

WORLD
GAMES
ABU DHABI 2019



ANNUAL REPORT 2019



**Special
Olympics**
South Africa

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Special Olympics transforms lives through the joy and power of sport for people with an intellectual disability.

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 number of athletes on the Africa continent with 55 000 athletes.

We are a global social movement that relies on volunteer, supporters and family members.

MISSION AND VISION

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

Our vision is to transform communities by inspiring people throughout the world to open their minds to accept and include people with intellectual disabilities, and thereby who is perceived as different.

Special Olympics South Africa
Statutory status:

NPO Registration: 068-790
PBO Registration: 930028906
VAT Registration Number: 414 0247 604
Section 21 Registration Number:
2005/017529/08

ACHIEVEMENTS IN NUMBERS

Growth in service delivery
from 2018 to 2019

ATHLETES

2018 - 51047
2019 - 55136

VOLUNTEERS

2018 - 2833
2019 - 2904

UNIFIED ATHLETES

2018 - 5447
2019 - 2177

FAMILY MEMBERS

2018 - 4040
2019 - 4193

YOUNG ATHLETES

2018 - 2897
2019 - 4113

UNIFIED PARTNERS

2018 - 3297
2019 - 2106

COACHES AND NEW UNIFIED COACHES

2018 - 4188
2019 - 5532



**Special
Olympics**
South Africa

Number of athletes registered per sporting code

AQUATICS

2018

1837

2019

1895

OPEN WATER SWIMMING

2018

7929

2019

8329

FIGURE SKATING

2018

569

2019

766

ATHLETICS

2018

26418

2019

27365

FLOOR HOCKEY

2018

2537

2019

2894

BASKETBALL

2018

2485

2019

2574

EQUESTRIAN

2018

694

2019

954

FOOTBALL/ SOCCER

2018

7929

2019

8329

BOCCE

2018

126

2019

276

GOLF

2018

1175

2019

1355

NETBALL

2018

1330

2019

1533

VOLLEY BALL

2018

1330

2019

1533

TABLE TENNIS

2018

1175

2019

1355

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH AFRICA 2019 HIGHLIGHTS

BACK OUR TEAM CAMPAIGN

SOSA Celebrity supporters and Corporate sponsors pledge funds in support of the 2019 National Team, to compete at the World Summer Games in Abu Dhabi.

We ran with the same concept we used in 2017 called the **"ADOPT AN ATHLETE"**, were we reached out to our corporate sponsor supporters to #BackOurTeam, by pledging funds towards seeing every athlete reach their dream of competing on a global stage.



This campaign saw over Millions of rands being raised in the name of the 2019 Special Olympics South Africa national team.

The amount raised contributed to each athlete's flight, travelling attire to the games, attire worn throughout the games, kit bags, toiletries, and shoes.

The amount also contributed to the training camps which were held in Johannesburg before the games to assist the athletes prepare, physically, mentally and emotionally for the for the trip to Abu Dhabi, and what to expect during World Summer Games.

The **#BackOurTeam** campaign was a huge success because of the significant contribution from our celebrity supporters such as, SA Multi award winning Hip Hop artist, Mr Kiernan "AKA" Forbes and corporate sponsors like Ace Auto salvage, Stabus, Alexander Forbes, FORD, Altech Netstar, NGL logistics solutions, DIY Depot savoy and the Embassy of the UAE.



This also includes other cooperate supporters like; Loreal, Kool-A-Sun, Aquelle, Garnier, Eagle Canyon, Nestle, The CloseUp, who helped with donations for care packs as well as sporting gear for our athletes. We would like to thank Sedgars Sport, who played a huge role in designing and making of our team's apparel for throughout the games and the opening ceremonies.



Thank you all for allowing the spirit of giving to continue to impact the life of our athletes who never would have imagined reaching this peak in their sporting journey. It is every athlete's dream to reach the Special Olympics World Games and to compete on a global stage and none of this would have been possible if it was not for your commitment and support.



2019 WORLD GAMES SPONSORS

SPONSOR ALERT



Go Further

Special Olympics South Africa | WORLD GAMES العالمية

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Special Olympics South Africa | WORLD GAMES العالمية



The Special Olympics World Games in Abu Dhabi provided a platform for athletes with and without an intellectual disability to rise above the typical stereotype of daily exclusion by using sports as a catalyst to create an opportunity for athletes to be defined by their abilities rather than their disabilities.

An enthusiastic team of 71 athletes, 20 coaches, and six support staff, and will represent the country in football, futsal (five-a-side female soccer), table tennis, equestrian, bocce, open-water swimming, athletics, and golf.

The power of sport saw 7,500+ Special Olympics athletes from 190+ countries gathered in Abu Dhabi to show the world their skills, talent, determination, and the spirit of unity. Our athletes represented our country to the best of their ability by returning with an outstanding 59 Medals:

- 35 Gold**
- 12 silver**
- 12 Bronze**

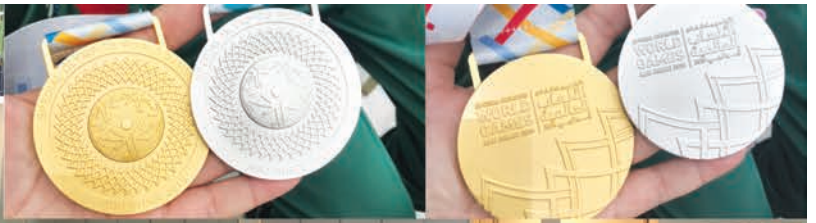


Through the power of sport Special Olympics has given athletes the opportunity to shine.

Congratulations to our 2019 National Team of heroes, you all have proven once again that once given an opportunity you will most definitely return back victorious.

The Special Olympics South Africa National Team returns back victorious from the 2019 World Summer Games, in Abu Dhabi





The Special Olympics South Africa National Team returns back victorious from the 2019 World Summer Games, in Abu Dhabi





SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH AFRICA HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Special Olympics is the largest provider of free health care for people with intellectual disabilities.

The Special Olympics Healthy Athletes Screening assesses the health of individuals with an intellectual disability in 8 different medical disciplines. As special Olympics South Africa we offer 7 of the different medical disciplines to our athletes across South Africa and through this initiative we are able to reach around 1000 and more athletes every year.

Athletes are screened in the following disciplines:

1. MedFest-General Practitioners (General health assessed by General Practitioners)
2. Healthy Hearing (Hearing problem assessed by Audiologists)
3. Opening Eyes (Eye tests assessed by Optometrists)
4. Special Smiles (Dental health assessed by Dentists)
5. Fun Fitness (General fitness assessed by Physiotherapist's and Biokeneticist)
6. Fit Feet (Feet assessed by Podiatrists)
7. Health Promotion (Healthy lifestyle guidance assessed by dietitians and nurses)





Screenings held in 2019

Province	Date	Venue	Number of athletes
Limpopo	1 June 2019	Thohoyandou stadium	114
Gauteng	16 June 2019	University of Johannesburg	74
North West	17 August 2019	Iteko special school	174
Free State	17 August 2019	Bloemfontein General hospital	93
KwaZulu-Natal	30 October 2019	University of Kwa Zulu Natal (UKZN)	100
Gauteng	15 November 2019	Shumbashaba	93
Eastern Cape	8 June 2019	Mzam'omuhle Special school	551

Family health forums held in 2019

Province	Date	Venue	Number of attendees
Limpopo	11 May 2019	Reagona centre (Polokwane)	246
North West	17 August 2019	Iteko special school (Tlhabane)	225



Special Olympics is the largest provider of free health care for people with intellectual disabilities.





Special Olympics South Africa hosted an Inclusive Health Care workshop at the University of Johannesburg, which was led by SOSA Regional Clinical Advisor, Ms Faith Chabedi. The aim for this workshop was to help raise awareness of ways that can help reduce health disparities for individuals with an intellectual disability.

Special Olympics South Africa Inclusive Health Care workshop

We would like to send a huge shout out and thank you to the students at the University of Johannesburg, who came out in numbers to attend this workshop and we hope that was shared with them will be of great use to them all.



We would like to send a special thank you to SOSA Athlete Leader Mr Jimmy Masina, for sharing his views and knowledge on inclusive health care.

We pride ourselves with our athletes because, they contribute to their communities in so many ways beyond the playing field.

Our athletes lead the way as the voice of this movement.





Special Olympics Young Athletes



The Special Olympics Young Athletes program is an inclusive and welcoming learning environment for children with and without intellectual disabilities

What is amazing about the Young Athletes program is that it provides a focus on teamwork while also teaching children basic sports skills such as running, kicking and throwing.

We had the honour of hosting a Young Athletes demo at the Nombuso Disability Centre in E Ndwedwe, Kwazulu Natal.



Where we got to introduce our newly recruited young athletes to this amazing skills program.

We are happy that we were able to get new young athletes for our program as well as a new site in the E Ndwedwe area.

We would like to thank and congratulate the coaches of the Nombuso Disability Centre, for committing themselves and coming out in numbers in support of this event.



Special Olympics South Africa partners with Matshidiso Special School to host a Unified sporting event to commemorate EKS and Mandela day

Special Olympics South Africa (SOSA) in partnership with Matshidiso Special School, hosted a Unified Sporting event in Brakpan, Tsakane.

Where our athletes alongside SOSA board members, ambassadors and supporters participated in Bocce, Volleyball, Netball, Athletics and Soccer.

We hosted this event as our way of commemorating the Special Olympics Global Week of Inclusion, as well as Mandela day, where we pushed the message of how we are better working together.

This event was then a perfect setting to remember two icons, Mrs Eunice Kennedy Shriver and Mr Nelson Mandela, because it was through their meeting that we are celebrating the SO legacy, that over the years has helped change the lives and the attitudes of individuals with intellectual disabilities globally.





Dr Mathews Phosa, Chairman of Special Olympics South Africa said during his speech that " One thing that still remains with him is how Madiba chose to live his life.

Madiba followed three rules throughout his life, with which he did at a great personal sacrifice.

The first rule was free yourself and know that you can achieve your dreams and don't let anyone tell you any different.

The second rule was free others and by doing so you can stand together to support each other and make your voices heard as you fight together against discrimination and exclusion.

The third rule was to serve every day and this rule till today applies to all of us".

We would like to say thank you to the school body of Matshidiso Special School, the representative from the Department of Education in Springs.

Mrs Lucia Mbatha for coming through to honour our event as well the neighbouring schools for taking part in our event.

A special thank you to our board members, ambassadors and supporters for taking their time out to come to spend **Mandela day** with our athletes.

Lastly, we would like to salute and say thank you to our athletes who are our heroes, because without them we would have not been able to realise what it means to be inclusive.

That it is important to embrace all people irrespective of race, gender and disability and that we have to work together in getting rid of discrimination as well as intolerance to individuals with Intellectual Disabilities in South Africa.



Special Olympics South Africa announced a ground-breaking partnership with The Skateroom and Skateistan South Africa. Where the partnership will provide children with and without intellectual disabilities the opportunity to grow in confidence, experience freedom and learn new life skills through

Special Olympics South Africa partners with The Skateroom and Skateistan South Africa for an innovating inclusive programme in support of the athletes of Special Olympics.

This skateboarding program is a first of its kind in South Africa and will empower a new generation of adaptive athletes to share a message of inclusion with the world.

We later hosted an amazing event in partnership with the Skateroom and Skateistan where, 20 Special Olympics South Africa athletes graduated from a 3-month skateboarding pilot that they have been following, which is an adapted version of Skateistan's Skate and Create program.

Our athletes graduated at a fully immersive Unified event that explored some of the cultural elements associated with the sport of skateboarding. This event included DJ Jules on the decks, rap performance by new kid on the block, Steero-God and a demonstration by 11-year-old pro skateboarder, Ashton Banwell.



The pilot event was hosted in partnership with The Skateroom and Skateistan South Africa and was funded by part of the sales of The Skateroom x Van Gogh Museum collection.

This partnership was formed with the goal of providing athletes with an intellectual disability the opportunity to try a new sport, gain more self-confidence, experience freedom, and learn new life skills. The event was attended by family members, Skateistan skateboarders, the media and Special Olympics South Africa supporters.



We hosted a sporting event in partnership with Shumbs Shaba, at the Shillelagh Farm in Diepsloot. Where our athletes participated in Soccer, Volleyball, Bocce and Equestrian.

The event started gracefully with a mini torch run, which was led by SOSA athlete Kenneth Mokabo. We also had the Special Olympics Regional Clinical Advisor, Ms Faith Chabedi who led a team of student volunteers from the University of Johannesburg in the Optometry Department, who carried out a standalone Opening Eyes screening for the athletes.

We would like to send a huge shout out and thank you to the Ms Chabedi the team of volunteer students for screening our athletes. Thank you to the team from Essilor for attending our event and for their ongoing support towards the athletes of Special Olympics South Africa.



Disability Rights awareness month

Special Olympics South Africa CEO, Ms Ancilla Smith was invited by the Department of Energy and Mineral resources, to speak about the Special Olympics movement as we commemorate Disability Rights awareness month.

She also highlighting the needs of people with intellectual disabilities and how the power of sport over the years has helped with the development of the athletes of Special Olympics.

She shared the floor with representatives from other disability organisations. Where they were presented with the opportunity to highlight and share insights on challenges that people with disabilities face on a daily basis.

Ms Smith further expressed how unfair the system is to people with an intellectual disability, especially when it comes to accessing all rights and privileges that other people with disabilities have, like health care services, education and the right to be employed.

This raised a lot of awareness on the stigma that people with an intellectual disability still face to date.

We would like to thank the Department of Energy and Mineral resources, for allowing us to share insights on how we as a society need to take responsibility changing the narrative on people living with an intellectual disability in South Africa.



The 2019 Special Olympics South Africa Polar Plunge

In support of the annual Special Olympics South Africa Polar Plunge, we had over 100 celebrities that took the plunge in freezing cold waters, and plunged in support of the athletes of Special Olympics.

Amongst those that committed to take the plunge for Special Olympics South Africa were:

Kim Jayde (MTV Presenter and SOSA Ambassador), Nicole Capper (Survivor contestant), Mark Fish (Bafana Bafana Coach and SOSA Ambassador), Gigi La Mayne (Hip Hop Artist), Kay Sibiyi (Acclaimed SA actor and SOSA Ambassador), Rouge (Hip Hop Artist), Bujoy Bikwa (Metro FM), John Vlismas (Comedian), Clint Brink (Actor/ Musician), Christopher Jafta (TV Personality), Big Star – (Hip Hop Artist), Candice Abrahams (ex Mrs. World), Thami Dish (Activist), Gareth 'Soldierboy' McLennan (EFC Champion and SOSA Ambassador), Harmony Katulondi (Top Billing presenter), Dimpie Dimpopo (Comedian), Cedric Fourie (Actor), Farieda Metsileng (MTV Presenter), Mpho Pops (Comedian), Tino Chinyani (Model / TV Personality), Stacey Holland (Fitness Fanatic), Taylor Jaye (Namibian Artist), Lynn Forbes (SOSA Ambassador) and Paul Kamanga (Welterweight boxer and SOSA Ambassador), Kwesta (Renowned South Africa rapper), Nina Hastie (Comedian), Bianca Le Grange (Singer / Actress), Cici (Award winning Artist), Kid X (Renowned artist), Khuli Chana (Renowned South Africa rapper), Dr Smile (Celeb Dentist), Diamond Thopola (SOSA ambassador and Chippa United F.C Football player), Fatima Bhabha (Doctor / Special Olympics supporter), Nomalanga Shozi (BET Presenter), Lamiez Holworthy (TV Presenter / DJ), Helen Herimbi (Award winning Journalist), Paul Modjadji (International Dancer), Liz Khan (Radio Presenter) and Melanie 'Hypress' Ramjee (Special Olympics Ambassador).

Special Olympics South Africa hosted the 3rd annual Polar Plunge, which took place in August 2019 at Park Town Boys High School. The day was filled with laughter, good music, shock and frozen bodies.

What an amazing event, we certainly cannot wait to do this again and freeze for a reason in support of Special Olympics South Africa. We would like to send a heartfelt thank you, to all our SOSA ambassadors and celebrity supporters for their constant support.

Thank you to Park Town Boys high school for allowing us to make us of their schools facilities as well the staff members and learners who helped us with ensuring that the logistics and running of the event is smooth and perfect.





The 2019 Special Olympics South Africa Polar Plunge



Special Olympics South Africa meets the Intelligence Transfer Centre

Special Olympics South Africa CEO, Ancilla Smith was invited by the Intelligence Transfer Centre (ITC) to speak about the Special Olympics movement, the needs and challenges of people with intellectual disabilities as well as how the power of sport has the ability to change lives and attitudes of people with Intellectual disabilities in South Africa.

We would like to say thank you to the team at the Intelligence Transfer Centre for providing us with the platform to spread the awareness on Special Olympics and people living with an intellectual disability in South Africa.



**Thank you for
choosing to
include the
Special
Olympics
community.**

**Special
Olympics**
South Africa



OUR AMBASSADORS



Mark Fish



Desiree Ellis



Melanie Ramjee



Simphiwe Dlodlu



Letshego Zulu



Kim Jayde



Paul Kamanga



Quinne Brown



Sbusiso Shongwe

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OUR AMBASSADORS



Diamond Thopola



Lerato Phago



Ginnie Mc Lellan



Gareth Mc Lellan



Lynn Forbes



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