



**SERVICE WITH A SMILE:** From left, Ashley Backwards from Nemato Rowing Club, Port Alfred; Zamubuntu Gula from ACCV, Khayaletlu; Jabsane Nyamende from Bosasa, Mthatha; and Sinethemba Mayedwa from King William's Town Child and Youth Care Centre  
Picture: SUPPLIED

# 146 receive President's Award for service

ALMOST 150 youngsters from across the province received the President's Award for Youth Empowerment in King William's Town on Friday.

President Jacob Zuma took over as patron-in-chief of the programme from Nelson Mandela in August last year.

The annual event – supported by a diverse group of funders – recognises youngsters in the Eastern Cape for their valuable contributions made to local communities.

Recipients are able to achieve either the bronze or silver level. The awards

ceremony, held at the KWT Child & Youth Care Centre, was a hive of activity.

The 146 winners of the two awards came from Mthatha, Port Elizabeth, Port Alfred, Grahamstown, Keiskam-mahoek, Queenstown and King William's Town.

Bronze award recipient Jabsane Nyamende, of Mthatha, said she was delighted to be recognised.

"I wish more young people from rural areas could join the programme. I have grown in the programme and it

has taught me a lot of things, including the need for discipline in my life."

Ashley Backwards, from the Nemato Rowing Club in Port Alfred, who also received a bronze award, said the programme helped opened doors for him.

"It has a positive input for young people."

The Eastern Cape department of social development, which is a main contributor, was well represented at the event by its senior officials.

General manager for social welfare

services in the province Dalindyabo Maxegwana described the programme as a means for youngsters to express themselves.

The organisation works in conjunction with youth workers – known as award leaders – to reach as many youths as possible.

Award leader from Mthatha Mpumelelo Fini said: "I have valued the opportunity to encourage commitment, discipline and a passion for community service among award participants." — DDC