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African Kurash Union



<http://kurash-ika.org>

31 George Grey Street Vanderbijlpark 1911 South Africa. Email: thomasdunker@mweb.co.za. Mobile: +27828591905

ACTIVITY REPORT 6 AUGUST 2022 – 18th AFRICAN KURASH CHAMPIONSHIPS



A successful African Kurash Championships took place in the coastal city Gqeberha formerly known as Port Elizabeth. This was made possible by the substantial financial contribution received from the Uzbekistan government and the International Kurash Association.

Any travel in Africa is always a logistical nightmare and very expensive thus flights for far countries was provided and road transport costs for the closer surrounding countries was also refunded to the relevant federations.

All federations met in Johannesburg and we all travelled together in a chartered bus to Port Elizabeth – A 12 hour trip but valuable time to meet and discuss several ideas on how we can grow and popularize Kurash on the African continent.

All delegations stayed at the same hotel on the beach front and meals were catered for at a restaurant and at the competition venue.

Sixteen countries entered for the championships, however due to a variety of reasons four countries withdrew at a very late stage, mainly flight availability, sponsorship issues or visa problems. (Togo, Tanzania, Angola and Ivory Coast) The following countries participated in the championship with athletes: South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Eswatini, Mozambique, DRC, Mauritius, Cameroon, Ghana and Congo. Benin was present for the congress and seminar but without any athletes for the competition.

The main championship was for seniors, but junior and 4 veteran categories were also included and contested.

Low number of female participants is still a big problem in Africa, sometimes cultural issues, but I believe more marketing and visibility of international female competitions may contribute positively to get more female participation at Kurash events.

The entire competition was live streamed to YouTube and still available for viewing, more than 750 views were done during the competition. All the yakhtak used for the competition was distributed among the participating federations after the championship.



Herewith listed are the gold medalists new African Champions for 2022.


WEIGHT	SENIOR MALE - GOLD		WEIGHT	SENIOR FEMALE GOLD	
	COUNTRY	NAME		COUNTRY	NAME
60	MOZ	QUIQUIR Flavio	48	RSA	SCHEEPERS Danique
66	RSA	PRETORIUS Philipus	52	ESW	ESTERHUIZEN Siobhan
73	DRC	BOMPEMA Herve	7	DRC	MUISI Laurette
81	DRC	MTAKU Dieu levent	63	RSA	BARNARD Melissa
90	DRC	MUSEDJU Jude	70	RSA	LANG Heike Zanya
100	RSA	VAN DER MERWE Jannie	78	RSA	LANG Katja
100+	ZIM	MUVINGI Jonathan			



WEIGHT	JUNIOR MALE - GOLD		WEIGHT	JUNIOR FEMALE GOLD	
	COUNTRY	NAME		COUNTRY	NAME
60	RSA	VAN SCHALKWYK Vincent	48	RSA	GREYLING Liebe
66	RSA	RUDMAN Llewellyn	52	NAM	RAMPHAGA Karlyn Fhulu
73	RSA	PRETORIUS Philipus	57	DRC	MUISI Laurette
81	RSA	KRAMER Reece	70	RSA	LANG Heike Zanya
90	RSA	LANG Trevan	70+	RSA	Lang Katja



WEIGHT	VETERAN - GOLD	
	COUNTRY	NAME
73	CGO	KEYA Urbain
90	RSA	GERBER Iwan
90+	DRC	MPEKU Bogus
63 Female	RSA	KENNEDY Cindi-Ann



Due to lack of qualified continental referees only one Gilam was used for the competition which resulted in a late finish of the event. A sincere word of thanks to the referees and technical officials who worked hard to make this a memorable and successful event. The referees who officiated were: GUY BLANCHARD AMBETO (CGO) (2 star), BILL BARNAND (RSA), TEDDY RITA (MRU) and RODDY BEAUGRET KIBA (CGO)

Acknowledgement:

On behalf of all AKU federations I would sincerely like to thank the IKA and the Uzbekistan government for making the funds available for us to facilitate this event. This would not have been possible without their support. We really received positive feedback from participants who expressed their desire to participate in the 2023 African Kurash Championships which will be part of the African Martial Arts festival taking place in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



Thomas Dunker
President AKU