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For immediate release:

### SPECIAL OLYMPICS AFRICA UNITY CUP UNVEILS TROPHY, TEAMS AND DRAW

Today Special Olympics Africa unveiled the trophy to be presented to the winning male team at the Special Olympics Africa Unity Cup as well as announcing the names of the male and female team players who will represent South Africa in the event. The draw of participating teams took place, putting South Africa in Group A along with Uganda, Botswana and Cote D'Ivoire.

The group stage draw was conducted by Mr Komane, Acting Chief Director, Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, North West Province in front of a room full of guests, media and participating athletes. The results of the draw are as follows:

Female Group	Male Group A	Male Group B	Male Group C
South Africa	South Africa	Kenya	Namibia
Namibia	Botswana	Mauritius	Nigeria
Cote D'Ivoire	Uganda	Tanzania	Senegal
Zambia	Cote D'Ivoire	Zambia	

The first game of the tournament featuring South Africa will kick off at 8am at Lebone II College on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2012.

The impressive floating trophy handmade from Rhodesian Teak and a stainless steel globe emblazoned with the Special Olympics logo was unveiled to the delight of the participants. Jimmy Masina, Special Olympics South Africa athlete and the first Special Olympics athlete to officially be certified as a SAFA referee unveiled the trophy ahead of his involvement as an official in the match.

President of the Special Olympics Africa region, Dr John Dow was on hand to give an overview of the Special Olympics Africa Unity Cup including its role as a qualifier for the top three countries to compete in an international tournament, The Special Olympics Unified Cup, Rio 2013 in Brazil. The tournament will also feature various engaging initiatives running concurrently with the football competition including a Youth Forum, Family Forum and a Healthy Athletes screening in which participating athletes will receive free medical screening and referrals. The Special Olympics Celebrity Challenge is a unique platform which hosts Special Olympics athletes, celebrities, and soccer legends on the same playing field and will take place on 6<sup>th</sup> October at the Royal Bafokeng Sports Palace with HHP performing between the matches. Dr Dow also spoke fondly of

the courage and determination of founder Eunice Kennedy Shriver who grew the Special Olympics movement from a backyard sports gathering of 25 intellectually challenged youth, to the global movement of over 4 million participants that it boasts today.

Included in the day's proceedings was the announced by the Director of Sports Development at Royal Bafokeng Sports, Mr Ezzy Seabelo, of the members of the male and female teams that will represent South Africa at this event. The individuals are as follows:

<b>Ladies Team</b>	<b>Men's Team</b>
Matshaba Vanessa	Monamodi Mojalefa
Motsamai Kelebogile	Qhayi Jackson
Kgwadi Lebitso	Moitse Vincent
Mokgethi Masego	Serekego Kgosietsile
Twala Sibongile	Pieterse Mamphita
Magano Tebogo	Dibodu Edward
Radikd Ororiseng	Phiri Phemelo
Mogapi Kgomotso	Mirwa Letlhogonolo
Tawana Tshiamo	Kgotlang Elvis
Mojapholo Elisa	Mlilo Sphamandla
Coach: Sithole Phineus	Coach: Seroke Moilwa
Diale Keleabetswe	Ramafsi Akimas
Head of Delegation: Suzan Molobye-Milanzi	

The event is being proudly hosted by Royal Bafokeng Sports and Supersport is the Official Broadcast Sponsor for the event. Official sponsors include Royal Bafokeng Holdings, Sport and Recreation South Africa, Lions Clubs International and Kim Samuel Johnson and the Samuel Family Foundation. Other sponsors and partners include DHL, Howard Music, Jupiter Drawing Room and the NBA.

Special Olympics provides a platform for African nations to address the needs of over 20 million African people with an intellectual disability in the areas of sport, health, education and leadership, creating life changing opportunities for people with an Intellectual Disability.

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### **About Special Olympics**

Special Olympics is an international organization that changes lives through the power of sport by encouraging and empowering people with intellectual disabilities, promoting acceptance for all, and fostering communities of understanding and respect worldwide. Founded in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the Special Olympics movement has grown from a few hundred athletes to more than 3.7 million athletes in over 170 countries in all regions of the world, providing year-round sports training, athletic competition and other related programs. Special Olympics now takes place every day, changing the lives of people with intellectual disabilities all over the world and in the community playgrounds and ball fields in every small neighborhood's backyard. Special Olympics provides people with intellectual disabilities continuing opportunities to realize their potential, develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy and friendship. Visit Special Olympics at [www.specialolympics.org](http://www.specialolympics.org). Engage with us on: [@specialolympics](https://twitter.com/specialolympics); [fb.com/specialolympics](https://fb.com/specialolympics); [youtube.com/specialolympicshq](https://youtube.com/specialolympicshq), and [specialolympicsblog.wordpress.com](http://specialolympicsblog.wordpress.com).

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