

# A More Secure Future Through Sport

January - February 2025



**Seven-one** was the score against Super Stars FC from Atteridgeville on Friday 31st January 2025. The (Gijima Training Academy Soccer) team demonstrated their potential with a dominant performance. The previous week, they narrowly lost 1-0 to Hammanskraal Sports Academy, despite controlling most of the game.

For a team that had never played together just two weeks prior, such a result was not discouraging—it was a sign of promise. These young players come from across South Africa, including places as far as Mthatha and Richards Bay. Just a month ago, many had no clear prospects for 2025.



What they share is a passion for soccer and the determination to build a better future for themselves. Coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, they have played mostly on dusty fields for their local community teams, often without access to proper facilities. Through the Youthzones Network, which reaches some of South Africa's most underserved communities, these aspiring footballers were identified for an opportunity that goes beyond sport.



When Bidvest Protea Coin set out to launch a sport and security internship, Doc Mabila, the visionary behind Youthzones, immediately activated the network to ensure that the right candidates were selected. Now, just a month into the programme, these young men have already achieved significant milestones. They have completed their PSIRA Grade training, the foundational step into the private security sector, and are fully immersed in a structured, disciplined environment.



Their days are filled with rigorous training—balancing classroom-based security studies with intensive soccer training under Doc's expert guidance.

The internship programme, designed by Bidvest Protea Coin's Gijima Training Academy, and Gijima Sport, is a 24-month initiative that equips participants with a well-rounded skill set. Beyond security qualifications, the programme includes:

- **Specialist security training** options such as tactical security, event security, and entrepreneurship.
- **Life skills development**, driving skills assistance, and exposure to community development projects.
- Participation in regular **competitive matches**, **coaching younger players**, and even **sport event broadcasting**.

This is more than just a soccer team—it's a stepping stone to long-term employment opportunities and self-sufficiency. With a structured routine, professional coaching, and career-focused training, these young men are being prepared for both the field and the future.

By investing in sport as a vehicle for change, Bidvest Protea Coin is not only developing talented athletes but also equipping young South Africans with the tools they need to build sustainable careers.