

**Special  
Olympics**  
South Africa



# Connect

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NEWSLETTER  
2018

**Dr Mathews Phosa, Mr Terror Lekota, celebrities, sporting legends and business persons take the plunge in support of Special Olympics South Africa.**



*In support of the annual Polar Plunge, over 70 South Africans braved the freezing water to plunge for a purpose in support of Special Olympics South Africa. 1000kg of ice was ceremonially released into the 20m pool at Park town Boys High School on the 25<sup>th</sup> of August.*

*Happily sporting a variety of quirky and outrageous outfits, plungers dived into the icy water. The annual SOSA Polar Plunge, provides an opportunity for 'organizations and businesses to support Special Olympics SA athletes'.*



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**The Phokwane region celebrates 50 years of Special Olympics by reaching out to Young Athletes!**



*194 Young athletes along with their coaches and members of the community celebrated the legacy of Special Olympics in Phokwane, Limpopo by hosting a young athlete's demonstration and wellness day. This is one of the largest young athlete's demonstrations ever held in the Phokwane region where day care centres and main stream schools came together in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.*

*This event was also held as a way to engage the community by kicking off the day with a parade and pre-work out before the stars of the day stole the show with their young athlete demonstration.*



*We had the honour of being joined by representatives from the local South African Police Services (Nebo Police) who came to educate the parents, caregivers and community members about the importance of safety and security of the youth in their neighbourhood. It was very important to the police to come and address these issues to the masses present as minors were the topic of the day. A big thank you to the station for coming on board and supporting this event with valuable information.*

*Finally a big thank you to our champion in the region Martha Mogohloane who organised this phenomenal event which brought the community together all in the name of Special Olympics 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We would also like to thank the coaches who worked tirelessly to assist Martha in the planning of this successful event.*

*Strides still have to be made to build an inclusive society where individuals are accepted for their different abilities but through events such as these we get a step closer.*

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**Growing our footprint in the North West Province with 40 new coaches trained!**



*Special Olympics SA hosted a Provincial coaches training in the Northwest Province at Christiana School for the blind from the 17<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> September. The Coaches ,athletes and partners who participated in the training were taken through the general orientation of Special Olympics which included Unified Sports by Sports coordinator Mantsi Thaganyane. Special Olympics identified Christian school for the blind as the ideal school to host this training as the values of the school coincide with those of the organisation. The school's ideals speak of inclusion and integration for individuals who are differently abled which includes pupils with an intellectual disability. North West Provincial Coordinator Marlene Schutte was also in attendance to ensure the smooth running of the training and also meet her new on the ground recruits.*



*One of the highlights of this training was receiving the use of the school's premises at no charge, we also had the honour of being joined by 4 athletes during the training as well. Individuals from the Department of Sport North West were also present and are now certified SOSA coaches. This commitment from Government goes to show the lengths and*

*stance the province is taking to understanding Special Olympics in order to be able to create life changing opportunities for people with an intellectual disability at government level*

*We would like to thank the schools who got involved on the final day of practical's for providing the transport and meals for their respected pupils, the final day of practical's gave the coaches the feel of running an event which they will later conduct.*

*We would like to thank every individual involved in the smooth running of this training, let us continue to raise the SOSA flag high. Lastly we would like to thank the National Lotteries Commission for funding this training, this would not have been possible without your assistance.*

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## **The next generation of inclusion attends the Special Olympics Global Youth Leadership Forum in Baku, Azerbaijan!**



*Our very own youth leaders (From left to right), Waki Mbutia, Sinalo Mkrozwana, Juliana Mbhele (Mentor) and initiatives coordinator Wangamanyala joined 120 other youth and adult mentors with and without intellectual disabilities from 45 countries at a Global Youth Forum held in Baku, Azerbaijan.*

*The aim of the Global Youth Forum is to empower the youth leaders to develop and expand their understanding of how they can drive social inclusion in their country, city, school, and community.*

*This will help them learn new strategies and actions from globally recognized experts in leadership and social change to help advance a more inclusive world using the Special Olympics Unified Sports platform – where participants with and without intellectual disabilities train and compete together.*



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**Special Olympics South Africa branches out in the Kuruman region!**



*Special Olympics South Africa sports manager Sibusiso Ngcobo facilitated a coaches training in the Northern Cape Province, at the Elizabeth Conradie Inclusive School in the Fraans Baard District Kuruman. A total of 46 coaches were trained which included an incredible 8 athletes and 4 Unified® youth leaders present. We are very proud of this fact as this, is currently the highest number of athletes recruited and trained as coaches this year.*

*As is in every training the coaches were taken through the overview of Special Olympics, Unified sports, Games Management, Differences between Mental illness and Intellectual Disability, differences between SO and Paralympics, Practical session on running a Special Olympics Local event and Divisioning.*





*We are also proud to announce that this coaches training allowed us to reach a region that has never been activated. We cannot wait to see the development and growth to come out of Kuruman. We would like to send a huge thank you to the coaches from the community clubs and the coaches recruited from Grassroots Soccer ,who are now certified SOSA coaches.*

*The future of Special Olympics South Africa in Kuruman looks brighter and exciting. Thank you to everyone who made this training a huge success, your commitment to the athletes of this organisation does not go unnoticed.*

*Lastly we would like to thank the National Lotteries Commission for proudly funding this training in support of Special Olympics South Africa. This training would have not been possible without your assistance.*

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## **The South African National AIDS Council Trust appoints Special Olympics South Africa to implement HIV/AIDS and Lifestyle curriculum for people with an Intellectual Disability**



*We are excited to announce that Special Olympics South Africa, the **South African National AIDS Council Trust** and the **Department of Social Development** have partnered to introduce a curriculum which will address the lack of knowledge on **HIV/Aids** that individuals with an intellectual disability aren't provided.*

*Special Olympics recently had the opportunity to present and introduce the concept of the*

curriculum to the community of Mawewe in Mpumalanga during the launch of the curriculum where the **Deputy Minister of Social Development Henrietta Bogopana Zulu** was present.

Special Olympics South Africa will be focusing on implementing the curriculum on the following 3 provinces: Kwazulu Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga.



*This program aims to comprehensively circulate knowledge and also support initiative to develop capacity of individuals with disabilities for effective and efficient access to appropriate services for their needs.*

*The initiative of the curriculum and the partnership of the organisations was brought on by statistics shown by the South African National Prevalence, incidence and behavior report which states the significant decrease in knowledge about the transmission and prevention of **HIV/ Aids** that individuals with intellectual disabilities are exposed to.*

*We are extremely excited about this new journey that awaits us as an organisation, our athletes and their families. Thank you to the South African National AIDS Council Trust for this amazing opportunity, we cannot wait to see the change this initiative will bring to the lives of the athletes of Special Olympics South Africa.*

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*Special  
Olympics*



**50** YEARS  
1968 - 2018

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