



22 November 2024

## The match between Amakhosi and iSimangaliso brought excitement

The iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority wishes to convey its warmest appreciation to all the traditional leadership of uMkhanyakude District for a wonderful soccer game played yesterday at Hluhluwe Safa field. The Park is located in uMkhanyakude District, within twelve traditional leadership stretching from kwaSokhulu right up to kwaTembe in Manguzi. The match brought exhilaration in all spheres as this was the first ever soccer game between these two sides.



*Amakhosi Team*

The late former South Africa president Nelson Mandela, in his famous quote said, “**Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does**”. It is indeed a fact that sport unite people and bring exhilarating moments. It is believed that the continuous efforts such as this will help strengthened the relationship between iSimangaliso Wetland

Park Authority and the Traditional leadership, and improve health and wellness of the participants. Amakhosi surprised iSimangaliso as the match ended in 2:2 draw, trailing from 2 goals down before the half time.



*Amakhosi and iSimangaliso Wetland Park Teams*

Before the soccer match, Amakhosi held their quarterly meeting in Hluhluwe hotel. During the meeting the CEO of iSimangaliso Mr Sibusiso Bukhosini reported to Amakhosi that the programme of clearing invasive plants in the park will be expanded to include additional contractors which will result in the creation of additional jobs for communities neighbouring the Park and further contribute towards poverty alleviation. In addition, he also reported that iSimangaliso obtained a clean audit and 100% performance on its Annual Performance Targets. The report was positively welcomed by Amakhosi.

The success of this soccer event has sparked an interest to turn this event to an annual event. Soccer is known of being one of the unifying sports. It will undoubtedly go a long way towards being a unifying factor that could help in addressing other conservation challenges such as poaching, poverty, and other social ills.

-End-

**Statement issued by iSimangaliso Wetland Park Authority**

**Media enquires**

MLO: Mr Bheki Manzini

Call/Whatsapp: 060 533 2082

Email: [bhekimanzini@isimangaliso.com](mailto:bhekimanzini@isimangaliso.com)