

Move grows to empower young Bay women

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WHEN Vision4 Women funder Nosli Ncoyo spoke at the launch of Soul City's young women's club last month, she inadvertently also signed up new recruits for her matric mentoring programme, making the class of 2015 the biggest so far.

Vision4 Women started its programme in 2012 by pairing Nelson Mandela Bay businesswomen with 25 matric girls, who mentor the pupils throughout the year. They also attend camps during the year where they take part in workshops related to personal and career growth.

Since then, the programme has grown and now the national non-governmental organisation Soul City has joined forces with it, enabling 43 girls to go on the course in 2015.

Ncoyo, a finalist for The Herald GM Citizen of the Year 2013, is thrilled with the development as it means the programme may spread further.

"This is a partnership that will grow as there is the prospect of doing a lot together, including funding more girls to be part of this programme and offering more camps," Ncoyo said.

Soul City, which uses "edutainment" to flag important social issues, has launched a series of Rise Young Women's Clubs across the country, the most recent being 30 clubs in and around the metro.

East London Soul City's provincial manager Thoko Buduza said the clubs were aimed at mobilising and empowering young women from 15 to 24 years to "form a sisterhood and tackle issues that affect young women, such as HIV and teen pregnancy".

"When we launch a programme, as we have done in Port Elizabeth, we look for partners as we do not work in silos," Buduza said.

The Bay's Rise clubs each contain 20 young women, and three members who are in matric at Motherwell's Ndyebo Senior Secondary School are the first to be included in the Vision4 Women programme.

