



IT'S

# PARADISE

Ugu South Coast Tourism (Pty) Ltd

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## PRESS RELEASE

26<sup>th</sup> August 2015

### Rugby Talent ID Festival 2015

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual DSR/Mark Godefroy/KZNRU Talent ID Festival will be held from the 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015 in Margate and hosted at Margate Sports School (U12) and Douglas Mitchell Sports Grounds (U15 and U17) on the KwaZulu-Natal South Coast.

The tournament is not only used to identify players but referees, coaches and managers as well. Players who have progressed through this festival are Cedric Mkhize (Super 14), Jody Jenneker (Super 14), Melusi 'Barra' Mthethwa (Currie Cup), Thabane Sangweni (Vodacom Cup), Menzi Ngidi (Sharks Under 19 and 21), Sizwe Zondo (Sharks Under 19, 21 and Vodacom Cup) Khaya Majola (Sharks U19 & U21, SA U20 [World Cup Winner], Super Rugby, Vodacom Cup, Currie Cup) and Sandile Khubeka (SA Schools, Sharks U19 & U21 and Vodacom Cup) to name but a few. Many others are thriving in the club scene and the various academies as well.

The process to get to this final provincial tournament involves the five sub-unions, which incorporates all the district municipalities, who hold trials to select the best U12, U15 and U17 players from only historically disadvantaged communities/schools. This includes areas like Munster, Ixopo, Kokstad, Harding, Gamalakhe, Umlazi, KwaMashu, Umbumbulu, Kwadakuza, Clermont, Wentworth, KwaMakutha, Ezikhaweni, Kwadlangezwa, Stanger, Mandini, Ulundi, Pongola, Hluhluwe, Matabatuba, Vryheid, Dundee, Osizweni, Madadeni, Mafusini, Bergville and other rural communities. Around 500 players and 40 coaches and managers in each sub-union, are involved in this process, except Ethekewini/Ilembe, where around 1 400 players and officials are involved. Total number of players and officials involved in the trials/selection process is thus around 3 600 players and officials. In each sub-union, 60 players ie 20 U12, 20 U15 and 20 U17 boys, are selected to represent the



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region. A total of 300 players attend the final tournament, together with 45 coaches and managers.

Additionally three extra teams are invited to participate, one in each age group. This year will see Underberg Invitation U12, Creston College (U15) and Itembelihle U17 (New Brighton), joining the festival.

Three provincial squads (U12, U15 & U17) are selected by neutral selectors from the Ex-Model C and Private Schools who also use the opportunity to scout for their respective institutions. These schools offer bursaries to their institutions. At the conclusion of last years' festival, 33 players had been offered bursaries.

The festival is supported by the following: KZN Department of Sport and Recreation fund all accommodation, transport and certain meals for all the participants and technical officials. KZN Rugby Union staff are accommodated by KZN Rugby Union, who also fund the trials and selection processes. SAB assist with the accommodation, transport and logistics costs. Clover SA (All juices), Gem Schoolwear (all players' t-shirts, shorts and socks and officials' golf-shirts and jackets), Officials dinner – meat supplied by Bluff Meat Supply, Ron's Sports supply the medals and trophies.

Without the support of these sponsors, a festival of this nature would not be possible.

'A festival of this nature is no easy feat and we are extremely privileged that the South Coast has been chosen to host this event. We wish the organizers and the players all the very best of success' says Ugu South Coast Tourism's CEO Mr Justin Mackrory.

Ends.

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**Distributed by:**

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On behalf of:



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**ENDS**

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