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## TOTI HIGH'S YOUNG SURFING STAR CLEANS UP AT JUNIOR CHAMPS

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## RAMAPHOSA: SA CAN CHANGE ITS COURSE



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# Bruised Boks thank SA

## Big welcome for team at airport

JOHANNESBURG — The Springboks did not let the nation down on purpose when they bowed out of the Rugby World Cup, coach Peter de Villiers said yesterday.

"We let you down, but we didn't do it on purpose," he said following the Boks' arrival at O.R. Tambo International Airport.

"The players bruised themselves and broke their bones for South Africa," he added.

De Villiers said he could not describe his feelings and thanked the country for showing their support.

Captain John Smit said the team had set goals, but did not achieve them, and therefore it was difficult to be back. He said the fact that people had come out to receive the team, made him feel worse.

However, he could see how passionate South Africans were and loved their team regardless of the outcome.

Springbok lock Victor Matfield said the country had seen how the team fought in New Zealand.

Both Smit and Matfield played their last match in the Springbok jersey at the weekend.

Also speaking at the briefing, Deputy Minister Gert Oosthuizen said rugby had been popularised in South Africa, even in areas where there was previously no following.

Fans earlier erupted in cheers and shouts of support as the team walked through the arrivals gate at the airport.

Dressed in their green and gold blazers, they were welcomed with people shouting "We love you Bokke" as they disembarked just before 5 pm.

The Boks were eliminated from the Rugby World Cup when they lost to Australia on Sunday.

Most fans wore rugby shirts and waved flags and banners which read, "Thank you Boks", "Welcome home Boks", "Well done" and "our blood is green".

Former foreign minister Pik Botha was also waiting outside the arrivals gate.

"I'm here to support the team. They have been very good ambassadors and they have nurtured the concept of getting South Africans together," he said. — Sapa.



TO THE RESCUE: GROUP HELPS BEACHED STINGRAY

Alison Hartley gently pushes a bodyboard under the mother ray as a tourist (whose name is not known) helps her onto the board and Jurgen Garmlich keeps her tail from attempting a sting. INSET ABOVE: A baby ray is carried to safe waters on a shoe. PHOTOS: PIETER LINDE

### INDHRANNIE PILLAY

A BEACHED stingray that was in labour received assistance from Margate resident Alison Hartley and some tourists on Glenmore Beach recently after they rushed to its aid.

Hartley said that she was standing on the deck of the ski-boat club when she noticed a group of people gathered on the beach.

"A lady came running up to the deck saying that there was a beached stingray and it was having babies!" she said.

Hartley and her friend, Jurgen Garmlich, ran down to the scene to see how they could help.

As Hartley and a few others

were busy with the mother and her last born, another group of helpers were running up and down the beach picking up the ray's other two babies. "The babies just kept being swept back onto the beach in the big shore break. Finally the one I was helping managed to get into the current and made its way out."

A holiday maker had picked up one of the babies on his shoe and took it to the south side of the bay where the water was much calmer and set it on its journey.

"We put the last baby on a bodyboard and took it to the same corner and released it."

The group was then tasked with getting the exhausted mother back into the water where she

could then swim out to sea safely.

"One of the guys held the ray by its wings and lifted her as much as he could while I got behind him and pushed the bodyboard under the ray and Jurgen kept its tail under control with a stick," says Hartley. They carried her to the same corner where the babies were released and slipped her off into the water.

Fearing that the babies and mum might wash out again Hartley and a few others patrolled the beach for another three hours. "We watched the two other babies until they were out of sight and after a few hours we didn't see anything so one can assume that they are all okay."

Harley said a local fisherman had later told them that a few days prior another stingray had washed out and given birth to five babies in a similar way.

Jeremy Cliff, from the Natal Sharks Board Research Unit, said that this was unusual behaviour for stingrays.

"It is definitely not normal behaviour for rays to beach when they are giving birth. The mother might have moved to shallow waters, but ended up coming out too much." Cliff said that it is difficult to tell if the mum and her babies would or would not have survived if they had not received assistance as there are many factors to consider.

• witness@feveronline.co.za

## SNAPSHOT

Health Minister Dr Aaron Motsoaledi has called upon South Africans to regard mental health as an integral part of overall individual health and wellbeing. The minister said this as part of his message to mark the World Mental Health Day observed on October 10 every year. One in four people will be affected by mental disorder at some point in their lives. Mental illness causes one third of years lost due to disability worldwide and accounts for 13% of total disease burden.

California has banned minors from using tanning beds — the first U.S. state to do so.

Millions of Blackberry users across South Africa, Africa, Europe and Asia were yesterday unable to utilise various data-based services such as web browsing, e-mail and (BBM). According to international reports, the problem appeared to be with the Blackberry Internet Service (BIS).

Bollywood icon Shah Rukh Khan has joined a campaign to help cut 1 000s of easily-preventable deaths across the world through the provision of basic toilet facilities.

It didn't take long. Barely a day after arriving in California for military training, Prince Harry was spotted out enjoying San Diego's nightlife at the weekend. "He sat outside at a picnic table and ate a burger and beer. He was very personable. He was a nice guy, very low-key," one bar-owner said.



Anna Grodzka made history in Poland as the country's first transsexual member of parliament after a new anti-clerical party stormed to third place in Sunday's general election.

Nearly 700 000 people celebrated in a gay pride parade in Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana beach on Sunday.

J.M. Coetzee's professional archive will be housed at the University of Texas's Harry Ransom Centre humanities library. The centre paid \$1,5 million for the acquisition, which includes 155 boxes of manuscripts, notebooks, essays, speeches and letters to his publishers dating back to 1956.

Two of three killer whales that wandered far up an Alaskan river have died, apparently due to stresses associated with being out of their saltwater habitat. The surviving whale was seen swimming downriver toward safety. Biologists were concerned about the whales because they had spent three weeks in the salmon-rich river and were lingering 48 km upstream. Fresh water has a different chemistry to salt-water and prolonged exposure is dangerous for killer whales.

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