



ROYAL VISIT: The Duke of Kent met with wheelchair tennis players yesterday.

Prince Edward visits UJ

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SOUTH Africa's wheelchair tennis players received a special guest yesterday, with a surprise visit from the Duke of Kent, Prince Edward, at the University of Johannesburg's (UJ's) Tennis Club.

The Duke who has a keen interest in tennis came in his capacity as the president of the All England Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club.

The high performance training grounds of Wheelchair Tennis South Africa (WTSA) was abuzz with wheelchair tennis players.

UJ vice-chancellor Ihron Rensburg said the university was the ideal base for elite athletes.

"We offered our facilities to WTSA because we believe their work is important. These athletes inspire us to do our best," Rensburg said.

Lucas Sithole, the number one in SA and number six in the world for quad wheelchair tennis, said that visit was a good opportunity to grow disability sports.

"The Duke pledged his support to help uplift the sport. There aren't too many opportunities to motivate youngsters. Hopefully they will be inspired now," said Sithole.

WTSA chairperson Celia Du Toit said: "He chatted with us about wheelchair tennis development and where we plan on going. He was very interested in our history."

South Africa's number one and world number 10 in ladies division Kgothatso Montjane said it was an honour to have the Duke there.

"For him to sit down and listen to our history was amazing. It was truly a privilege – he did not say much but was really interested in our sport," she said.

The Duke interacted with the athletes and had lunch with the coaches, players and the vice-chancellor.

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