

Q1: 2026

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IKAMVA LABANTWANA
OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

NEWSLETTER



Commit. Believe. Grow. Inspire. Respect.



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Dear supporters and friends,

I trust that this message finds you well, despite the ongoing geopolitical challenges facing our world today. These realities remind us of the importance of being champions of peace, compassion, and positive change within every community we serve.

The first quarter of the year has been marked by meaningful progress and encouraging achievements. We are proud to have expanded our Youth Café Programme in Tarkastad, providing young people with opportunities to develop both soft and technical skills. This initiative responds directly to the challenges faced by an estimated 4.9 million young people in South Africa who are unemployed and out of school. Through this programme, participants are gaining hope, direction, and practical preparation for the world of work, further education, and a brighter future.

Within our education programme, we continue to see positive outcomes, with more learners demonstrating improvements in academic performance, behaviour, leadership, and teamwork. We are particularly encouraged by the introduction of football as part of our after-school offering. This addition has brought renewed energy to the programme while promoting physical health, discipline, and teamwork among learners.

At our Paterson branch, the focus during the first quarter has been on community engagement and research. We are pleased to report that the branch is now ready to launch its after-school programme in Term 2. Already, the newly formed football team has made a strong impression, securing a 6–0 victory in a friendly match against Paterson United Brothers. The team described this win as a gesture of appreciation for the support and opportunities brought to their community through ILB.

In the face of uncertainty around multi-year funding, we remain committed to driving meaningful change in the communities we serve. We extend our sincere thanks to our funders and donors for their continued trust and generosity, and we welcome all who wish to partner with us in strengthening and sustaining this important work.

We hope you will find this newsletter both informative and inspiring.

Warm regards,

Siviwe Dlukwana

Founder and Executive Director



Quarter Overview

The first quarter of 2026 has been marked by growth, expansion, and deepened impact across our programmes and communities. From strengthening our after-school support in Nyanga and Crossroads to launching and expanding the Youth Café Programme, we continue to create meaningful opportunities for both learners and out-of-school youth.

This quarter also saw important steps forward in our long-term vision, including the expansion of our work into Paterson in the Eastern Cape. Through new infrastructure development, community engagement, and the introduction of programmes and activities, we are laying the foundation for sustainable impact in a new community.

Across all our initiatives, a common thread remains: creating safe, supportive spaces where children and young people can learn, grow, and realise their potential. We are encouraged by the commitment of our learners, the dedication of our team, and the continued support of our partners and community.

Education & After-School Learning



A Thriving After-School Community in Nyanga


Our Nyanga After-School Branch at Hlengisa Primary School continues to be a vibrant and nurturing space for learning. The programme currently supports 160 learners from Grades 3 to 7, many of whom have been part of the Ikamva Labantwana Bethu family for several years.

Their consistency, enthusiasm, and commitment to their education are a constant source of encouragement. Each day, our learners remind us of the importance of creating environments where young people feel supported, motivated, and empowered to grow.

As one Grade 6 learner shared:

“Ikamva Labantwana Bethu helps me believe in myself. When I come here, I feel like I can do anything.”

We are deeply proud of the progress our learners continue to make and remain committed to supporting them as they build confidence, curiosity, and a strong foundation for the future.





A Holistic Approach to Learning in Nyanga

At our Nyanga After-School Branch, we offer a programme that nurtures both the academic and personal development of every learner. Daily activities include structured homework sessions, reading programmes that foster a love of literacy, and energisers – brief physical and interactive activities designed to keep learners engaged and focused.

Beyond academics, we create a safe environment where learners feel a strong sense of belonging and are encouraged to grow socially and emotionally. Nutritious meals are provided each day, ensuring that learners are well nourished and able to participate fully.

Through this holistic approach, we continue to promote the well-being and development of each learner in our care.



Learning Beyond the Classroom

At our after-school centres, Fridays are dedicated to creativity, connection, and personal growth. Learners take part in a range of extra-mural activities, including football, uhadi, traditional African dance, amapiano, and girls' empowerment workshops.

These sessions provide more than just recreation – they create a safe and vibrant environment where learners can explore their talents, build confidence, and form meaningful connections. By offering opportunities beyond the academic curriculum, we support the development of well-rounded, confident young individuals.



Supporting Daily Learning

Across our centres, learners continue to receive dedicated academic support through homework sessions and guided study. With the ongoing support of our tutors, students are encouraged to stay engaged, build confidence, and take ownership of their learning.

We are grateful to our tutors and supporters who help create a safe and supportive environment where learners can thrive.



Extending Our Reach Through School-Based Programmes

Throughout the quarter, our facilitators continued to deliver programmes across five primary schools in Crossroads and Nyanga, reaching learners beyond our core after-school centres.

These sessions focus on life skills, mental health awareness, sports, and music, creating opportunities for young learners to develop confidence, resilience, and a sense of belonging. By working directly within schools, we are able to extend our impact and support more children within their communities.

Through this outreach, we remain committed to empowering young people to grow, thrive, and realise their potential.



Celebrating World Read Aloud Day in Tarkastad

In February, we marked World Read Aloud Day at Nkosiyakhe Senior Primary School in Zola Township, Tarkastad. Our facilitators joined learners, teachers, and school leadership to celebrate the joy of reading and promote a culture of literacy.

The day created an engaging space where learners actively participated, building confidence in reading and connecting with stories in meaningful ways. It was inspiring to witness their enthusiasm and to see reading embraced not only as a skill, but as an important part of personal growth and expression.

This initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to ensuring that every child has the opportunity to develop strong literacy skills and a lifelong love of reading.



Testimonial: Nkosiyakhe Senior Primary School

Ms Ndamane, Head of Department at Nkosiyakhe Primary School, reflected on the impact of Ikamva Labantwana Bethu's support since the partnership began in 2023.

At the time, the school was facing challenges with literacy and mathematics, contributing to underperformance. Since then, the introduction of Ikamva's programmes has led to a steady improvement in learner outcomes. By 2024, the school was able to meet its district target of a 60% pass rate, marking a significant milestone.

Ms Ndamane also highlighted the importance of the additional support provided to learners facing barriers to learning. With this support in place, learners are now coping better, and overall performance continues to improve.

She expressed appreciation for the partnership and hopes to see it continue in the years ahead, noting the meaningful difference it has made to both learners and the school as a whole.

"Since Ikamva Labantwana Bethu began working with our school, we have seen a clear improvement in our results. Our learners are coping better, and our pass rate has increased compared to previous years. Their support has made a real difference."

– Ms Ndamane, HOD, Nkosiyakhe Primary School

Holistic Development & Enrichment



Educational Outing to Norval Foundation

During the quarter, our Grade 3 and 4 learners from the Crossroads branch participated in an educational outing to the Norval Foundation Museum in Tokai. The visit provided an opportunity for learners to explore art, architecture, and nature in an engaging and interactive setting.

Learners took part in a guided exploration of the museum and its surroundings, followed by a hands-on art session where they practised drawing and creative expression. The outing also encouraged learners to build confidence in speaking English in a supportive environment.

This enriching experience allowed learners to engage with learning in new ways, sparking curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm beyond the classroom.





Celebrating Confidence and Community

In February, learners from Tarkastad, Nyanga, and Crossroads came together for a vibrant modelling showcase, held in celebration of Valentine's Day. The event provided a platform for students to express themselves, build confidence, and support one another in a joyful and encouraging environment.

We are proud of the courage and self-assurance displayed by all participants as they took to the stage. The event brought together over 600 learners, highlighting the strong sense of community across our programmes.

We extend our sincere thanks to our dedicated staff for organising and supporting such a meaningful and memorable occasion.





Introducing Football to the After-School Programme

During the quarter, we officially introduced football as part of our After-School Programme, beginning with a friendly match between our Crossroads and Nyanga branches. Learners proudly took to the field in their new football kits, marking the start of an exciting new chapter.

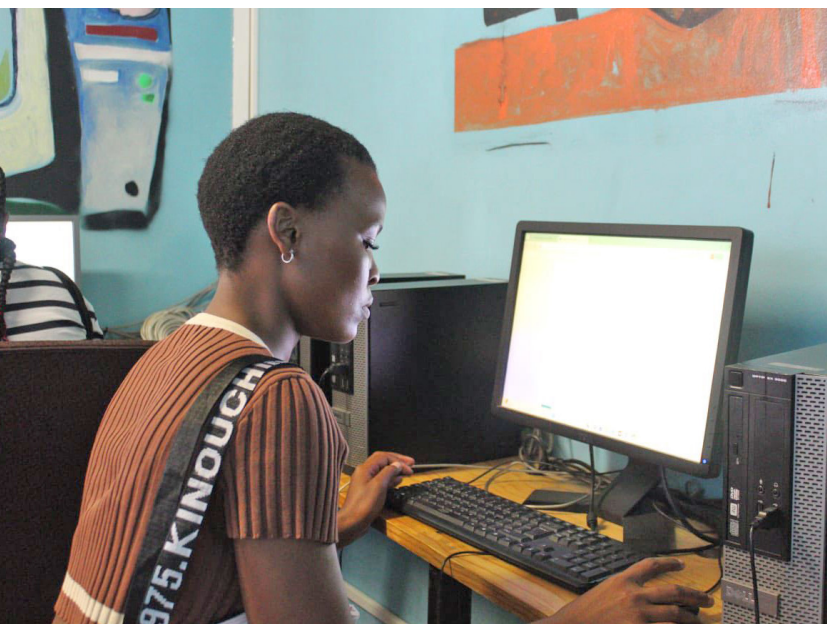
The addition of structured sports forms part of our commitment to holistic development. Alongside academic support, life skills, and the arts, sport provides learners with opportunities to build teamwork, discipline, confidence, and leadership skills, while promoting healthy lifestyles.

This first match set the tone for what we hope will be a growing and impactful sports programme for our learners.



Youth Development: Youth Café Programme

In the first quarter of 2026, we launched the Youth Café Programme – an eight-week initiative designed to support out-of-school youth through skills development, mentorship, and personal growth. The programme aims to equip young people with the tools, confidence, and support needed to navigate employment challenges and expand their opportunities.



Developing Practical Skills for Employment

During the quarter, young people in our programmes began training in Barista skills and Office Administration theory, gaining practical knowledge that supports their transition into the world of work.

Participants have shown strong engagement and enthusiasm, embracing opportunities to develop new skills and broaden their career prospects. These training initiatives are designed to equip youth with both the confidence and competencies needed to pursue meaningful opportunities.





Expanding the Youth Café to Tarkastad

Following the initial launch, the Youth Café Programme expanded to Tarkastad, welcoming a new cohort of out-of-school youth into the eight-week Skills Development Programme.

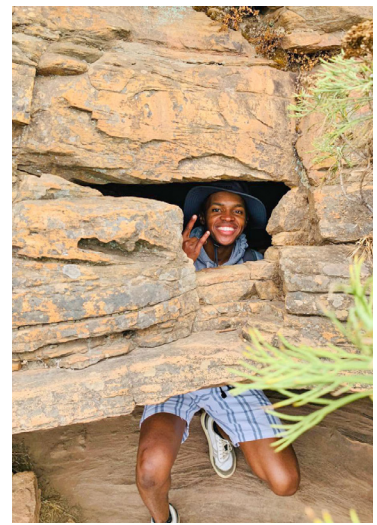
This phase of the programme placed a strong emphasis on mental health and personal development, with sessions covering topics such as mental health awareness, anxiety, stress management, and emotional intelligence. Led by our Social Auxiliary Worker, Ms Cikizwa Dyani, these sessions helped participants build resilience, self-awareness, and emotional wellbeing.



Building Confidence Through Outdoor Experience

As part of the programme, participants took part in a hike up Lion’s Head, embracing a physically and mentally rewarding challenge.

The experience encouraged teamwork, resilience, and determination, while also providing space for reflection and connection. For many participants, the hike offered a valuable opportunity to step outside their comfort zones and build confidence in a supportive group environment.



Preparing for the World of Work

As the Youth Café Programme in Tarkastad reached its final week, participants engaged in an Employment Readiness module designed to prepare them for the workplace.

The module covered key areas including work ethic, communication and teamwork, problem-solving, understanding employment conditions, and job readiness skills. Through this process, par-

ticipants have gained practical knowledge and confidence to take the next steps toward employment opportunities.

We are proud of the commitment and growth demonstrated by the cohort and look forward to seeing the impact of these skills in their future journeys.

Pathways to Excellence



Advanced Music Programme at the University of Cape Town

In February, our learners began Semester One of their Advanced Music Programme at the University of Cape Town's South African College of Music. This opportunity allows young musicians to further develop their skills in a structured and inspiring academic environment.

We are proud to see our learners continuing to grow in confidence and ability as they refine their craft at one of Africa's leading institutions. Their dedication reflects the potential within our programmes to nurture talent and open pathways for future success.



Community & Family Engagement

Strengthening Partnerships with Parents

In February, our Nyanga branch hosted a well-attended parents' meeting, with strong engagement from families across the programme. The session provided an opportunity to share updates on our activities, outline plans for the year ahead, and introduce both new and long-standing members of our team.

Parental involvement remains a key part of our approach, helping to strengthen our programmes and support learners more effectively. We are grateful for the continued partnership of parents and caregivers as we work together to support each child's academic progress and overall development.



Marking the International Day of Education

In January, we joined the global community in celebrating the International Day of Education, recognising the vital role education plays in building more just, peaceful, and sustainable societies.

This year's theme, "The power of youth in co-creating education," strongly reflects our approach at Ikamva Labantwana Bethu. We are committed to uplifting youth voices, nurturing leadership, and creating spaces where young people can actively shape their own learning journeys.

Strengthening Our Organisation

Investing in Our Facilitators

During the quarter, our facilitators came together for a training session focused on learning, reflection, and reconnecting with our shared purpose. These sessions create space for our team to strengthen their skills, exchange insights, and deepen their commitment to supporting young people.

A key theme that emerged was the importance of well-being – recognising that when facilitators are supported and equipped, they are better able to guide and uplift the learners in their care.

By investing in our team, we continue to strengthen the quality and impact of our programmes.

Celebrating Leadership Growth

We are proud to celebrate **Siviwe Dlukwana**, Founding Director of Ikamva Labantwana Bethu, and **Zukile Ntentema** on their selection into the **Issroff Family Foundation Collaborative Learning Initiative**. This achievement reflects their dedication, leadership, and ongoing commitment to strengthening our work.

As they engage with fellow leaders through this initiative, we look forward to the knowledge and insights they will bring back to the organisation. Their participation represents an exciting opportunity for growth, collaboration, and continued impact.



Siviwe Dlukwana, Founding Director



Zukile Ntentema

Partnerships & Sector Engagement

Engaging with the After-School Sector

In March, we participated in a two-day After School Symposium hosted by The Learning Trust at Lagoon Beach Hotel. The symposium brought together organisations from across South Africa to connect, reflect, and share insights on strengthening after-school programmes.

We were especially proud of our learners, who confidently showcased their talents during the event, demonstrating the impact of our work in a broader public space. It was also inspiring to celebrate the contributions of fellow organisations committed to supporting young people across the country.

Through continued collaboration and shared learning, we remain committed to strengthening the after-school sector and creating greater opportunities for children to thrive.



Promoting Children's Rights and Safe Communities

In March, we engaged with the Commissioner for Children of the Western Cape during an Ikamva Monday session focused on strengthening community awareness and capacity around children's rights and protection.

The session deepened our understanding of child safety, accountability, and the shared responsibility required to create environments where children can thrive. It also reinforced the importance of working collaboratively with partners to promote and protect the rights of every child.

We value this ongoing engagement and remain committed to fostering safe, supportive, and child-friendly communities.



Expanding Our Impact: Paterson

A New Education and Development Hub in the Eastern Cape

In March, we made a significant investment in Paterson in the Eastern Cape through the acquisition of a family business property and home. This space will be developed into a dedicated education and skills development hub, extending our reach to support children and young people in the area.

As part of the first phase, six garages will be converted into safe and functional classrooms, along with a kitchen to support our programmes. This initial development will create a strong foundation for delivering educational support and skills development within the community.

Looking ahead, the main houses on the property will be transformed into foster care homes, providing stability, protection, and a nurturing environment for vulnerable children.

This project represents an important step in our long-term vision to expand access to education and care. We invite partners and supporters to join us in bringing this vision to life and creating lasting impact in Paterson.



Engaging the Paterson Community

As part of our expansion into Paterson, we have been actively engaging with local stakeholders and young people to ensure that our work is informed by the needs and aspirations of the community.

These engagement sessions have taken place across a range of local spaces, including public sports fields, schools, the local library, and the councillor's office. Through these conversations, we are building relationships and gaining valuable insights that will shape the development of our programmes in the area.

This approach reflects our commitment to working alongside communities and ensuring that our initiatives are responsive, inclusive, and grounded in local context.



Introducing Ikamva Stars

As part of our growing presence in Paterson, we are proud to introduce our new football team, *Ikamva Stars*. The team recently played their first friendly match against Paterson United Brothers FC, securing an impressive 6–0 victory.

This milestone marks an exciting step in expanding our after-school programme to include structured sports activities in the area. Through football, we aim to promote teamwork, discipline, confidence, and positive engagement for young people both on and off the field.

We look forward to seeing *Ikamva Stars* continue to grow and thrive in the months ahead.



Human Rights and Poetry in Practice

In March, our learners took part in a Writing and Poetry Session in recognition of Human Rights Day and World Poetry Day. The session created a space for creativity, self-expression, and confidence-building, allowing learners to share their voices through writing.

A key component of the day was a Human Rights Workshop, where learners engaged with important topics such as dignity, rights, and the role they can play in shaping their communities.

This event also marked one of the first outings for learners from our new Paterson branch, making it a particularly meaningful milestone as we continue to expand our programmes.

We extend our sincere thanks to Amazwi South African Museum of Literature for hosting and facilitating this enriching experience.



Programme Growth & Expansion

Expanding Our Learning Space in 2026

During the first quarter, Ikamva Labantwana Bethu expanded its learning space to accommodate more students. Additional desks were installed, enabling us to welcome new learners into our growing community.

This development reflects our ongoing commitment to creating a supportive and accessible environment where more young people can learn and thrive. We are grateful to everyone who continues to support our journey.



Term Reflection

Closing the Term on a High Note

As the first term came to a close, we reflected with pride on the commitment, resilience, and hard work shown by our learners at the Nyanga branch at Hlengisa Primary School. Their dedication throughout the term has been inspiring, and we commend each learner for their efforts.

We extend our sincere appreciation to our tutors and facilitators for their continued guidance and support, and to our cooks who ensure that learners are nourished each day. We are also grateful to our sponsors and partners whose ongoing support makes this work possible.

As learners take a well-deserved break, we look forward to welcoming them back refreshed and ready for another term of growth and learning.



Looking Ahead



As we reflect on the first quarter of 2026, we are encouraged by the continued growth of our programmes and the expanding reach of our work. From strengthening our after-school support to advancing youth development initiatives and extending our presence into new communities, this period has laid a strong foundation for the year ahead.

What stands out most is the collective effort behind each milestone. The progress we see in our learners, the commitment of our youth, and the strength of our community partnerships all point to the power of working together towards a shared purpose.

As we move into the next quarter, we remain focused on deepening our impact, strengthening our programmes, and creating even more opportunities for children and young people to thrive. We are grateful to our staff, partners, and supporters who continue to make this work possible.

Together, we look ahead with purpose and commitment to building brighter futures.

Further Reading

Our most recent **Annual Report** provides a detailed overview of our programmes, governance, and financial information.

[Download the Report](#)

Get involved

You can help us build a future where every young person has the support, skills, and opportunities to thrive.

Donate

Your contribution helps us provide:

- After-school academic support
- Skills training and job placements
- Workshops and nutritious meals
- Safe learning environments and mentorship

Every donation makes a difference.

Donate via our website:

ikamvalabantwana.org/make-a-difference

Volunteer Your Time

Share your time, talent, or voice as:

- A tutor or youth mentor
- A speaker or trainer
- A supporter at community events
- A skills-based volunteer

Spread the Word

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- **LinkedIn:** Ikamva Labantwana Bethu
- **YouTube:** Ikamva Labantwana Bethu
- **X (Twitter):** @Ikamva_ILB

#IkamvaLabantwana #YouthEmpowerment
#KuyakhanyaPride

Every Action Counts

Whether you give a little or a lot, your support helps us break cycles of poverty, violence, and exclusion. Together, we're not just changing lives – we're building a better future for all.

Join us. Let's shine a light where it matters most.

Get in touch

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Connect with us:



Ikamva Labantwana Bethu is a registered Non-Profit (NPO 122-695) and Public Benefit (PBO 930051378) Organisation.

Donation Account:

Account name: Ikamva Labantwana Bethu

Bank: Standard Bank of South Africa

Branch: Claremont

Branch code: 025 109 01

Account number: 2011 0697 3

SWIFT code: SBZAZAJJ



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