



PUISANO

SPORTS



Le Coq Sportif names Lwazi Ngcungama's national team jersey design as the winner



Lwazi Ngcungama born in the village of Gcilima in Kwazulu Natal shot to prominence when he designed a replica of the 1996 Bafana Bafana jersey for the inaugural Legends Golf Day held earlier this year in Johannesburg – an exercise that brought back memories of yesteryear to many fans.

Now his star is shining even brighter and he is the toast of the country after his artwork captured the hearts of many with his shirt design for the South African senior national teams – the jerseys will be used in 2023/2024 by both Banyana Banyana and Bafana Bafana.

The announcement was made on Wednesday (16 November 2022) by Le Coq Sportif, the technical sponsors of the South African Football Association (SAFA), after running a competition through social media. “The people have decided. Massive congratulations to Lwazi Ngcungama on these concepts that clinched 1st place in our ‘design campaign.’ We cannot wait to start working with Lwazi on delivering the final jersey for the 2023/24 season. FreewayartsD will be working closely with SAFA and Le Coq Sportif to deliver a kit that is FIFA-approved and World Cup-ready,” said Le Coq Sportif in a tweet.

“You know when all this started, I didn’t know what to expect, and almost didn’t enter the competition because my laptop was broken at the time, and so much was not going well in my life – so I had to borrow one so I could start with my design,” said a beaming Ngcungama.

From the many entries Le Coq Sportif received, he was shortlisted among the top five, and eventually made the top three. “I was very excited to make the top three – but again here I had lost hope when I heard nothing as it took forever to announce the leading three. Despite that, I kept encouraging everyone to continue to vote,” added Ngcungama. From the many entries Le Coq Sportif received, he was shortlisted among the top five, and eventually made the top three.

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it took forever to announce the leading three. Despite that, I kept encouraging everyone to continue to vote,” added Ngcungama.

He says the three designs he presented in the competition represent three stories and three generations.

The white was inspired by the Bafana Bafana Class of 96 when South Africa won the Africa Cup of Nations on home soil under coach Clive Barker – a jersey also made famous by the late former state President Nelson Mandela who handed over the trophy to the then captain Neil Tovey.

The opening goal of the 2010 FIFA World Cup scored by Simphiwe Tshabalala against Mexico at the FNB Stadium was in Lwazi’s mind when he designed the gold/yellow jersey – which is the colour Bafana Bafana wore on the day. Banyana Banyana winning the CAF Women’s Africa Cup of Nations earlier this year (Sunday, 23 July 2022) prompted the green jersey with gold trimmings representing the title Desiree Ellis’ charges won in Morocco.

“I want to convey my greatest gratitude to Le Coq Sportif and SAFA for giving people like us such an opportunity. My appreciation also goes to all the South Africans who believed in my project and voted. Without your votes I would not be standing here. Thank you very much South Africa.

“As the South African Football Association we are pleased with the outcome and would like to thank our technical sponsor Le Coq Sportif for the transparent way they ran this campaign and we are also glad that the people have spoken. What remains now is to bring the design to life and see our teams inside these beautiful designs,” said SAFA CEO Tebogo Motlanthe.

“We would also like to thank all designers that took part as well as the South Africans who participated through voting – with that in mind, we can safely it’s the jersey of the people and can’t wait to see the final product.”



SOUTH AFRICAN
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Workshop held to formulate Women football strategy

The Women’s Football Stakeholder Workshop being held by the South African Football Association (SAFA) in conjunction with world football governing body FIFA, got under way in Johannesburg on Monday, 21 November 2022.

The workshop which is aimed at formulating a women football strategy is being attended by among others, SAFA Technical Director Walter Steenbok, SAFA COO Lydia Monyepao, SAFA women’s national team coaches and several administrators. The coaches attending the workshop include Banyana Banyana coach Desiree Ellis, Simphiwe Dlodlu, Anna Monate, Jabulile Baloyi and Maude Khumalo. FIFA consultants Thuba Sibanda and Sue Ronan are moderating the three-day workshop. In his opening remarks, newly-appointed SAFA TD Steenbok said the workshop could not have come at a better time as he was busy developing a strategy to grow women football.

He said the technical development plan for women should be a blueprint that speaks to South Africans and not come across as a foreign concept.

Steenbok said the national team selection should reflect the diverse of the country and players should be drawn from every part of the country; not only Gauteng as is mainly the case at the moment. The TD said it was imperative for the Association to enlist the services of the director of women football, someone whose duties are dedicated purely to the development women football.

If South Africa is to grow, we need to learn from the best practices and the mass training of coaches is a must. Steenbok said trained coaches must be given opportunities to encourage more coaches coming to the fore. Opening the workshop, SAFA vice-president Linda Zwane said growth of women’s football was one of SAFA’s Vision 2022’s core plans and the rise of women football in the country was not a coincident. He said the next stage was Vision 2030 and women’s game was very much part of that agenda.