

News Release 2022

Supporting excellence in sport

African Bank is proud to be one of the official sponsors of the Special Olympics South Africa National Summer Games, being hosted in the Polokwane Municipality, Limpopo, from 17 – 19 November.

Edna Montse, African Bank Chief of Staff says it is an honour to join hands with the National Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the National Youth Development Agency as over 700 Special Olympics athletes and coaches from across all 9 Provinces descend on Polokwane Municipality, Limpopo to compete in the 2022 Special Olympics South Africa Summer Games.

‘We jumped at the opportunity to be part of an event which aligns so closely with our commitment to diversity, inclusion, and transformation. Not only are we support these incredible athletes, but we have also created a waste management initiative that will create much-needed employment within the province. As part of these Special Olympics National Summer Games, we have partnered with the City of Polokwane to roll out this programme to a number of young people during the buildup, the actual event and post the event.’

Montse feels that not nearly enough is being done in corporate South Africa to promote diversity and inclusivity. “We are not meeting targets in employment equity and part of our drive must be to educate and create awareness around the urgent need to include programmes that cater for people with disabilities.”

The waste management programme is an example of one such programme, but Montse confirms the bank will be looking at rolling out other programmes in which young people

with disabilities can participate. “There is no reason why disability should be seen as an obstacle. People with disabilities can make a valuable contribution to the success of our society if they are afforded the opportunities to do so.”

During the 3-day event, Special Olympics athletes will compete in various sporting codes, including athletics, aquatics, basketball, bocce, football, futsal, netball, table tennis and ten pin bowling.

Three days of fierce competition will see the selection of the Special Olympics South Africa National Team that will represent South Africa at the 2023 Special Olympics World Games in Berlin, Germany.

The National Team will be participating against over 7000 athletes from 180 countries in Berlin and will be hoping to beat the medal count from the previous Special Olympics Summer Games in the UAE, where the team returned with 35 Gold, 15 Silver and 12 Bronze medals!

‘We wish all of the participants everything of the best over the next three days and thank Special Olympics South Africa for the opportunity to be part of these exciting games,’ says Montse.

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Editors Notes:

About Special Olympics - Special Olympics is a global inclusion movement using sport, health, education and leadership programs every day around the world to end discrimination against and empower people with intellectual disabilities. [Founded in 1968](#), and celebrating its 50th Anniversary this year, the Special Olympics movement has grown to more than 7 million athletes and Unified partners in more than [178 countries](#). With the support of more than 1 million coaches and volunteers, Special Olympics delivers Olympic type and over [108,000 games and competitions](#)

About African Bank - African Bank Limited is a retail bank offering a range of financial products and services, serving both private and business customers. The bank is rated the overall leader in customer satisfaction in the banking industry, and has a countrywide branch distribution network and a full digital channel offering, as well as sales, collections and customer service contact centres. African Bank is a scalable, diversified, and sustainable business focused on its heritage journey of being a bank for the people, by the people, serving the people - with a clear vision and strategy, strong leadership, and an audacious drive to deliver on the promise of its founders.

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