

Media Statement

Issued by the National Lotteries Commission



NLC Congratulates Team South Africa on Special Olympics Success

Pretoria, 25 March 2025 – The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) extends its heartfelt congratulations to Team South Africa for their outstanding performance at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Italy. The team's exceptional achievement, with every member returning home with a medal, is a proud moment for the nation.

As a champion of sports development and inclusion, the NLC contributed R5,05 million in funding to support Team SA's participation. This funding ensured that athletes had the necessary resources to compete at the highest level, reinforcing the NLC's commitment to creating opportunities for athletes with disabilities.

NLC Commissioner Jody Scholtz expressed pride in Team SA's success:

"The NLC is honoured to have played a role in supporting Team SA on their journey to the Special Olympics. This achievement is not just about medals—it's about breaking barriers, fostering inclusion, and giving athletes with disabilities the opportunity to excel on the global stage."

During engagements with the leadership of Team South Africa, the NLC was inspired by the team's strategic vision for growth and transformation. Their dedication and commitment to empowering athletes continue to yield positive results.

NLC Board Chairperson Prof. Barney Pityana emphasised the importance of sustainable funding in driving meaningful impact:

"The NLC remains committed to funding initiatives that create lasting change. Team SA's success is a testament to how well-directed support can empower individuals and strengthen communities."

The 2025 Special Olympics South Africa National Team returned from the World Winter games with the following medals:

- 🏆 **1 Gold** – Naledi Hlalele (Figure Skating)
- 🥈 **2 Silver** – Bianca Basson, Kenneth Mokabo (Figure Skating)
- 🥈 **1 Silver** – Shane Bentley (Short Track Speed Skating)
- 🥉 **2 Bronze** – Tyrell Sykes (Figure Skating), Shirnel Swartz (Short Track Speed Skating)


The NLC remains committed to initiatives that transform lives and promote inclusive sports development. We are honoured to be part of a winning nation and celebrate the outstanding achievements of Team South Africa.

-ENDS-

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