



FORMER SA SPORTS STARS ENDORSE BUY-A-BRICK INITIATIVE

WALVIS BAY, 27 MAY 2021 – Former South African sports stars have praised Standard Bank for championing the cause of shack dwellers and have pledged their commitment to return to Namibia to participate in future fundraising initiatives if they were to be invited again. The South African celebrities participated in the Standard Bank-sponsored Duel in the Desert Golf Day which was organised by the Walvis Bay Golf Club at the coastal town over the weekend.



A total of 32 teams competed in the Duel in the Desert which was primarily aimed at raising funds for the Buy-A-Brick initiative. Established in 2015, the Buy-A-Brick initiative, in collaboration with the Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia, aims to build houses for shack dwelling communities and has so far managed to build 600 houses across the country.

Former Blue Bulls and Springbok loose forward, Dewald Potgieter played for one of the Standard Bank teams and said that apart from having fun on the course, he was happy to have played his 'small' part in helping raise funds for the Buy-A-Brick initiative. "The golf was fun. I never had an experience quite like this before. It was fantastic, unique and the people are great. But the golf notwithstanding, the most important thing is the initiative behind everything that today was about. I am quite passionate about the idea of creating housing and supporting the economy and the public in that way."

The former captain of the Emerging Springboks said he was happy with the great work that is being done and that it is something he would want to continue being part of. Jacques Rudolf, the former opening batsman for South Africa's national cricket team, the Proteas, said he was a big fan of Namibia and has travelled quite extensively around the country. He said he jumped at the chance to be back in Namibia when his Walvis Bay-based friends invited him to participate in the Duel in the Desert.



"In South Africa, we have been involved with Standard Bank for quite some time through cricket, so it is a great synergy coming here and supporting a great cause. It was very important for me to come and participate in the golf

event as it was aimed at raising funds for the Buy-A-Brick initiative. Africa, in general, is a continent where a lot of upliftment is needed and I think this cause is amazing for people in Namibia."

Former left-arm orthodox Proteas spin bowler, Paul Harris, said: "Thank you Standard Bank for sponsoring the Duel in the Desert. Buy-A-Brick is an amazing initiative. To want to help people is great, especially people who are underprivileged as life is a bit difficult for some people. It is also important for us to be able to help out a little bit wherever we can. In Africa, it is a nightmare, especially with COVID-19 and if we can get people out of shacks and into brick houses it will be great. It is nice to play a small part in achieving that objective."

Head of Business and Commercial Clients at Standard Bank, Adri Spangenberg hailed the Duel in the Desert as a great event and thanked all the golfers and other sponsors who participated in the event. "It was absolutely a wonderful day. The aim was to collect enough money to build at least one house and I think we have achieved that objective," he said.

Tournament organiser, Pieter Fox said the event was a success due to the turnout and enthusiasm displayed by the participants. "This was a good start by the Walvis Bay golfing community to put something back into society and also bringing some golf events back to Walvis Bay. The Buy-A-Brick initiative by Standard Bank is a very great initiative to get people out of shacks and I hope with the proceeds from this golf event we will be able to at least build one or two Buy-A-Brick houses. The Walvis Bay Community has particularly been hard hit by COVID-19 and this initiative can help quite a bit in our community."



Fox said the Walvis Bay Golf Club will consider holding the fundraising golf event every year in support of the coastal town's community.

"Our town is not always the preferred destination for golfing events or other big events but we want to change it. With Standard Bank's assistance this year it showed us that we could do something great and we are looking forward to the future."