

IFFSKSA celebrates 25th anniversary

The International Federation of Funakoshi Shotokan Karate South Africa (IFFSKSA) celebrates its 25th anniversary on 8 August with its 25th Annual National Championship.

The organisation was formed in 1984 in Durban under the leadership of Shihan Eric Govender and Sensei Selvan Govender.

It has grown from a small club to a national organisation carrying a membership of 2500 karatekas. The main objective of the IFFSKSA is to uplift the standard of karate and expose it to karatekas to the world. This organisation has produced many Protea colours and has participated in tournaments throughout

the world on a regular basis.

The organisation also focuses on teaching children from disadvantaged backgrounds such as the Lakehaven and Zamani Children's Homes. Shihan Eric and Sensei Selvan thank their senseis for the great effort they put into teaching karate. They also thank the senseis, karatekas and parents for supporting and building the organisation over the past 25 years. Shihan Eric has been training karate for 39 years and has trained with some of the finest Japanese and European senseis. He also suffered during the apartheid years as he was not allowed to represent his country.

Shihan Eric says, "If I was allowed to participate I



Shihan Eric Govender

would have been guaranteed of wearing South African colours on my left breast. Nevertheless, karate has to go forward. Now I can concentrate on building a strong organisation for the next 25 years and leave a legacy for karatekas to honour my contribution nationally and internationally."

Shihan Eric is also a national referee for Karate South Africa and he has received the ultimate accolade of being the

Chief Referee of the World Funakoshi Shotokan Karate Association (WFSKA) world championship at Sun City in September. It is a great honour to have this achievement and lead all senseis and karatekas into the world arena. He says, "9 August" will be a celebration of IFFSKSA's

For further details please contact Niren Naidoo at 0845166980 or Shihan Eric Govender at 0837770727.