

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH AFRICA

# 2 ANNUAL 2 REPORT



# **Special Olympics**South Africa



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## Special Olympics South Africa MISSION

Special Olympics transforms lives through the joy and power of sport for people with intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics is the largest sporting organization for people with intellectual disabilities with over 7 million athletes in 180 countries across the globe.

South Africa hosts one of the largest numbers of athletes on the Africa continent with over **55 000 athletes**. We are a national social movement that relies on **volunteers**, **supporters**, and **family members**.

Our **mission** is to provide year round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disability, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

NPO Registration: 068-790

PBO Registration: 930028906

VAT Registration Number: 414 0247 604

Section 21 Registration Number: 2005/017529/08

#### Achievements in numbers

Number of athletes registered

Name of Sport	2020	2021
AQUATICS	1895	1895
ATHLETICS	27365	26099
BASKETBALL	2574	2618
BOCCE	276	298
EQUESTRIAN	954	1121
FIGURE SKATING	766	766
FLOOR HOCKEY	2894	2894
FOOTBALL / SOCCER	8329	8355
GOLF	1355	1355
NETBALL	1533	1540
OPEN WATER SWIMMING	259	259
TABLE TENNIS	1614	1624
VOLLEY BALL	1233	1245

### Achievements in numbers

Growth in service delivery from 2020 to 2021

Name of Sport	2020	2021
ATHLETES	55136	55136
FAMILY MEMBERS	4845	4977
VOLUNTEERS	2939	3066
COACHES AND NEW UNIFIED COACHES	5687	5740
UNIFIED ATHLETES	2202	2297
UNIFIED PARTNERS	2131	2140
YOUNG ATHLETES	4025	4147



# THE ROAD TO THE 2022 SOSA NATIONAL GAMES

Special Olympics South Africa (SOSA) together with the Limpopo Provincial Government hosted a Celebrity Unified Sporting Tournament, featuring South African Football Legend and SOSA ambassador Mark Fish, alongside SA soccer legends Lucas Radebe and Dr. Khumalo, joined by SOSA board member, Chief Livhuwani Matsila, SA multitalented TV personality Kay Sibiya, SA Socialite Lynn Forbes, and SA TV presenter Sbu Shongwe, in support of people with intellectual disabilities in the Limpopo Province.

The event kick-started off with a Unified Parade led by the honorable **Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha** and the Chairperson of Special Olympics South Africa **Dr. Mathews Phosa**, joined by various athletes, community members, local media, South African police services, and other well-known celebrities.

Unified Sports joins people with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team. Inspired by a simple principle; training together and playing together is a quick path to friendship and understanding.

This event served as a true example of what it means to be Unified, as we also used this event as an opportunity to launch the partnership between Special Olympics South Africa and the Limpopo Provincial Government as well as the 2022 SOSA National Games.

Special Olympics South Africa Chairperson, **Dr. Mathews Phosa** during his speech said that "**This truly is a very momentous occasion for all South Africans and more so for our own great Special Olympic athletes. Not only will this day celebrate a unified and inclusive society with all the activities happening today, but this partnership will spearhead additional growth for various sports programs in the province and will forge a clearer understanding of the work done in the province by SOSA**".



We are Looking forward to a long and fruitful relationship with Limpopo. Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture as we kick off the Road to the National Summer Games this year and grow sports in the province.

# MARK FISH, LUCAS RADEBE AND DR KHUMALO JOIN SOSA TO CELEBRATE UNITY AND INCLUSION ON INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITY IN LIMPOPO







#### SOSA appointed as "Play Your Part" Ambassador

As the Nation Brand custodian for South Africa, **Brand SA** firmly acknowledges that Nation Brand building requires more than just themselves; it needs individuals like their ambassadors and ordinary individuals doing extraordinary things, thus positively contributing towards making South Africa a better place for all.

Brand South Africa has broadened its appreciation by acknowledging and recognizing these active citizens as "Play Your Part" Ambassadors for the outstanding work that they do.

We are honored by our appointment.

The acknowledgment speaks volumes to the role that our athletes with intellectual disabilities play in our society.

We will continue to share their many achievements both locally and internationally as they do our nation proud.

SOSA was among an illustrious list of individuals and organisations recognised at the event. Also among those recognised in their individual capacity was our Deputy Chair, Ms Melanie Ramjee. Congratulations Melanie.

Deputy Minister in the Presidency,

Ms Thembi Siweya, and Acting CEO
of Brand SA, Ms Sithembile Ntombela
handed over the appointment
certificates.

Thank you Brand South Africa for this incredible honour and for recognising the valuable role that our athletes play in raising the South African flag high.

SA CELEBS, SPORTS STARS, AND CORPORATES TAKE THE PLUNGE FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS SA

Special Olympics South
Africa (SOSA) reached a
new record of having
over 150 celebrities,
sports stars, industry
players and corporates
pledge to take the Plunge
in support of the 2021
Special Olympics South
Africa National Team.

The event took place at **Altitude Beach in Fourways**, and despite cold, overcast conditions and **5 tons of ice** added to the pool, the plungers arrived on mass in all kinds of incredible outfits to take the plunge and show their support for the SOSA National Team.

Now in its 5th year, the annual SOSA Polar Plunge has become a signature event for the organization which every year attracts more and more celebrities, industry players, sports stars, and corporates to show their support for athletes living with an intellectual disability.



### Polar Plunge 2021

**Dr. Mathews Phosa**, the *Chairperson of Special Olympics South Africa*, was there on the day to support all those who plunged and said "I am overwhelmed at the number of well-known individuals who came out today to plunge into ice-cold water to show their support of not only our **National Team** but of an **inclusive society** for all in South Africa."

People living with an intellectual disability in South Africa are marginalized and neglected; it is so important to see powerful young people who have a voice showing their support.



Close to **R 150 000 was raised** on the day to support the 2021 SOSA National Team who will be competing in the 2023 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Kazan, Russia. Members of the National Team were at the event to take the plunge as well. It was a very special moment for everyone there.

High profile guests at the event included the *Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates*, **His Excellency Mr Mahash Saeed Alhameli**, the *MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture in Gauteng*, **Ms. Mbali Hlope**, the *former Chief Director of Sport for Limpopo*, **Ms Veronica Choshane** and **Mr. Ahmed Bham**, representing *Gift of the Givers* amongst others.

Media personality and SOSA Ambassador, **Kim Jayde** MC'ed the event for the fourth year in a row; this year she was joined by fellow *SOSA* ambassadors, **Sbu Shongwe** and *YFM's* **DJ Lula Odiba** to host on the day. She commented, 'For the fifth year in a row celebrity, people of influence and other stakeholders braved the icy cold water to raise funds for various Special Olympic initiatives. Globally the Special Olympics organization has been championing the message of inclusion for athletes with intellectual disabilities for over 50 years now. She added 'It gives me so much pride to be an ambassador for Special Olympics South Africa and to host this special event every year, a one of a kind in our calendar.

The event again, for the third year in a row, received huge backing from media giant **YFM**, the biggest youth station in the country, who broadcast live from the venue on the day. Print partner **The Star / Saturday Star** also came on board last year to help create support for Special Olympics South Africa.

A number of other sponsors supported the success of the event including **Altitude**Beach, Tutone Communications, Gift of the Givers, Sedgars Sports, Sir Fruit, WD Ice,
City Ice, Vision Tactical, Swimma Caps, Kool-a-Chem, Lamborghini Energy Drinks,
Dischem Nicolway, Avon, Justin, and Inecto.





























Special Olympics South Africa and IBERCUP International Youth Football Organization partner on an inclusive program for Special Olympics athletes

We are honored that **IBERCUP SA** officially partnered with SOSA to build a comprehensive program that will become a first-of-its-kind benchmark for inclusive sport in South Africa.

Special Olympics South Africa Chairperson, Dr Mathews Phosa, was invited by the Vision View Sports radio, to talk more about this amazing partnership with IBERCUP.

IBERCUP is the biggest international youth football organization that partners with organizations and sport-based entities in 5 countries and it operate to uplift, assist in youth development, train, talent identification, and infrastructure.



This partnership with IBERCUP SA will be a ground-breaking opportunity for our athletes and our coaches, as It will enable them to benefit from the coaching and skills development offered by the international football powerhouse, LA LIGA.







IberCup CEO
Michael Bender

SOSA Chairperson Dr Mathews Phosa

# Special Olympics South Africa Mobile Clinic!



It is no secret that the state of public healthcare in South Africa is, in a word, lacking. While there is exceptional health service on offer in this country and often limited to the private sector which is expensive and dominated by those with health insurance.

People with intellectual disabilities are the most marginalized and most affected by not being able to have access to health care services.

As Special Olympics South Africa we would like to take this opportunity to thank the **Japanese Embassy** of South Africa for their support and making it possible for us to purchase our first ever **Mobile Clinic**, including **Eye and Hearing equipment** for people with intellectual disabilities in South Africa.

This mobile clinic will help enable us with many opportunities to reach out to our athletes in the rural communities, as accessibility to government hospitals and clinics are limited or non-existent.

Often times our athletes have to take time off school to travel tens to hundreds of kilometers to the nearest healthcare institutions, without any guarantee of adequate treatment. This means that they will only risk the travel once they are already truly sick.

Late last year we hosted our first three successful opening eyes screenings, where we were able to screen 392 athletes, with 122 athletes provided with prescription glasses and 3 athletes who were referred for follow up care at their local clinics and or / hospitals in their surrounding areas. With the hectic unplanned load shedding schedules in South Africa, having our mobile clinic was a blessing, as we were able to screen our athletes.

















# THE LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS, AND CULTURE JOINS FORCES WITH SOSA

The Limpopo Province received a week-long Special Olympics and Unified training for **60 coaches** and **3 athlete leaders**.

The highlights from this coaches training was having female coaches dominating in this training.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thank you to the Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture in Limpopo for their support.

Thank you the National Lotteries
Commission for funding this training and
for their constant support towards the
Special Olympics South Africa movement.









# A FIRST FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN SOUTH AFRICA - A NATIONAL QUALIFICATION

South Africa



One of the biggest challenges facing people with an intellectual disability in South Africa is that they do not receive any certification when they complete school.

As a matric certificate is generally the minimum requirement on any job application they are to a large degree excluded from finding employment.

This is a major concern for SOSA and we are looking at a number of ways in which we can address this with the government.

We decided to look for ways in which we can assist our athletes to gain a qualification.

We embarked on a pilot project with our partner Physical IQ to have four athlete leaders complete an **NQF 5 qualification**, as Group Exercise Instructors.

The course was specifically chosen so that there were no written exams.

Our athletes were tested via a practical assessment and then had to submit a body of evidence. We are thrilled that all four passed with flying colours.

Based on these results we applied to CATHSSETA for support and we are thrilled to announce that we received bursaries for 29 athletes to train for a CATHSSETA recognised National Certificate in Fitness.

# SOSA MEDALIST SHANE BENTLEY BREAKS A GUINNESS WORLD RECORD!



**Shane Bentley**, born in the Gauteng province, has been with Special Olympics since he was 3 years old at Hamlet school. At the age of 18, he moved to Avril Elizabeth home where he was introduced to short-track speed skating In 2017.

Shane travelled as part of the SOSA National Team to Austria to compete in the **Special Olympics World Winter Games**, he returned victorious with a silver and bronze medal.

Recently, Dave Draper from the Northgate Speed Skating Club invited Shane to join them for a short track-speed relay race.

Dave had contacted the **Guinness World Book of Records** to ask if there had been any record set up for any length of skating on ice in one hour.

He got the go-ahead to set up the record attempt at the Northgate ice rink.

The goal was **210 laps**, a lap being 111 meters, in one hour. **They achieved 220 laps!** 

The attempt was a **huge success** and they now wait on the Guinness World Book of Records to acknowledge the team's achievement. We are extremely proud of Shane Bentley, who displayed his amazing skills and abilities.

We would also like to thank and recognize Dave Draper for ensuring that this record attempt was **inclusive** of people with and without disabilities.

You are creating a more **inclusive society** for all in South Africa!





#### SOSA ATHLETES CELEBRATE THE NATIONAL RECREATION DAY 2021 IN STYLE!

We partnered with the **Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture, and the Sport** for **Social Change Network Africa** — **SSCNA** work for the second year to celebrate **National Recreation day**.

National Recreation Day was created with the expectations that all South Africans will be made aware of the need to become physically active and that they will dedicate some part of their day towards participating in physical activities of their choice intended to promote life-long wellness.

On the 22 October our athletes from Reoleboge Special School in Moruleng commemorated 2021 National Recreation Day in style and the best way they know-how. Our athletes participated in various sports such as **basketball**, **soccer**, **netball**, **bocce**, **table tennis**, **indigenous games** and provided an exceptional performance of **traditional dancing**.

The day was enhanced by music provided by the school band. We would like to thank the Department of Sports, Arts, and Culture, and SSCN for providing us with an opportunity for our athletes to come out in numbers, compete, unite and have fun whilst they celebrate 2021 National Recreation Day.

We would also like to thank the National Lotteries Commission for their ongoing support of our athletes.

















# DREAMS ARE A BEAUTIFUL REMINDER THAT OUR POTENTIAL IS LIMITLESS

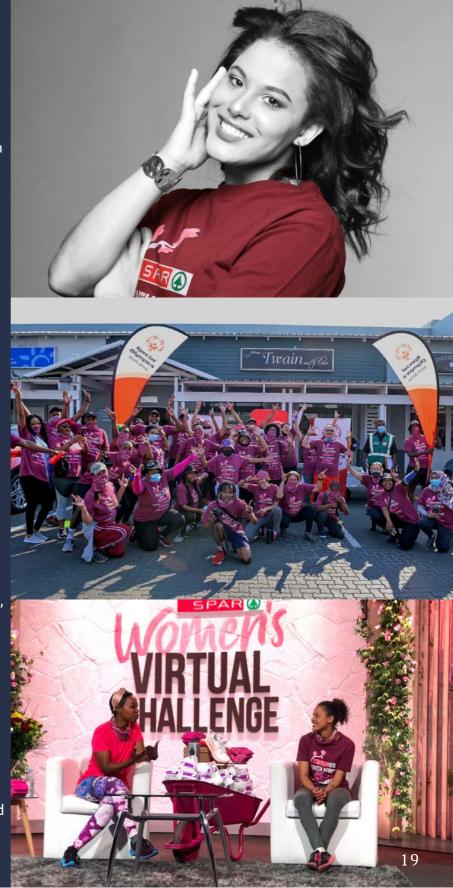
Shirnel Swarts, is a young enthusiast from Coronation Ville, Gauteng province, who got involved with Special Olympics South Africa at the age of 13 years old through Casa De Sol School where she grew fond of short track speed skating because of the adrenaline rush. She also enjoys singing, which she finds to be a great form of meditation and relaxation.

Shirnel recently served as an ambassador, along with other notable personalities, for the 2021 **SPAR WOMEN'S VIRTUAL CHALLENGE** that took place on 4 September 2021. The event was designed to help South Africans bust the blues due to COVID-19 restriction by sharing stories of perseverance through a difficult year.

In support of our Gold medalist Shirnel Swarts, we as Special Olympics South Africa, challenged our athletes, athlete leaders, and provincial coordinators in all **9 provinces** to join in on the challenge. Where we had a **total of 352 participants**, who supported Shirnel and represented the Special Olympics movement nationally.

In Gauteng, we had the honor of being joined by the amazing Special Olympics South Africa Athletes and Ambassadors: Mrs Quinne Brown, Mr Sbu Shongwe, and SOSA supporters Mrs Universe Melody Zondo, Mr Steero\_God, and Rising Star and upcoming Rapper Mr Lil Chiko.

Shirnel Swarts was also featured in the Special Olympics Suit Up Challenge along with Special Olympic Global Ambassador and celebrity fashion photographer Nigel Barker. She also appeared as a guest on the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) show Activated that highlights the lives of people with disabilities.

















#### INCLUSION WORKS! THE REVOLUTION INCLUSION

# SOSA BASKETBALL DEVELOPMENT CHAMPIONS RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE US DEPARTMENT OF STATE!

Mr. Harry Nakeng and Mr. Kgosi Rapoo are incredible advocates for the development of basketball in SOSA.

It is this commitment to SOSA that prompted the organization to put them forward to receive the scholarships.

The scholarships are from the Sports Diplomacy Division of the U.S. Department of State and enable them to participate in the Championship Principles virtual training program with former NBA pro and head coach, Sam Vincent. In addition to the learning and experiencing benefits, they will also become members of the State Department Exchange Alumni program!

Once the training had been completed Harry and Kgosi started working with the SOSA National Office on projects to develop Unified basketball in their communities.



SOSA National Athlete Input Council meet to discuss the development of the athletes of Special Olympics

South Africa

Developing athlete leaders is a huge priority for SOSA. Special Olympics is an athlete-led movement and we want to develop strong leaders for the program in South Africa.

In late August our 9 provincial Athlete Leaders alongside their unified pairs met in Johannesburg for a leadership training workshop. Our goal with this workshop was to link the AIC with the 2 Athlete leaders who sit on board, this we believe will help assist us in developing a strong athlete-led program.

This initial training will also enable the athlete leaders to host similar workshops in their provinces for their district athlete leadership and to work with the National Office to develop Special Olympics locally.

The workshop was also attended by our two athlete board members, Mr Valentino Vergotine and Ms. Toni Snyman.

Our athlete board members will be working closely with our athlete leadership structure the Athlete Input

Council, to ensure that our athlete's voices are heard not only within SOSA but across our country. The National Training was closely followed by the Gauteng, KwaZulu Natal, and Northwest Provincial Athlete leaders training where athlete leaders from all districts gathered.



Thank you to the Bank of America and the National Lotteries Commission, for their support to ensure that we are able to host these training nationally.





















# SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH AFRICA IMPLEMENTS FREE HEALTH CARE SCREENINGS FOR 594 LEARNERS AT FULUFHELO SPECIAL SCHOOL.



Despite severe needs and higher health risks, people with intellectual disabilities (ID) are often denied health services and die on average 16 years sooner than the general population.

Special Olympics Health programming, made possible by the **Golisano Foundation**, is creating a world where people with intellectual disabilities have every opportunity to be healthy.

By promoting **Inclusive health** in South Africa, Special Olympics South Africa (SOSA) wants to ensure that people with ID are able to take full advantage of the same health programs and services available to people who do not have ID.

Currently, people with ID face significant challenges in accessing quality health care and obtaining opportunities that promote fitness and wellness, resulting in pronounced health disparities and reduced life expectancy.

We hosted a 2-day Healthy Athletes Screening in Limpopo, Thohoyandou, Vhembe district, at Fulufhelo Special School. Where we screened a total number of **594 athletes** in **7 Special Olympics Medical disciplines**.

The screening was led by Special Olympics Regional Clinical Advisors and Special Olympics Clinical Directors, with support from the Limpopo local clinical professionals.

This screening was an opportunity for us to train health care professionals in Limpopo.

This screening was supported by Allied Health Manager Aluwani Manendze, Tshilidzini Hospital, Dean from UniVen, University of Venda, University of Limpopo, Head of Department of health from all local Department of Health from Limpopo involved in this event.

The Department of Education in Limpopo also helped with providing transportation for the athletes to come to the screening.

We also had Eyethu Events and schools Covid officers, who helped us with making sure that all Covid safety measures and protocols were adhered and observed by everyone who was present during the screening.

The support we received from the Chief Director of Local health and all stakeholders, played a major role in making our screening a great success by providing volunteers from the University of Venda, University of Limpopo, and Thsilidzini Hospital.

We were also pleased to see the local community and the parents who came along with the athletes because that highlighted the seriousness and critical need for this screening.

Lastly, the support from the School principal and staff members and SO health messengers was of great help to us, because having them there helped us a lot in terms of the setup of our medical stations needed for the 2 day's screening.





Special Olympics **Healthy Hearing** 



Special Olympics **FUNFitness** 



Special Olympics

**Health Promotion** 



Special Olympics

Special Smiles®



Special Olympics

Fit Feet



Special Olympics Lions Clubs International **Opening Eyes**®





Special Olympics **MedFest**®







## THE LAUNCH OF THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH AFRICA AND THE SHUDUFHADZO FOUNDATION

We launched a partnership between Special Olympics South Africa and the Shudufhadzo Foundation, which aims to create awareness of the challenges faced by people living with an intellectual disability in South Africa.

This is a population that faces daily discrimination, stigmatization, and marginalization. This coupled with the daily challenges that they already need to surmount due to their disability leaves them at great risk of developing mental health issues. The partnership launched its pilot project at Fulufhelo Special School in Thohoyandou by introducing various initiatives to support not only mental well-being but also physical well-being.

These initiatives include **health**, **sport**, **fitness**, and **early childhood development** programs that are being supported by numerous local stakeholders. The pilot project kicked off on the 12th of March 2021, with the training of the first cohort of 50 Special Olympics Young Athletes program practitioners.

We have plans of numerous other activities that we want to implement in the Limpopo province in support of the learners of Fulufhelo Special School, that include sports coach's training, sports programs, physical health screenings, and family support programs.

The partnership hopes to create a model of support for people with intellectual disabilities, that can be replicated at special needs schools across the country.



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH AFRICA AMBASSADORS



MARK FISH



**DESIREE ELLIS** 



MELANIE RAMJEE



KIM JAYDE



LYNN FORBES



**QUINNE BROWN** 



SBUSISO SHONGWE



PAUL KAMANGA



LETSHEGO ZULU

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH AFRICA AMBASSADORS







SIMPHIWE DLUDLU

LERATO PHAGO

**DAVID REES** 

What's the difference?	SPECIAL OLYMPICS	OLYMPICS	PARALYMPICS
Logo	Special Olympics	999	
Year Founded	1968	1894	1989
Athletes Served	All athletes with Intellectual Disabilities	Elite athletes	Elite athletes in 10 categories of Disability
Competition per year	108,000+ competitions/year; World Games every other year	Olympic Games every other year; Youth Olympics every other year	Year-round competitions; Paralympic Games every other year
Sports offered	32+	35+	29+
Founder	Eunice Kennedy Shriver	Piere de Coubertin	Dr Ludwig Guttmann
Members	223 Special Olympics Programs in 172 countries	206 National Olympic Commitees	176 National Paralympic Committees
Headquarters	Washington, D.C, USA	Lausanne, Switzerland	Bonn,Germany
Next World Games	Special Olympics World Games Berlin 2023, 17 - 25 June	Olympic Summer Games Paris 2024, 26 July - 11 August	Paralympic Games Paris 2024, 28 August - 8 September

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH AFRICA <u>STAFF</u>



ANCILLA SMITH
SPECIAL OLYMPICS SA CEO



NONTSASA SANGOTSHA
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR &
FINANCE ASSISTANT



PHILLIP MPHAHLELE
SPORTS DIRECTOR



SIBUSISO NGCOBO SPORTS MANAGER



FAHMIDAH ELDAMER
HEALTHY COMMUNITIES
MANAGER



WANGA MANYALA
INITIATIVES MANAGER



CHRIS MANOKA
SPORTS MANAGER



ZANELE NGWENYA
PROJECT MANAGER



MOEKETSI MOKOKA
HEALTHY ATHLETES
COORDINATOR

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH AFRICA <u>STAFF</u>



MANTSI THAGANYANE SPORTS MANAGER



NOMTHANDAZO DLADLA MARKETING COORDINATOR



NEO MALEMA
INITIATIVES ASSISTANT



MICHAEL TAU GRAPHIC DESIGNER



SINALO MKROZWANA OFFICE ASSISTANT

## SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH AFRICA ATHLETE LEADERS



OMPHEMETSE MOCUMI
ATHLETE LEADER NORTHER CAPE



LUMKA GOGELA
ATHLETE LEADER KWAZULUNATAL



BONGANIE LETSEBE
ATHLETE LEADER MPUMALANGA



ELTHEO MAARMAN
ATHLETE LEADER WESTERN CAPE



BIANCA BASSON
ATHLETE LEADER GAUTENG



JOYCE RAMABUSA
ATHLETE LEADER FREE STATE



BANELE MAKHONCO
ATHLETE LEADER EASTERN CAPE



GUDANI MANENZHE
ATHLETE LEADER LIMPOPO



TSHEPANG TSITSI
ATHLETE LEADER NORTH WEST



Process House, Epsom Downs Office Park

> 13 Sloane Street, Bryanston

Johannesburg, South Africa



Special Olympics South Africa



specialolympicssouthafrica



SO\_SouthAfrica



011 706 3323



info@specialolympics.org.za

