

Wayde van Niekerk excited to face 'uncomfortable situations' in US after easy 200m semi-final

CAPE TOWN – Wayde van Niekerk says his imminent move to the United States is about being “associated with champions” as he chases a new 400m world record in defence of his Olympic title.

The 28-year-old had an easy time of it on the second day of the South African athletics championships at the Tuks Stadium in Pretoria on Friday, where he was able to cruise from his heat into the semi-final, where it was another relaxed run to reach Saturday's final.

Van Niekerk opened up with a time of 20.60 seconds in the morning, and upped the ante slightly on a warm afternoon to win his semi-final in 20.38 – the quickest of all the final qualifiers – as he ran a strong bend and maintained his pace in the home straight to beat former world championship bronze medallist Anaso Jobodwana into second place (20.89).

Talking about qualifying, SA 200m record-holder Clarence Munyai almost didn't make it to the Saturday evening decider (6.35pm) after slowing down considerably close to the finish line in his semi-final.

The 23-year-old Gauteng North athlete, whose national mark stands at an incredible 19.69, ended in third with 21.03, with only the top two finishers gaining automatic qualification.

He would've had an anxious few minutes as he waited for the third semi-final to be run, and after officials checked all three races, Munyai scraped through to the final as one of the 'fastest losers' by just 0.01 seconds, with the next best being Vuyo Moss in 21.04.

For Van Niekerk, though, it was another important outing as he plots the path to breaking his 400m world record of 43.03 seconds and gold at the Tokyo Olympics.

“I am happy with how the year has been thus far. It has definitely been a positive direction, and I can just use this as a confidence boost to take with me for this season. My goal is towards the European season, and making sure I do well at the Olympic Games. This is an amazing opportunity as a stepping stone to get myself back on to the track, to get to where I should be,” the Free State athlete told BackTrack Sports after the race.

“(Handling pressure) It is definitely a reality in my life right now – I can't try and avoid it. But if you look at my performances right now... that is why I am exposing myself right now to such quality fields.

“Just using that to improve myself and by the time I get to the European stages, I will start challenging myself against those guys.”

Paul Pogba: Man Utd midfielder critical of Jose Mourinho management style

Manchester United midfielder Paul Pogba says current boss Ole Gunnar Solskjaer “wouldn't go against the players” like former manager Jose Mourinho.

Pogba re-joined United in 2016 for a then-world record £89m when Mourinho was manager at the Old Trafford club.

But the pair fell out by the time Mourinho was sacked in December 2018.

“Once I had a great relationship with Mourinho,” Pogba told Sky Sports. “Everybody saw that and the next day you don't know what happened.”

The 28-year-old France international added: “That's the strange thing I had with Mourinho and I cannot explain to you because even I don't know.”

Pogba helped United win the League Cup and Europa League in 2017 under Mourinho but he was stripped of the vice-captaincy by the Portuguese in September 2018.

He was also an unused substitute in a



Pogba re-joined United in 2016 for a then-world record £89m when Mourinho was manager at the Old Trafford club.

3-1 defeat by Liverpool in what turned out to be Mourinho's final game in charge of Manchester United before he was replaced by Solskjaer.

After Mourinho was sacked, a

post on Pogba's Twitter account said “caption this”, along with a knowing expression on his face, before being deleted.

“What I have now with Ole is

different because he wouldn't go against the players,” said Pogba.

“Maybe Ole wouldn't pick them, but it's not like he puts them on the side like they don't exist any more. That's the difference between Mourinho and Ole.” Mourinho is now manager of Tottenham, who were beaten 3-1 last Sunday by a United side containing Pogba. Following the match, Mourinho was unhappy with comments from Solskjaer criticising Spurs forward Son Heung-min.

“I am sure Mourinho said something that made people speak. That's what he does,” said Pogba.

“We got the result that we wanted. Ole knows it and we enjoyed that moment.

“We know Mourinho and what he likes. We don't need this. We just focus on us.

“We won the game, he lost the game, and he doesn't want to speak about the game.”

He added: “Everybody knows it. It's very Mourinho.”

NOTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS

Junior Baiano Industrial Consultants cc hereby gives notice to all potentially Interested and Affected Parties (I&APs) that an application will be made to Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No 7 of 2007) and the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (GN 30 of 6 February 2012) for, the following activity:

Project Title: Proposed Telecommunication Lattice Tower.

Project Description: The Construction and Operation of a Telecommunication Lattice Tower and Associated Infrastructure.

Project Location: The project site is located in Veddersdal, Okahandja, alongside the B1 road Oljonzandjupa Region-Namibia.

Proponent: Powercom PTY LTD.

I&APs are invited to register with the consultant and give their comments and concerns in writing. Please take note of the following:

PUBLIC MEETING
Date: 4 May 2021
Venue: KW Van Marree Primary School
Time: 18h00

To register or request for documents please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project, in writing to:

Mr Nghiyolwa, Fredrich
Tel: +264 (0) 81 147 2029
Email: JuniorB200581@gmail.com

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION: PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A 10 MW MERCHANT SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC PLANT.

PROJECT LOCATION: GERUS FARM IN OUTJO, KUNENE REGION: NAMIBIA

PROponent: SINO ENERGY (PTY) LTD

I&APs are invited to register with the consultant and give their comments and concerns in writing. Please take note of the following:

PUBLIC MEETING
Date: Friday 29 April 2021
Venue: Nexus Head Office, Corner of Krenz Avenue and President Street, Otavi Road, Outjo.
Time: 11:00 AM

To register or request for documents please submit your name, contact information and interest in the project, in writing to:

Mr Nghiyolwa, Fredrich
Tel: +264 (0) 81 147 2029
Email: fredrich@ibic.com.na / JuniorB200581@gmail.com

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CALL FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION ACTIVITIES ON EPL 7010

This notice serves to inform all interested and affected parties that an application for the environmental clearance certificate will be launched with the Environmental Commissioner in terms of the Environmental Management Act (No.7 of 2007) and the Environmental Regulations (GN 30 of 2012). The project will comprise of conventional mineral exploration activities.

Location: The mineral license is located 2 km northeast of Khorixas.
Proponent: Muzengua Urimonganda Rudolf

All interested and affected parties are hereby invited to register and submit their comments regarding the proposed project on or before **20/04/2021**. Details of public meeting will be communicated to registered parties. Contact details for registration and further information:

Mr. N Amutenya
Email: eia@impalac.com
Tel: + 264856630598

Labour market interventions crucial after pandemic impact

■ Maihapa Ndjavera

BOTH retention and reallocation employment policies can help mitigate the severe socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on workers. Also, the persistence and asymmetry of the pandemic shock are crucial for the choice between retention and reallocation, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) World Economic Outlook for April 2021.

The report, released this week, stated that job retention policies such as wage subsidies and short-term work schemes are effective in lowering separations, while worker reallocation policies such as hiring incentives, job search-and-matching assistance as well as retraining programs boost job finding and on-the-job occupational switches by those still employed.

At the beginning of this year, the labour ministry stated that more than 12 000 workers were retrenched in 2020 due to the struggling domestic economy that contracted by about 8% and that was exacerbated by the pandemic.

Commenting on measures in



Pandemic shocker... Retention and reallocation employment policies can help minimise the severe socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on employment. Photo: File.

place to boost the labour market, Bro-Mathew Shinguadja, executive director in the labour ministry, said the impact has been felt by all sectors of the economy. He noted that the difference was that sectors that responded quickly had forward-looking approaches or plans and for them the impact has been less severe.

He further explained that reallocation and retention

depend on many factors such as workforce profile, ability to adapt to new working methods, clientele mentality and readiness to move into the fourth industrial revolution.

Shinguadja noted that Namibia has some of the necessary attributes already and some level of capacity like in mining, and in-services sectors.

“Traditional sectors like farming

and construction may be struggling when it comes to reallocation of their workforce. However, as economies are recovering and moving, new adjustments are to be felt in the right directions,” he said.

The IMF pointed out that lower-skilled employees have tended to benefit more from job retention policies, while worker reallocation policies have bolstered prospects for women and youth.

“For a transitory and asymmetric shock, such as a lockdown or sharp rise in social distancing affecting sectors differently, job retention policies are extremely powerful in reducing unemployment and providing near-term income insurance. For a permanent shock, such as a shift in demand across sectors or a drop in productivity in some sectors, worker reallocation policies that foster job creation perform better in the long-term and hasten adjustment toward the new equilibrium,” reads the report.

Where the shock is a mix of transitory and permanent components, a policy package that favours job retention while social distancing is pervasive, and then reallocation once it lifts, better mitigates unemployment dynamics.

The recent findings suggest that uncertainties about the pandemic and its path mean the phase-out of such measures is more complicated in practice and require careful monitoring of the pandemic including the rollout of vaccines and judgment of the economy’s ability to weather a reduction in support.

- mndjavera@nepc.com.na

Qatar Petroleum and Shell join forces to explore offshore Namibia

Qatar Petroleum has partnered with Shell on two ultra-deep-water exploration blocks offshore Namibia.

The deal will see Qatar Petroleum hold a 45% participating interest in the PEL 39 exploration licence pertaining to Block 2913A and Block 2914B, while Shell as the operator will hold a 45% interest, and the National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (NAMCOR) will hold the remaining 10% interest.

Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi, the minister of

state for energy affairs, the president and CEO of Qatar Petroleum, said: “With this second exploration and production sharing agreement in Namibia, we are pleased to expand our exploration footprint in the country, and to further strengthen our presence in the southern Africa region. Working on these promising and prospective blocks with our valued long-term partner, Shell, is another step in our stride towards achieving our international growth strategy.

We look forward to working together with the Namibian government, NAMCOR and Shell on these blocks.”

This is Qatar Petroleum’s second exploration licence off Namibia after August 2019, when it entered into agreements for participating in blocks 2913B and 2912.

The PEL 39 blocks are located offshore Namibia in ultra-deep-water depths of about 2 500 m, covering an area of approximately 12.300 sq km.

- Splash247.com



The SADC Malaria Elimination 8 (E8) community is saddened by the passing of Ms. Chipo Chirefu-Toto. Affectionately known as “Mama Chipo”, Chipo joined the E8 in April 2020 as the Head of Finance, Grants, and Operations. Together with her team, she led the organizational processes that enable our ongoing work on the fight against malaria in the SADC region. She will be sorely missed. We send our heartfelt condolences to family, friends, and colleagues.

May her soul rest in peace.



/Ai-/Ais Hot Springs and Spa set to open soon

■ Staff Reporter

Namibia Wildlife Resorts Limited (NWR) closed its /Ai-/Ais Hot Springs and Spa on 11 January

2021 after it experienced flash floods that resulted in the rivers along the resort overflowing, causing damage to the resort and its campsites. NWR initially anticipated the rehabilitation work on the resort being finalised before 1 April 2021, but due to ongoing internal processes, the resort will remain closed until 30 April 2021 and is scheduled to open on 1 May 2021.

NWR noted it is cognisant of the number of travellers that frequent the resort, especially those that undertake the Fish River Canyon Hike.

“This is why our internal team has conducted minor renovations to some of the areas with the limited resources at our disposal. It is just unfortunate that the camping sites were badly affected and will thus remain closed once we open,” said Mufaro Nesongano, NWR corporate communications, online media and sponsorships manager.

Moreover, Matthias Ngwangwama, NWR managing director, stated that: “We greatly appreciate the understanding of our guests who had their bookings moved to later periods. We, however, are working hard internally to have the areas that we can fix done before we welcome them from 1 May 2021. At the same time, we will continue with the internal processes to finalise the rest at a later period.”

/Ai-/Ais, which means ‘fire’ or ‘burning water’ in Namibia’s Khoekhoegowab language, is situated in southern Namibia’s //Karas region at the base of the Great Karas Mountains, about 128 kilometres West of Karasburg and 224 kilometres South-West of Keetmanshoop. The /Ai-/Ais Hot Springs and Spa is located in the /Ai-/Ais Richtersveld Transfrontier Park near Fish River Canyon, the second largest canyon in the world and the main attraction in the southern part of the country. The Fish River Canyon Hiking Trail is also ranked as one of the best hiking trails in southern Africa.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION ON EPL 7010

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Location: The mineral license is located 2 km northeast of Khorixas.

Proponent: Muzengua Urimonganda Rudolf

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