



(L-R) Nancy Govender, Sensei Selvan Govender, Shihan Eric Govender, Sensei Adriaan Beukes, A. Rajbansi, and Sensei Roy Naidoo cutting the 25th anniversary cake.

The International Federation of Funakoshi Shotokan Karate South Africa, celebrated its 25th anniversary in grand style this weekend with two momentous events. The federation, under the astute leadership of karate stalwart Shihan Eric Govender, hosted its 25th Annual National Championship at the Old Mutual Sports Centre, University of KwaZulu-Natal on Saturday, 8 August 2009. The

tournament was attended by an enthusiastic crowd of about 1000 spectators who witnessed some exhilarating karate displayed by the approximately 700 karatekas. Shihan Govender commented that it was encouraging and satisfying to see clubs from afar as Griqualand, Gauteng, Kimberley and Upington in Northern Cape and Christiana in North West Province as well as local and KwaZulu-Natal clubs

making the trip to participate in the tournament. Adding substance and glamour to the championship were special guests MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Maggie Govender, Councillor Khanyisile Mthembu of eThekweni Municipality and Leader of the Minority Front, Mr A. Rajbansi. All the guests commended IFFSKSA for achieving a remarkable milestone in practising and promoting karate successfully for 25 years, as well as for contributing to the promotion of Durban and South Africa as a leading international sporting venue.

One of the highlights of the tournament was an outstanding demonstration by senior male karatekas Malvin Govender, Aldin Govender and Adrian Govender. The perfectly choreographed and synchronised moves received thunderous applause from the enthralled crowd. The winners of the senior male black belt kata division were Brian Govender in first place followed by Malvin Govender and Denver Subramoney in second and third place respectively. The kumite saw Malvin turning the tables on Brian with Adrian Govender finishing third. The senior female black belts were not to be outdone and produced

karate of the highest calibre with Grand Champion Aveline Harielall, winning both the kata and kumite followed by Kirthi Hasraj who scooped silver in both the kata and kumite also. Yvette Ramchunder won bronze in the kata with Engela Henning finishing third in the kumite section. The Federation and its invited guests from other organisations and provinces celebrated its 25th Anniversary in grand style with a banquet held at the Sol Namara Hotel in Chatsworth on Sunday, 9 August 2009. The 200 guests and dignitaries were treated to a night of entertainment by popular local group 'Men in Black'. The highlight of the function was the cutting of the 25th anniversary cake by Shihan Eric Govender, Sensei Selvan Govender, Sensei Roy Naidoo and Sensei Adriaan Beukes together with Guest of Honour, Mr A. Rajbansi. Awards were presented to instructors, special guests and officials for their contribution to the organisation, and karate as a whole. Both, Shihan Eric Govender and Vice President of the federation, Sensei Selvan Govender, spoke about the successes of IFFSKSA over the past 25 years, and expressed their gratitude to all those who contributed to the achievement of this remarkable milestone.