



3233 Nokukhanya Luthuli Street
Groutville KwaZulu - Natal
South Africa
PO Box 1869,
KWADUKUZA 4450
tel. (032) 559 6822
fax. (032) 559 6806
email: luthulimuseum@luthulimuseum.org.za
website: www.luthulimuseum.org.za

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Chief Albert Luthuli Sport Tournament 2026



The Luthuli Museum is proud to announce this year's annual Chief Albert Luthuli Sports Tournament, a dynamic youth development initiative aimed at promoting sport, social cohesion, and the enduring legacy of Chief Albert Luthuli.

The tournament takes place on 28 March 2025 from 07h00 in the morning at Stanger High School sport grounds. This one-day sporting event brings together teams from across the iLembe District, comprising youth between the ages of 15 and 17 who participate in the Club Development League in the iLembe Region.

Originally started as a soccer tournament, the event has grown significantly in scope and impact. The 2025 edition will feature multiple sporting codes, including soccer, netball, and athletics, with indoor rowing introduced as an exhibition sport. This expansion reflects the Museum's commitment to broadening access to sport and enhancing youth participation across diverse disciplines.

The tournament is deeply rooted in the legacy of Chief Albert Luthuli, who championed the role of sport in advancing human rights and social justice. His love for soccer led to Luthuli becoming supervisor and secretary of the Adams College Shooting Stars Football Club in the 1920s. In 1929 he was elected vice-president of the Durban and District African Football Association (DDAFA). He withdrew from soccer administration after he was elected as Chief of Groutville in 1936. However, in 1946 he participated with Rev. Bernard Sigamoney (an Anglican pastor from Johannesburg) in establishing the Natal Inter-Race Soccer Board, which organised competitions between African, Indian and Coloured teams in Natal.

He recognised that sport—particularly soccer—was a unifying force that transcended social divisions. He viewed sport as part of the broader struggle for equality and self-determination. His belief in sport as a platform for engagement and nation-building continues to inspire this initiative.

The official tournament draw launch took place on 20 March 2026, hosted as a virtual event streamed live on the Luthuli Museum's YouTube and Facebook platforms. The launch was attended by members of the Local Organising Committee (LOC), the sport federations representatives from soccer, netball and athletics.

Participating teams will compete for trophies, medals, and sporting equipment sponsored by museum partners. Individual accolades will also be awarded. Partners in this event include the KZN Department of Sport, Arts and Culture; the local KwaDukuza and ILembe District Municipality; the KwaDukuza Sport Federations and the Enterprise ILembe.

FOR ENQUIRIES: Visit the Luthuli Museum social media platforms or contact number 032 559 6822 or email address marketing@luthulimuseum.org.za