

Soccer: kids in Langa are on the ball

Siyabonga Kalipa

24 March 2014



Project Playground provides a safe platform for children to be themselves. Photo by Siyabonga Kalipa.

On Human Rights Day, Project Playground hosted the start of a two day soccer tournament in Langa stadium.

Project Playground provides a safe platform for children to be themselves. The project has in its care more than 300 children from the township of Langa. It provides after-school classes in sport, with soccer and BMX Biking, and in culture classes in music, dance, the arts and drama. The annual soccer tournament is now in its third year. 20 teams took part in the tournament in five divisions with four teams in each division.

Frida Vesterberg, co-founder of Project Playground, says, “By having this tournament start on this day is our way of honouring the Human rights day.”

On the second day of the tournament before the finals were played, dancers entertained the crowd.

The under 11 final was the first game on the day, but it didn't happen without controversy. Before each game, players are expected to produce their association cards which have the player's date of birth and picture to determine if the player is the right age. Because of the pressure and the nerves of playing in the final, some of these young players couldn't remember their dates of birth when asked by the officials. Some broke down in tears.

But after all the drama, the game got off to a good start, both teams playing attack. The host team, PPG, scored the first goal to take the lead. Langa team equalised. Then PPG scored a second goal in the second half which gave them the first silverware of the first final.

The tournament meant a great deal to the community of Langa who came in numbers to support their children taking part. A parent of one of the children in the tournament says, “Such tournaments are good for our children because when they are here they are safe from all the bad things. I came here to show them that I support what they are doing.”

Another parent, Sikelelwa Mnguphane, says, "Before crime was big in our township and we were scared our children will be part of it, but because of Project Playground our children are always kept busy and away from the bad."

Vesterberg hopes the tournament will achieve even more in the future. "The tournament brings together people of different backgrounds and cultures, and it exposes different people to the township ... We want more teams from white suburbs and parents to come and be part of this and break the stereotypes of townships being dangerous," she said.

The final results were: PPG Under 11 won 2-1 against Langa FA. PPG Under 13 lost 1-0 against Langa FA. PPG Under 15 won 5-4 on penalties against Beautiful Gate. PPG Under 17 won 1-0 against Langa FA. PPG Under 23 won on penalties 5-4 against Langa FA.

Share:     (http://www.groundup.org.za/article/soccer-kids-langa-are-ball_1635/) 

Topics: [Sport \(/topic/sport/\)](/topic/sport/)

Related articles



[\(/article/metropolitan-cups-scorching-kick-/\)](/article/metropolitan-cups-scorching-kick-/)

Metropolitan Cup's scorching kick-off (</article/metropolitan-cups-scorching-kick-/>)



[\(/article/softball-body-battling-keep-its-head-above-water/\)](/article/softball-body-battling-keep-its-head-above-water/)

Softball body battling to keep its head above water (</article/softball-body-battling-keep-its-head-above-water/>)



[\(/article/rugby-girls-too_3474/\)](/article/rugby-girls-too_3474/)

Rugby is for girls too (/article/rugby-girls-too_3474/)



[\(/article/bringing-rugby-cape-flats_3341/\)](/article/bringing-rugby-cape-flats_3341/)

Bringing rugby to the Cape Flats (/article/bringing-rugby-cape-flats_3341/)

We recommend



(/article/when-can-police-detain-you-not-showing-documents/)

When can the police detain you for not showing documents? (/article/when-can-police-detain-you-not-showing-documents/)



Will the mines cough up?

(/silicosis-court-case/)

Mykelwa Mkenyane is one of thousands of miners with silicosis hoping for compensation. (/silicosis-court-case/)

2016 Municipal Elections

(/topic/elections2016/)

Find out how some of Cape Town's most interesting wards (/topic/elections2016/) are performing.

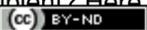
Spotlight on social grants (/spotlight-social-grants)



Get the free GroundUp weekly newsletter (<http://eepurl.com/Or2a5>)

(/spotlight-social-grants)

Are you a grant recipient? Here is almost everything you need to know. (/article/everything-you-need-know-about-social-grants_820/)

© 2016 GroundUp.  (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0/>)

This article is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonDerivatives 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/4.0/>).

(/article/everything-you-need-know-about-social-grants_820/) Read this (/spotlight-social-grants) to understand how the grant payment system works.

You are welcome to comment. Please read our policy (/code-decency).

Contact GroundUp

Suite 08SB, 1st floor, South Block, Tannery Park
21 Belmont Road, Rondebosch
Cape Town 7700
([Google Map](#))

(<https://www.google.co.za/maps/place/Tannery+Park/@-33.9600692,18.471663,319m/data=!3m1!1e3!4m7!1m4!3m3!1s0x1dcc5d2793ff705d:0x305d546814818e1!2s21+hl=en>)

☎ 021 788 9163

✉ info@groundup.org.za (<mailto:info@groundup.org.za>)