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**Elsie Simbine Headmaster
Ivory Park**

The Ivory Park Tale

I met her at a function and after some exchange in conversation I realised she was the headmaster at a secondary school and she realised that I was a statistician for school rugby. I was invited to assess the level of interest at her school. That is how it all began.

As I drove down Olifantsfontein road on the other side of Midrand, I finally found the turn-off to Tembisa. I wondered what I let myself in for as I found

myself smack in the middle of a squatter settlement on the outskirts of Tembisa.

Later I would realise that the word squatter was an insult to the good people that lived here, each an entrepreneur in their own right, trying to make a living in difficult circumstances.

I was surprised to find the school like an oasis in the desert.

Although in temporary structures, it was a well run place where the children were in uniforms and proud to be associated with the school.

After testing only two of the five grades, we had an overwhelming response of 74 children wanting to play. Amongst them were three girls. The only problem was that none of these children ever had the privilege of touching a rugby ball.

Indeed a mammoth task. One will even have to start before basics. Skills will not be sufficient. It is impossible to turn any of these willing children away without giving

them the opportunity to assess the game of Rugby. Clothes, rugby shoes, rugby balls and all the other things associated with rugby.

Let's begin with the skills transfer. Luckily I have been associated with school rugby for some time and came across the person whom I know will make a success of this challenging obstacle. His name is Loumax Tshandu, someone who believes in action and success.



Loumax Tshandu -

