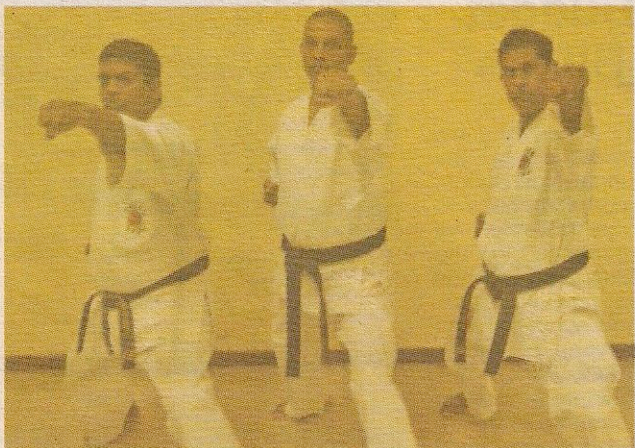


Karate federation awards banquet and anniversary

The International Federation of Funakoshi Shotokan Karate South Africa (IFFSKSA) will be hosting its 26th annual awards banquet at the Odeon Function Venue, Silverglen on December 11. This event is the culmination of years of training and practice by students. Karatekas are awarded for being outstanding in their respective clubs, receiving provincial and national colours and being successful in their black belt dan gradings. This year's function assumes greater significance as it marks the 40th karate anniversary of Kyoshi Eric Govender (seventh dan), Shihan Selvan Govender (sixth dan) and Sensei Roy Naidoo (fifth dan).

They started karate classes in 1970 when brothers, Kyoshi Eric Govender (52) and Shihan Selvan Govender (49), were introduced to the sport by their cousin, Links Pillay. They joined the Raku, Karate and Judo Club at the old Bayview School (now the Sathya Sai School) and also plied their talents in Acorn Road, Durban. They trained under the late Sensei Robbie Reddy and Subbiah Naidoo. While at Raku Kyoshi Eric Govender competed in the AKUN tournament in 1976 in Carlisle Street, Durban. After the passing away of Sensei Robbie Reddy, Kyoshi Eric Govender joined the Shotokan Karate International in 1978. He was a three time senior kumite and kata champion. He also participated in the Natal All Stars Non-Racial Tournament where he was three times Natal kata champion and twice kumite champion in the 55kg category. Kyoshi Govender broke away from Shotokan Karate International in 1983 and formed IFFSKSA in 1984. In 1994 he competed in the Shotokan International Championships in England where he was placed second in kata. Kyoshi Eric Govender and Shihan Selvan Govender have led many successful teams to interna-



Shihan Selvan Govender, Sensei Roy Naidoo and Kyoshi Eric Govender.

tional tournaments and conducted extensive training courses in many countries. They have also produced a number of students who have obtained their Protea colours. Sensei Roy Naidoo, the senior instructor in the Midlands Region hails from Kats Karate Club in Chatsworth. Thereafter he joined Shotokan Karate International in 1978 and IFFSKSA in 2000 where he has been a stalwart ever since.

One of the highlights of Kyoshi Eric Govender's career was his hero's welcome in India where he conducted courses all over the country. He also established a firm base in India and maintains a close link with karatekas in that country. He also conducted courses in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and England. In 2000, Kyoshi Govender formed the World Karate Friendship Union and also founded the All Star Karate Friendship Championships in KwaZulu-Natal which attracts a large contingent of participants annually. The 40 years of training and 26 years of dynamic leadership led to admiration from all in the sporting fraternity as Kyoshi Eric

Govender and Shihan Selvan Govender are at the helm of one of the biggest and fastest growing karate organisations in South Africa. This resulted in the great honour of Kyoshi Eric Govender being placed in the South African Karate Hall of Fame in 2005. He was further recognised for his outstanding expertise when he was appointed Chief Referee at the Funakoshi Shotokan Karate Association World Championships in Sun City in 2009.

Both Kyoshi Eric Govender and Shihan Selvan Govender pay tribute to their late parents, Mr and Mrs Arumugam Govender, for motivating them to achieve excellence in karate. Kyoshi Govender has earmarked 2011 as a period of research and development to take karate to a higher level. He is an avid student of the founder of modern karate, Ginchin Funakoshi (1868-1957) and follows his philosophy of karate, "The ultimate aim of karate lies not in victory or defeat, but in the perfection of the character of its participants."