

ATHLETICS SOUTH AFRICA NPC  
Reg No 2006/034767/08  
Athletics House, No. 3, 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Houghton Estate, Johannesburg, 2198  
Tel: (+27) 11 880 5800 Fax: (+27) 11 788 6872 / (+27) 11 442 3091  
P O Box 2712, Houghton, 2041; asa@athleticssa.co.za; www.athletics.org.za



## ENGLISH VERSION

**For Immediate Release**  
**5 MARCH 2020**

### **ASA LAUNCHES NATIONAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

In a first, primary school athletes will compete for national colours during the ASA National Primary Schools T&F Championships at Pietermaritzburg in two weeks' time, Athletics South Africa (ASA) announced at a Press Conference on Thursday (today).

The two days of exciting competition will be held at the beautiful world class Umsunduzi Municipality Athletics Stadium from Friday 20 March to Saturday 21 March and will include LSEN (learners with disability) athletes.

ASA has learned from other countries to arrive at this new innovation. ASA now encourage early focus of athletics careers at foundation level. Hard-working athletes at the Championship, now stand a chance of selection to the National Primary School Invitational Team that will be given Sub-Youth national colours.

Those selected will go on to compete against the best of their peers from neighboring countries, in an event that South Africa will host during the school holidays break in October 2020 at a venue that will be announced after the competition.

As schools continue to jostle to meet the registration deadline of 9 March, Athletics South Africa has made various outlets available for athletes to be registered which include the offices of the Department of Sport and Recreation in the nine political provinces. The entire process will also be done through the 17 ASA Provinces which will endorse the child's entry to ASA Primary Schools T&F Championships.

Those from the poor communities, the Department of Sport and Recreation will assist the willing and qualified athletes to attend the Championship as usual.

"These are exciting times for Primary School athletics where there is now a clear road map of what the future brings, when schools, parents and athletes choose competitions that will benefit them. It is going to be a pleasure to see the step-by-step progression of the child athlete to elite global status.

"So, the starting point begins in Pietermaritzburg and we have made the registration process easier to enable school principals, parents and children to get to our competition" said Aleck

Aleck SKHOSANA (President)  
Pieter LOURENS (Chair Track & Field)  
Esther MALEMA (Additional)

Dr Harold ADAMS (Vice President)  
Dorah MNGWEVU (Chair Athletes)  
Shireen NOBLE (Additional)

Jakes JACOBS (Chair Cross Country)  
Ntathu GWADISO (Additional)  
Jazz MNYENGEZA (USSA Rep)

James MOLOI (Chair Road Running)  
Motlatsi KEIKABILE (Additional)  
William MOKATSANYANE (SASA Rep)

#### Board Members

Mervyn KING

Honorary Members:  
Mluleki GEORGE

Skhosana, the President of ASA.

“All athletes who have qualified for the ASA Primary Schools T&F Championships, irrespective how many qualified in an event or age group, during the SASA competitions up to provincial level, can now enter for the ASA Primary Schools T&F Championships

“This innovation marks our vision to create future star athletes who will reach their dreams of representing South Africa at the Olympic Games. This way, it makes it easy for parents and development coaches to plan a clear path for their young athletes at primary school.”

Short, medium, and long-term objectives for the “Class of 2020”:

1. Represent South Africa in an International Competition in October 2020
2. Represent South Africa during the next 10 years in the:
  - 2.1. COSSASA Sub-Youth, Youth and Junior Championships
  - 2.2. CAASR5 Youth and Junior Championships
  - 2.3. CAA African Youth and Junior Championships
  - 2.4. Commonwealth Youth Olympic Games
  - 2.5. IOC Youth Olympic Games
  - 2.6. WA World Junior Championships.
3. By 2030 the “Class of 2020” will be ready to represent South Africa at the:
  - 3.1. CAA African Senior Championships
  - 3.2. WA World Senior Championships
  - 3.3. All Africa Olympic Games
  - 3.4. Commonwealth Games
  - 3.5. Olympic Games of 2032, 2036 and beyond

“Children, who, in the past, had to wait until they leave primary school before they could explore their athletics careers seriously, can now start reaching their dreams as early as October under the National Primary School Invitational Team in their road to become future Olympians.”

ASA will guide the talented athletes in collaboration with their School Principals, their School Board, DBE, SRSA and SASCOG.

ASA’s more than 160 National Excellence Advisors/National Coaches, will play a fundamental role in developing the skills of the identified primary school athletes

This Championship is in line with the announcement made by Skhosana on behalf of the ASA Board during the 2019 General Council Meeting, of learning from other countries and bring in innovation to the sport.

This model, therefore, is based on a partnership that ASA has begun exploring with Jamaica, who have been running successful school athletics programme.

ASA has taken note of how parents play an important role in the upbringing of their children in the athletics system where they support and also protect children from abuse by adults and overtraining.

ASA and Jamaica are looking at having a competition that will open opportunities to primary school athletes and beyond within the school system.

<b>EVENT INFORMATION:</b> <b>ASA National Primary Schools T&amp;F Championships</b>		<b>BYEENKOMS INLIGTING:</b> <b>ASA Nasionale Laerskole B&amp;F Kampioenskappe</b>	
<b>DATE:</b>	Friday 20 – Saturday 21 March 2020	<b>Datum:</b>	Vrydag 20 – Saterdag 21 Maart 2020
<b>VENUE:</b>	Umsunduzi Municipality Athletics Stadium, Pietermaritzburg, KZN	<b>Plek:</b>	Umsunduzi Munisipaliteit Atletiek Stadium, Pietermaritzburg, KZN
<b>COMPETITION FACILITY:</b>	The ground is 400m tartan track with eight lanes. It's a class 1 IAAF (World Athletics) certified stadium	<b>Kompetisie fasiliteit:</b>	Die gronde is 'n 400m Tartan baan met 8 bane. Dit is 'n klas 1 IAAF (Wêreld Atletiek) Gesertifiseerde baan
<b>START:</b>	Day 1 09:00 Day 2 08:00	<b>Begin:</b>	Dag 1 09:00 Dag 2 08:00
<b>REGISTRATION:</b>	It's a pre-entry event. The closing date for entries is Monday, 9 March 2020. Schools can register athletes through provinces or directly at ASA.	<b>Registrasie:</b>	Vooraf inskrywings. Die sluitingsdatum vir inskrywings is Mandag 9 Maart 2020. Skole kan atlete registreer By provinsies of direk by ASA.
<b>ENTRY FEE:</b> Spectators/Supporters/Students Supporting:	Adults - R 50.00 per person Learners (non-participants, under 12yrs) - R20.00 per learner Vehicles' - R 30.00 per vehicle Participating Learners – Free of Charge. NB: The teams will be given free tickets which will cover their whole contingents according to their entries.	<b>Inskrywingsfooi:</b>	Volwassenes - R50.00 per persoon Leerders (Nie-deelnemers Onder 12 jaar R20.00 per Leerder Voertuie – R30.00 per Voertuig Deelnemende leerders – Gratis N.B. Spanne sal gratis kaartjies ontvang wat vir Die volle duur van die Byeenkoms sal geld
<b>Tickets availability:</b>	Only at the gate	<b>Kaartjies beskikbaar</b>	Slegs by die ingang

Ends

### **Athletics South Africa Social Media Platforms:**

- Website - Athletics South Africa:  
[www.athletics.org.za](http://www.athletics.org.za)
- Twitter Account:  
[@AthleticsSA\\_](https://twitter.com/AthleticsSA)
- Instagram - asa\_athletics\_south\_africa:  
[https://www.instagram.com/asa\\_athletics\\_south\\_africa/](https://www.instagram.com/asa_athletics_south_africa/)
- ASA YouTube Channel – Athletics South Africa:  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFaR-GJl3yHJnQL8WFjkFAA>
- Facebook - Athletics South Africa:  
<https://www.facebook.com/Athletics-South-Africa-1660894007461450/>

### **For media queries, please contact:**

#### **Sifiso Cele**

Consultant: Media Liaison ASA

**082 319 2704**

[sifiso.cele@athleticssa.co.za](mailto:sifiso.cele@athleticssa.co.za)