



RACE TORQUE

2023

Welcome to the 2023 season, a season, which presents no less than four new events, and promises to be a tough challenge for all – the organising team and competitors alike.

We will end the 2022 SA Rally-Raid Championship season on a high note with the Annual Awards Ceremony at the Malelane Golf Club on Thursday, 23 March, where recipients will be honoured for their achievement and commitment during the 2022 season.



As always this will be a, by invitation only occasion, however, should you wish to attend, a limited number of additional tickets will be available at a very reasonable fee per person. For more information, contact Charmaine Fortune on charmaine@saccs.co.za

Appreciation

The SA Rally-Raid Championship again takes pleasure in welcoming our longstanding and loyal partners, Toyota, Ford and Pirelli on board. Without their incredible support and dedication, the championship would not be the premier National Championship in South African Motorsport.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the numerous team and individual sponsors who are all part of the success story of the SA Rally-Raid Championship and it's growth over the past few years.

Sadly, we say farewell to Gulfstream Fuel, who has partnered with us for the past two years, and will miss their friendly and professional service. It goes without saying, that SA Rally-Raid are keen to collaborate with another service provider in this field as we consider it, a major safety aspect and convenience to our sport. The team are ardently pursuing a replacement service provider.

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The 2023 season kicks off with the first new event of the season, the Nkomazi 400, which returns to the picturesque Malalane area, currently declared a flood disaster zone, due to the prevailing El Niño weather pattern and the torrential rain over the past 10 days.

Despite the set-back, the #TeamHilux Rally-Raid squad of Malelane Toyota, Izusa Carriers and ABF Legends, under the scrupulous guidance of team principal Johan Horn, are pushing ahead, and assure us that all arrangements are one hundred percent on course, and the event will meet the exceptionally high standards set by the Horn family with the inaugural Nkomazi 450 in 2013.



Next on the calendar is the 2023 Sugarbelt 400 in the Eston /Mid Illovo area of KZN. After the devastating floods in 2022 and the cancellation of the event, farmers, landowners and the community are looking forward to a cracker-jack event this year and ensure us this popular event will deliver in all aspects, hopefully also on the weather front.



Round three of the SA Rally-Raid Championship sees a return to Botswana and the small diamond-mining town of Jwaneng, after a break of four years.

As can be expected, there is a huge demand for more information regarding this event, and in particular the dire shortfall of available accommodation, and how SA Rally-Raid plans to address the situation.

Currently we are spending a gargantuan amount of time and effort to resolve the issue, however, the reality of available beds will determine the realism of who will stay in hotels and guesthouses and who will stay in the event bivouac.

Suffice to say, no one team will have the luxury of being able to accommodate the unlimited and required brick and mortar rooms, traditionally on offer at local events. Bivouac accommodation for the majority of the teams and officials will be the only option.

The available rooms must be shared amongst our Title Sponsor, the host country dignitaries, Botswana Police Services, who render an incredible service, and our teams.

To this end, a venue recce was undertaken in early February, and we are happy to advise the Jwaneng Sports Complex has not deteriorated and in certain areas has seen growth and improvement.

As in the past, we are communicating with SARS and BURS to ease the cross-border process, liaising with a clearing agent to assist those who do not have this facility on tap, compiling a list of useful community information, and much much more.

We kindly ask that you be patient while arrangements are put in place, and wish to ensure you of our 100 percent commitment to making this a memorable occasion for all.

Unfortunately, mañana, domani or tomorrow is another day, is an influencing factor!



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Next up we travel to the still rain soaked Free State town of Parys, on the banks of the Vaal River, in the winter month of August, before heading to the penultimate event of the year on the open plains of another Free State town, Welkom with race headquarters and DSP reserved at the once world famous Phakisa Raceway.



The final round of the championship, and another new event on the 2023 calendar, will be announced shortly, but the team are confident that it will be an entirely new challenge offering a befitting finale to another successful SA Rally-Raid Championship season.

We will keep the information flowing, and thank you for your understanding.



SA RALLY-RAID TEAM