

9th April 2024



4th CABINET MEETING 2nd May 2024

PORTFOLIO: Boys To Men

BY: Charles Flanagan

Dear Cabinet members

Lions B2M

I would like to thank the District and all the clubs for their wonderful support in this Project.

The first Lions B2M weekend was a resounding success and happened from the 9th to 11th February In Grootvadersbos. There were 15 boys signed up and paid for by the district and the clubs. The follow up session was done at the Swellendam Lions Clubhouse. I would also like to thank Swellendam Lions who did the catering.

Seeing the massive transformation in the boys is always just so wonderful. Some of the boys have decided to do a rap song which can be used to go to various schools and create awareness around GBV. They were super excited to be given the opportunity and we are looking forward to seeing what they come up with.

The 2nd Lions B2M weekend is happening from the 26th to 28th of April at Bloublommetjieskloof in Wellington and the weekend is full. I am looking forward to the weekend as there will be Lions, Leos as well as Lions Journeymen who will be staffing as well. I will give feedback at the 4th cabinet meeting on the weekend. The B2M team are looking forward to seeing the boys on the weekend and meeting the sponsoring Lions clubs and parents at the homecoming on Sunday afternoon.

The growth and leadership skills in these young boys has been remarkable and they return to staff in order to give the new boys the opportunity that they were given to be on a Lions -B2M weekend. They model their transformation and that it is possible to make something great of your life. I am very grateful to both cabinet and the clubs for not only supporting this programme but also seeing the benefit it has on changing the lives and the communities which the boys come from.

More great news is that One of the boys from the garden route who did his weekend last year not only came back to staff as a Journeyman, he was also elected as head boy of his school.

I also bumped into 2 boys on separate occasions the one was thanking us profusely for the difference the Lions B2M made in his life and that he uses what he learnt as a bench mark for making decisions and ensuring his life is good. The other boy came up to me at pick n pay and proudly announced that he had completed his schooling and was now doing an apprenticeship with the city of Cape Town.

Another call yesterday was about one of the boys from Worcester who did one of the very first weekends and is now studying at University and doing very well.

I want to encourage the clubs to book your spaces early so that they are not disappointed when the weekend is full.

The boys who have done the weekend, known as Journeymen, are very keen to staff on the weekends to give the new boys an opportunity which they were afforded. Some of these boys are part of our Leos and we are super proud of them.

A huge thanks to B2M staff, facilitators and the boys who continue to run the weekends in conjunction with district 410W and the clubs. This is such a wonderful example of collaboration and working together for the greater good of these young men.

The youth are our future, and it is important to invest time in them so that they too can step into their brilliance, strive and be in service to their fellow man.

Kind Regards

Charlie Flanagan

When a boy's life is changed, for him to be a better man, the change in him, changes his family and his community, he is shaping the future of a better world. – Charles Flanagan

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men. - Frederick Douglass