dense, multicultural suburb of Soweto established in 1956. With over 22,000 residents in just 1.96 km², Chiawelo features a rich mix of Xitsonga, Tshivenda, and isiZulu-speaking residents. While community pride is strong, resources remain limited, particularly in structured recreational, educational, and economic development opportunities.

2. Executive Summary

Egoli Squash Youth Empowerment (EYE) proposes to develop Soweto's first Community Squash, Padel & Action Football Centre at Gazankulu Primary School (the current home of EYE's Soweto Hub). The project will renovate two indoor squash courts, convert unused outdoor space into a multi-purpose sports facility (squash, padel, tennis, basketball, netball, and action football), and develop community amenities including a spectator and social engagement area and a graduate-run refreshment kiosk.

The facility will also expand EYE's Resource Centre to include entrepreneurship training, digital access, and an enlarged urban farming programme. The project is designed to serve over 600 youth and adults weekly, engage schools and community groups, and create employment and business opportunities for programme graduates.

Our work transforms lives — for example, Clinton joined EYE as a young learner from Yeoville facing hardship. With coaching, academic support, and mentorship, he excelled academically and in sport, earned bursaries, graduated cum laude with a Bachelor of Education, and now leads EYE's Academic Support Programme, inspiring the next generation.



3. Project Objectives

- Fully renovate two indoor squash courts.
- Convert the outdoor practice area into a multi-sport court for squash, padel, tennis, basketball, netball, and action football.
- Develop a Spectator & Social Engagement Area with shaded seating, tables, and a small refreshment kiosk to be run by graduates of EYE's entrepreneurial programme.
- Engage over 10 schools and 6 community organisations.
- Enlarge the Urban Farming Centre.
- Enhance EYE's Resource Centre with entrepreneurship training and an IT/internet access area.
- Employ and train local youth in facility operations, coaching, and small business management.
- Ensure sustainability through community ownership and financial planning.

4. Key Community Challenges Addressed

- Aging infrastructure limiting safe and active participation.
- Lack of multi-sport spaces in low-income, high-density areas.
- Uninspiring outdoor spaces not meeting youth needs.
- Limited access to digital learning and economic opportunity.
- Youth unemployment and lack of skills development pathways.

5. Community Engagement & Youth Employment

Over 600 learners and adults currently served by EYE will benefit immediately. Local schools, NGOs, and community groups will access free or subsidised programming. 6–10 youth will be employed and trained as coaches, court managers, digital tutors, and kiosk/microbusiness operators. Stakeholders (including parents, school staff, and local leaders) will participate in facility oversight and programme design.

6. Resource Centre Upgrade

Enlarge Urban Farming: Hands-on learning in sustainable agriculture, composting, and food preparation.

Entrepreneurial Skills Hub: Workshops in business planning, budgeting, and micro-enterprise.

Practical Experience: Operating the on-site refreshment and microbusiness kiosk in the spectator area to develop business, customer service, and financial management skills.

Digital Access Zone: 4–6 connected workstations with internet, available for homework, job seeking, and training.

7. Renovation & Construction Plan

Indoor Courts:

- Remove old flooring, repair substructure.
- Install high-impact squash flooring and paint.
- Upgrade lighting, ventilation, and safety signage.

Outdoor Multi-Purpose Court:

- Resurface and level existing outdoor area and practice court.
- Add a glass back padel and squash wall, install mesh netting and frame.
- Apply markings for squash, padel, basketball, tennis, netball, and action football (including small goals).
- Install movable equipment (nets, hoops, small soccer goals, etc.).

Spectator & Social Engagement Area:

- Shaded seating for 30 people.
- Benches and tables for comfort.
- A small kiosk for refreshments and microbusinesses, run by graduates of EYE's entrepreneurial programme.



8. Updated Budget Breakdown (ZAR)

Item Description	Details	Cost (ZAR)
1st Squash Court: Flooring replacement & painting	New flooring	R120,000
	Painting	R8,000
2nd Squash Court: Flooring sanding & painting	Sanding	R15,000
	Painting	R5,000
Bathroom Renovations		R35,000
Outdoor Multi-Purpose Court Conversion (incl. action football setup)		R340,000
Padel & Tennis Equipment		R70,000
Basketball & Netball Equipment		R50,000
Action Football Goals & Equipment	Small portable goals, balls, bibs	R35,000
Spectator & Social Engagement Area	Seating, shading, kiosk	R85,000
Youth Employment (12 months stipend support)		R180,000
Resource Centre Upgrade (furniture, equipment)		R70,000
Urban Farming Setup (beds, tools, water access)		R45,000
IT Station (4-6 PCs, Internet Access)		R80,000
Professional Services (engineering, safety)		R60,000
Signage, Marketing & Educational Materials		R50,000
Coaching Aids & Programme Expansion		R130,000
Maintenance & Security Fund		R150,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST		R1,503,000

9. Timeline (12 Weeks)

Week 1: Kickoff, contractor onboarding, youth recruitment.

Week 2: Court and centre preparation, materials ordered.

Week 3: Indoor court renovations begin.

Week 4: Court painting and lighting, outdoor leveling begins.

Week 5–7: Outdoor multi-sport court surfacing, install sport structures and action football goals.

Week 8: Install nets, padel and tennis gear, hoops.

Week 9: Upgrade resource centre, install IT lab, farming beds, build spectator/social area and kiosk.

Week 10: Youth staff training, school/community onboarding.

Week 11: Final inspection and test runs.

Week 12: Grand opening celebration, launch weekly programme schedule.

Ongoing: Monitoring, donor reporting, maintenance.

10. Why Partner with Egoli Squash Youth Empowerment (EYE)?

Proven Impact:

EYE has impacted over 12,000 youth since 2009 through sport, mentoring, and education — changing lives and creating opportunities. One example is Clinton, who joined us as a teenager facing extreme hardship. Through EYE’s programmes, he developed leadership skills, earned top academic results, secured bursaries, and graduated cum laude as a qualified teacher. Today, he mentors young people in the same community where his own journey began.

Trusted Partnerships:

Partner of Laureus Sport for Good, Squash & Education Alliance (USA), and PSA Foundation. Collaborates with local schools, government, NGOs, and clinics.

Integrated, Long-Term Model:

Combines sports, health, leadership, education, and enterprise in one programme stream. Locally rooted staff and alumni create a community-owned culture.

Strong Governance & Reporting:

Regular donor updates, M&E systems, and transparent financial processes. Board-led oversight, community advisory groups, and youth voice mechanisms.

Multiplier Effect:

Alumni like Clinton become coaches, entrepreneurs, and youth mentors. A single site like this generates employment, local pride, and holistic development — especially for girls and marginalised youth.

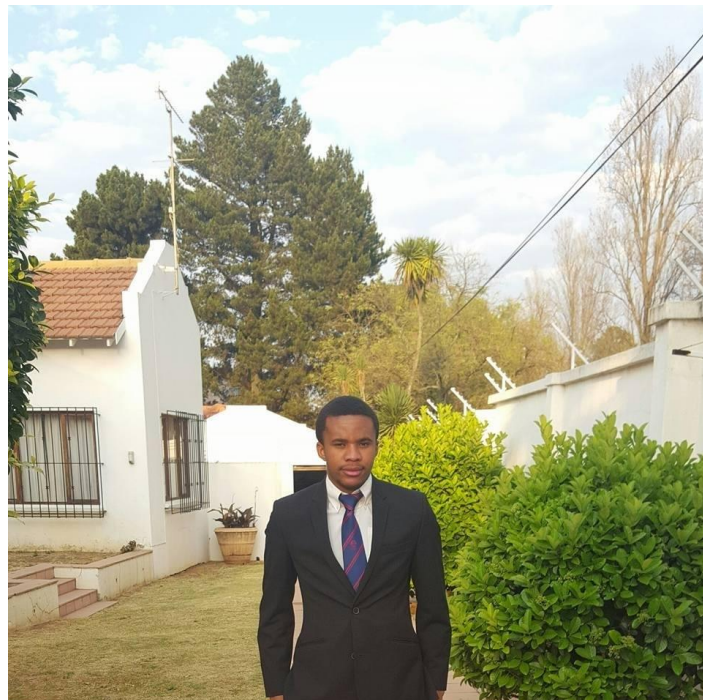
11. Clinton's Story – From Beneficiary to Leader

Clinton joined the EYE programme as a junior participant in the Mass Participation Programme. Growing up in Yeoville, Johannesburg — an area known for high crime and poverty — he faced serious challenges after losing his father and living through years of financial hardship with his mother.

Joining Egoli Squash became his turning point. Through dedicated coaching, academic support, and mentorship, Clinton not only developed exceptional squash skills — representing Gauteng in the U16 and U19 National Inter-Provincial Tournaments — but also excelled academically.

He earned a bursary to complete high school at Barnato Park and later joined the St John's College Elite Academy, graduating with top matric results. St John's College then supported his studies at the University of South Africa, where he completed a Bachelor of Education (Cum Laude) with 26 distinctions.

Today, Clinton is 25 years old, a qualified teacher at Pinnacle College, and a leader in the Egoli Youth Empowerment Academic Support Programme. His story reflects our core mission — empowering both girls and boys from disadvantaged communities to reach their goals, give back to their communities, and become South Africa's next generation of leaders.



12. Savata Nkuna – Defying All Odds



Savata Nkuna, a Grade 9 learner at Vuwani Secondary School -Soweto, joined the Egoli Youth Empowerment (EYE) programme in 2016 through the Gazankulu Schools Mass Participation initiative. His mother passed away when he was two, leaving his father to raise him and four siblings in Chiawelo, Soweto. With limited income from odd jobs, his father worked tirelessly to support the family, but life was far from easy.

Shy and withdrawn, Savata’s early school performance suffered. Joining EYE became a turning point — here, he found mentors who believed in him and a safe space to grow in confidence, discipline, and skill. Known today for his warm smile and strong work ethic, he has transformed both on and off the court.

Savata has represented Gauteng Province in the Inter-Provincial Championships every year from 2019 to 2025, and competed nationally in the SA U13, U15, and U17 tournaments in Cape Town for three consecutive years (2022–2024). These achievements are remarkable for a young athlete from such challenging circumstances.

Looking ahead, Savata has the talent and determination to become South Africa’s number one in his age group — proving that with opportunity, hard work, and perseverance, no dream is out of reach.

13. Success Stories & Media Links

- View Diodivine Story: <https://fb.watch/rtVz0svN6W/>
- View Soweto Documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ohE9toDCSTA>
- View SABC Expresso TV Feature: <https://youtu.be/n-nHiHupcHo?si=Z7FhoM837D0U1cvn>
- View EYE SABC Sports Buzz Feature:
https://youtu.be/LMa6_Oe00qU?si=3sdRku9X6hlEC1WG
- View EYE Sewing Project: <https://youtu.be/oVQO9IjxhY4?si=EAbDsfaOML96hkPO>
- View EYE Creating Real and Lasting Change:
<https://youtu.be/EkFkDIMlbCg?si=BcPwdbCJ0BibYGmW>

