Talent is not the only factor that determines whether our potential future stars achieve success. Without opportunities to develop their talent and to be discovered, the journey from grassroots to glory is unlikely to happen. This is the case for many talented young people in the rural and underprivileged areas. The Transnet Foundation’s Rural and Farm Schools Sport Programme aims to change this – it provides sport training and infrastructure in rural areas to help our youth reach their true sporting potential.

UNEARTHING SOUTH AFRICA’S HIDDEN SPORTING TALENT
Although South Africa is rich in sporting talent, much of it goes undiscovered because it is hidden away in underdeveloped and rural communities. There are many opportunities for young sportsmen and women to develop and showcase their abilities, but most of the infrastructure for this is centred in urban and developed areas. Through its Rural and Farm Schools Sport Programme, the Transnet Foundation gives real opportunities to youth who fall outside the target areas of traditional sporting bodies. It aims to identify and develop young sports talent in rural areas and nurture it towards excellence.

GIVING BUDDING STARS A PLATFORM TO SHOWCASE WHAT THEY CAN DO
The Rural and Farm Schools Sport Tournaments is designed to showcase young talent from rural areas to the broader sporting fraternity. This initiative is jointly hosted by the Department of Education and is aimed at forming holistically run sports leagues for boys and girls between the ages of 13 and 19 in rural areas.

• About 20 schools from each region participate in the tournaments.
• The tournaments consist of various selection stages with teams competing regionally for a place in the annual National Tournament.
• The programme provides all the necessary equipment and trains educators in football, netball and athletics coaching.
• The learners are placed on a long-term training programme and by the time they finish high school they will have had four years of expert coaching and many opportunities for exposure.

PAST CHAMPIONS INSPIRE FUTURE CHAMPIONS
All former sport champions have one thing in common - a true passion for their sport. Although their sporting careers eventually come to an end, that passion never will. That is why many past sporting icons re-invest their experience and skill in developing promising sports stars in previously disadvantaged communities. The Transnet Foundation’s Sport Incubator Programme, launched in 2011, partners with these initiatives and personalities by supporting them with financial assistance and acknowledging and celebrating their work.

FACTS AND FIGURES
Rural and Farm Schools Sport Tournaments

• Started in 2002
• 22 000 learners from 75 schools participate in the inter house competitions
• 5 000 learners participate in the four regional tournaments
• 1 000 learners participate in the national tournament
• 80 Local Organising Committee members have been trained in event management
• 80 team managers have been trained in team management activities
• Received national recognition by winning the Mail & Guardian Investing in the Future award in 2008
HEALTHY BODIES, HEALTHY MINDS, HEALTHY LIVES

We believe that sport is a vital element in every young person’s development, that it promotes positive educational and health outcomes, and that it can be a powerful agent for change in communities.

- Young people learn about the importance of key values such as honesty, teamwork, fair play and respect for themselves and others.
- Learners have a goal to strive for and become more disciplined and focused on the sports field, in the classroom and in life.
- Approximately 80% of children who play sport get good marks. They are the ones who are most likely to matriculate, get a tertiary education or learn a trade, and find a job.
- Young people develop self-confidence and learn how to overcome social barriers.

The Transnet Foundation have made strategic investments in the SAFA School of Excellence over the years to strengthen the opportunities provided to the learners to pursue professional sporting careers, which many of them have done with much success. Many former students have been signed by premier soccer clubs and overseas teams and have represented Bafana Bafana, including:

- Steven Pienaar
- Bernard Parker
- Daine Klate
- Jeffrey Ntuka
- Bryce Moon
- Masilo Modubi

A RICH HISTORY OF PERFORMANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Some of the success stories of the Rural and Farm Schools Sport Programme include:

- 2003 – 2005: Martha Moswane becomes the captain of the national senior netball team.
- 2003: One of the programme coaches is appointed as the coach of a national volleyball team traveling to Europe.
- 2004: A learner from the Eastern Cape is selected for the SuperSport PSL soccer team.
- 2007 – 2008: Five girls from different regions who play netball through the programme are offered bursaries to study at Rosina Sedibane High School.
- 2008: A netball player from Qwaqwa in the Free State receives a netball scholarship from Tshwane University of Technology.
- 2010: Three learners from Richards Bay in KwaZulu-Natal are selected for the Orlando Pirates Development Programme and about 90 learners participate in the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) games.

“Sport has the power to change the world, to inspire, to unite people in way that little else can.” – Nelson Mandela

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU
Call us on 011 308 2775
Send an email to Eleanor.Mthethwa@transnet.net
Visit our website at www.transnetfoundation.co.za

FOLLOW US AND INTERACT WITH US
@transnet_cares or @Transnet SOC
facebook
www.facebook.com/#!/Transnet.SOC.Ltd

You Tube
Search for Transnet Foundation