

POST PROGRAM BRIEF:

4IR & AI: POSITIONING YOUNG PEOPLE FOR SUCCESS



TOPTD'S 10TH ANNUAL SPORTS TOURNAMENT: A DECADE OF IMPACT



Celebrating a Decade of
Impact through Sports and
Technology.



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OVERVIEW

The 10th TOPTD Annual Sports Tournament- Chess, Soccer & Netball- celebrated a decade of success in promoting sports, technology awareness, and community development in rural areas. The event saw participation from local youth, community leaders, and notable figures, reflecting a harmonious blend of competition, education, and social engagement.



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INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the milestones, moments, and memories of the 10th TOPTD Annual Sports Tournament—a true testament to 10 years of community-driven impact in rural KwaZulu-Natal. The vibrant community of UMnini came alive on 26 December 2024 as the 10th TOPTD Annual Sports Tournament unfolded at Esizibeni High School. This milestone celebration marked a decade of community empowerment through sports, education, and technology. With the theme “**4IR & AI: Positioning Youth for Success**,” the tournament brought together a diverse group of participants, dignitaries, and spectators to honor progress, inspire innovation, and unite under a common purpose. This event would not have been possible without the collective efforts of sponsors, volunteers, community leaders, and participants.



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TESTIMONIALS FROM TOPTD 10TH ANNIVERSARY

"Please keep me posted about any tournaments going on, I have been missing out!"–
Nkanyiso, Local Chess Player

"You guys are brilliant. Well done 🌟🌟!"– **Linda Mthalane**, Principal, Esizibeni High School

"Brother, thank you so much. This community is blessed to have such progress."–
Mlondi Cele, Soccer Player and Club Owner

"Thank you to TOPTD and everyone; I will grab this opportunity with both hands and work hard!"– **Sphelele Makhanya**, 2024 Laptop & Python Exam Voucher Winner

"You have worked so hard, guys. I am glad I came! Seeing all South African races in a rural area was a great takeaway. The Rainbow Nation was on display. Never stop!"–
S'phe Sigwebela, Friend of TOPTD

"I'm still having goosebumps when I reflect on the magic we experienced yesterday. You, Qiniso, and the rest of the team should be truly proud of yourselves for the work you have done to build TOPTD to the level we experienced yesterday. It's just the governance that separates you between moving from good to great! Will gladly support this journey as much as I possibly can going forward because I'm fully behind the cause and impact this organization is having and will be having for generations to come!"– **Sim Phakathi**, Senior Business Executive and Guest Speaker

"What a lovely day. Congratulations on pulling off such a great event. I am glad to have attended and seen the greatness❤️."– **Zanele Twala**, CEO, Standard Bank Tutuwa Community Foundation and Guest Speak

"Well done on putting the event together; I felt it was a success based on what I experienced. I was impressed by the netball ladies, the passion on the soccer field, and the seriousness in the classrooms from the chess players. Great initiative! The numbers were impressive, and it was evident how much effort went into this. While there are areas to improve, including guest welcoming, advertising, and time management, I am deeply impressed by what you've achieved!"– **Sibusisiwe Sebe Buthelezi**, Celebrated TV Journalist and Program Director

"Amazing event @TOPTD 🌟 keep up the good work, it's nurturing talents and harnessing greatness!"– **Malusi Ndlovu**, Standard Bank Provincial Youth Manager-KZN

"Baba Nyambose, it was a very good tournament. Let's keep going without losing energy."– **Mayela Madlala**, Football Club Owner and LOC Member





Community member enjoying soccer



Dumisani (right) having a word with Sim & Dee Phakathi (guests) during soccer final match

THE OPENING SPIRIT OF UNITY AND GROWTH

The tournament began with a sense of excitement and anticipation. It was more than a sporting event—it was a stage for collaboration, where rural talent met innovation and a brighter future took shape. Families, community leaders, and stakeholders gathered to celebrate the spirit of the Rainbow Nation, embodied in the friendships forged and opportunities created.

Ms. Sibusisiwe Sebe Buthelezi, a celebrated television journalist, served as the program director, guiding the day's activities with grace and professionalism.





Local vendors benefited economically by selling food during the event.





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CHESS: A BATTLE OF STRATEGY AND OPPORTUNITY

The chess segment of the tournament captured the intellectual essence of the day. Under the spotlight of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR), the game of chess became a metaphor for life—teaching foresight, planning, and critical thinking.

The champion, Cyril Danisa, walked away with R1250, a gold medal, and a trophy. Sphelele Makhanya, the runner-up, received R1000, a silver medal, and a Python Exam Voucher worth R1400 from Python Institute. He also received a laptop, though it came with a unique condition: ownership would only transfer upon passing the Python Institute's PCEP™ – Certified Entry-Level Python Programmer exam. This innovative approach symbolized the event's focus on education and commitment to long-term growth.

The Best Young Player Award went to Josiah Soojay (9), who took home R250, a trophy, and a medal. The chess tournament not only rewarded winners but also ignited aspirations in every participant to think strategically and embrace the possibilities of 4IR.





Lucky Siphesihle Makhanya getting his reward after coming second to Cyril. Due to Cyril's age Python Exam Voucher went to Siphesihle as well as a laptop.



TOPTD's Best Female ,Kaylee Budhram, from Hopeville Primary School receiving her iPad (Apple) from Standard Bank & R250 from TOPTD

THE GRAND MASTERS OF THE FUTURE: STRATEGIC MOVES INTO 4IR





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NETBALL: CELEBRATING TEAMWORK AND PRECISION

The netball court was a hub of agility and precision, where teams battled for glory. The Movers Netball Team emerged as champions, securing R3000, gold medals, a full team kit, and a trophy. Their skill and teamwork left spectators in awe, reminding everyone of the power of collective effort.

The runners-up, RBF- Rainbow Farm, also demonstrated exceptional talent, receiving a team kit and silver medals as recognition for their hard work. The netball games highlighted the grace and determination of women in sports, reinforcing their integral role in the community's progress.



Netball champions Movers celebrating their victory



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**Second place , RBF-Rainbow Farm netball
team in the kit they won**







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SOCCER: THE SPIRIT OF COMPETITION AND UNITY

The soccer tournament was the heartbeat of the event, drawing enthusiastic crowds. The finals saw a fierce contest between Orikant and Legends, with Orikant FC emerging victorious. They claimed R6000, gold medals, a soccer kit, and a trophy. The runners-up, Legends FC, received silver medals and a soccer kit.

The passion and sportsmanship displayed on the field united the community, creating unforgettable moments of celebration and pride.



**Orikant FC celebrating their hard won triumph
over Legends FC.**



Soccer runners-up, Legends FC, getting silver medals and soccer kit



What 'a big player', Khulekani Dube- Receiving his two awards: TOTPD Player of the Tournament & TOTPD Youngest Player of the Tournament



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SPEECHES THAT INSPIRED CHANGE

The awarding ceremony was an emotional and inspirational segment, with stirring speeches delivered by distinguished guests.

Mr. Malusi Ndlovu, Standard Bank's Provincial Youth Manager for KwaZulu-Natal, set the tone by awarding an iPad (Apple tablet) to the Best Female Chess Player, along with a trophy, medal, and cash prize. His address emphasized the bank's commitment to youth empowerment and the role of technology in shaping the future.

Mr. Simphiwe 'Sim' Phakathi, an IT expert and seasoned Business Executive, inspired the audience with his personal story of resilience and his vision for embracing 4IR technologies. He recounted his journey from rural Ndulinde to becoming a leader in his field, despite losing his mother early in his career. He stressed the importance of education. Sim announced Tech Skills bursary offered by EasyPay Everywhere for students achieving 65% or higher (application deadline: 27th January 2025), earning a thunderous round of applause. His eloquent explanation of 4IR and AI simplified complex concepts for the audience, making technology relatable and inspiring.

Ms. Zanele Twala, CEO of Standard Bank's Tutuwa Community Foundation, delivered a moving address on the transformative power of education. Reflecting on her journey from the UK to South Africa, she credited education for her success and urged the audience to embrace learning, cherish their culture, and pursue excellence. Her encouragement to the participants resonated deeply, leaving an indelible impression.





Malusi



Sebe



Zanele



Sim





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REFLECTING ON A DECADE OF IMPACT: CLOSING REMARKS

In a powerful and heartfelt speech, Dumisani Mthethwa, the founder of TOPTD, took the audience on a journey through the organization's impactful 10-year history. He highlighted key achievements, including national recognition on the Mail & Guardian 200 Young South Africans list for 2024 and being finalists in the Standard Bank CSI Impact Awards. These milestones were celebrated as collective victories, made possible through the unwavering support of partners, sponsors, and the community.

Dumisani reflected on transformative initiatives such as TOPTD Cares, which has supported schools in GP & KZN like KwaGumbi Primary and Johannesburg Child Welfare, and the flagship Annual Sports Tournaments that empower youth through soccer, netball, and chess. He emphasized the importance of the chess tournaments in preparing young minds for 4IR, with programming tools and Python certification vouchers shaping a tech-ready generation.

Looking to the future, Dumisani shared the ambitious vision of establishing the TOPTD Centre for Early Childhood Development and Programming/Coding, a transformative project to equip youth with 4IR skills. He also expressed gratitude to influential figures like Ms. Zanele Twala, Mr. Sim Phakathi, and Ms. Sebe Buthelezi, whose support has been instrumental in advancing TOPTD's mission.

The speech culminated in a call to action, inviting all attendees to join forces in formalizing and expanding TOPTD, ensuring the next 10 years are even more impactful. Dumisani's words served as a rallying cry for the community to continue dreaming boldly and working together to create lasting change.





TOPTD DECADE METRICS

IMPACT BY NUMBERS

- **10 Years** of empowering youth through sports and technology
- Over **500 participants** engaged in 2024
- **126 athletes** competed on 26 December 2024 alone
- **34 Chess winners** crowned since inception between TOPTD Queen Check and 26th December flagship program
- **7 Laptops** awarded to winners to inspire and equip future innovators
- **R13,000 in Cash Prizes** awarded last year, with additional costs for prizes, officiating, and logistics on 26 December 2024 totaling **R40,726.95** (excluding sound, photography, and the iPad).
- To date, since 2022, we have donated over **200 pairs** of school shoes to children in KwaZulu-Natal schools and 1 church as well as through Johannesburg Child Welfare in Gauteng.
- Since inception, TOPTD's program delivery has totaled no less than **R122,000** with the first **3 years** being 100% self-funded



A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

As TOPTD marks this milestone, its future shines brightly with ambitious plans to establish the TOPTD Centre, a hub for Early Childhood Development, Coding, and Programming. Formalizing the organization (becoming a registered PBO and issue section 18A to our donors) with ethically sound experienced individuals and expanding its reach to international platforms are priorities as TOPTD steps into a new decade of impact.

The achievements of 2024, including recognition as a Mail & Guardian 200 Young South Africans of 2024 and a Standard Bank CSI Impact Awards Finalist, reflect the organization's dedication to excellence and its unwavering commitment to rural empowerment.



ACKNOWLEDGING LEGACY, SPONSORS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The presence of dignitaries like former Esizibeni High School Principal Mr. Sipho Gumbi, current Principal Mr. Linda Mthalane with his School Governing Body, and Inkosi PP Luthuli underscored the tournament's significance in the community. Their support has been instrumental in shaping TOPTD's legacy.

Initiatives such as TOPTD Cares have enriched TOPTD's journey over the years. This organization has provided school shoes to underprivileged learners at schools including KwaGumbi Primary, oPhapheni Primary, Magcino Primary, and Mntimande Primary. Last year's event stood as a testament to the impact of these efforts and the promise of a brighter future.

The in-kind contributions from Diaho Attorneys Inc, eThekwini Metro, Perception Media, Mr. Khenani Mkhize, Mr. Rishi Budhram, Mr. Khehla Mthethwa, aQuelle and Standard Bank made the 10th celebration stand out.

Financial donation from *Shosholozza Finance* impacted all sport codes and we are grateful for their generosity. Special thanks to the following individuals for their monetary contributions which made this event possible. :

Mr. T Lefakane	Mr. N Shezi	Ms. L Ndabankulu
Mr. S Phakathi	Ms. A Qwabe	Mr. G Morare
Mr. K Tsamba	Ms. L Shosha	Mr. P Scheepers
Mr. N Mukwevho	Ms. B Mphuthi	Mr. K Mamogwe
Ms. A Maile	Anonymous	Anonymous

SPONSORS AND PARTNERS





**Inkosi PP Luthuli greeting Ms. Zanele Twala
CEO of Standard Bank Tututwa Community
Foundation**



**Ms. Buthelezi flanked by Mr Ndlovu and INkosi of
Luthuli clan**

**Sim & Dee Phakathi checking out football match
while enjoying each others company.**



**Local Football Association (LFA) President
Mr. B Maphumulo watching soccer**



Mr. Mkhize addressing Mr Danisa.



**What is a TOPTD program without
refreshments?**



**TOPTD personnel getting ready for official
handover. It was the moment of truth!**

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

TOPTD next decade will continue to impact lives and promote activities that seeks to change economic fortunes of our rural communities. In so doing the following initiatives will be executed:

- **TOPTD Cares - January to April 2025**

This is a self-confidence booster program wherein a school shoe donation campaign will be conducted to benefit the least privileged pupils.

- **Sbusiso Mseleku Easter Tournament - Easter Holidays 2025**

A sports tournament intended to honour of late local hero Mr. Sbusiso Mseleku. TOPTD took inspiration from this community legend who was a seasoned journalist (sport editor) ,soccer commentator and a trailblazer.

- **TOPTD Queen Check Chess Tournament - 09 August 2025**

A chess tournament hosted in commemoration of Women's month, prioritising awards for female Chess players and promote technology.

- **11th TOPTD Annual Sports Tournament - 26 December 2025**

The flagship TOPTD annual program held in promoting skills development in general and skills of the future in particular.



CALL TO ACTION: SUPPORT TOPTD CARES

As we close the chapter on the unforgettable 10th Annual TOPTD Sports Tournament, we turn our focus to **TOPTD Cares**, a cornerstone initiative dedicated to boosting the **self-esteem and school attendance of underprivileged children** through shoe donations.

- A Pair of Shoes Costs Just **R70**:
- Your contribution can change a child's life, and we've made it simple to support. You can either:
 - Donate directly, and we'll purchase the shoes ourselves, or
 - Use your local **Spar** to buy a pair, and we'll gladly collect them from you

Let's continue making an impact together. Every small gesture contributes to a brighter future for our children.

Together, we can walk the path to empowerment—one pair of shoes at a time!



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CONCLUSION

The 10th TOPTD Annual Sports Tournament was more than a celebration—it was a reflection of our journey, a launchpad for future aspirations, and a beacon of hope for rural communities.

It was a profound demonstration of what can be achieved when we shed labels and come together in the spirit of service. To all who raked the field, mopped and set up classrooms, and prepared the food that refreshed over 200 attendees—your contributions made this milestone unforgettable.

Our deepest gratitude extends to all individual sponsors and big corporates like Shosholoza, Standard Bank, and aQuelle. Your trust in this informal (for now) organization is truly inspiring. To the Mthethwa and Ndabankulu clans, your efforts were nothing short of remarkable. To the Soojay and Budhram families, your grace and unwavering kindness over the years have not gone unnoticed. May God bless and remember all of you in your moments of need. Ubuntu mabande ebantwini!

As the sun set on a day filled with joy, inspiration, and unity, one thing was evident: TOPTD is not merely changing lives—it is building a lasting legacy for generations to come. Here's to the next decade and many more to come!



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JOIN US IN BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

As we reflect on a decade of impactful work, we look ahead with renewed commitment to expanding our reach and deepening our impact. This milestone is just the beginning, and we cannot do it alone.

We invite you to partner with us—**whether through sponsorship, collaboration, or volunteering**—to empower the next generation and transform communities across South Africa. Your support is not just a contribution; it's an investment in brighter futures, thriving communities, and sustainable change.

Together, let's continue to make a difference. Reach out to us **today** to explore how you can join the journey toward the next **10 years** of progress and success with TOPTD.



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A HUGE THANK YOU

The 2024 #TOPTDAnnualSportsTournament would not have been possible without your invaluable support. On behalf of TOPTD and the uMnini rural community under the leadership of iNkosi uLuthuli, we extend our heartfelt gratitude. Your contributions have made a lasting impact, and we look forward to fostering even greater collaborations in the future.

Sincerely Yours in Community Service,

Dumisani Mthethwa

Founder, TOPTD

Social Scientist at Heart and by Training & Software Engineer by Trade

Mail & Guardian 200 Young South Africans 2024

Standard Bank CSI Impact Awards Finalist - 2024



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