



## REPORT – 2010 UCI BMX WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

**UCI BMX World Championships – Pietermaritzburg - 29 July – 1 August 2010**

*Report back on Velokhaya participation at this prestigious event.*

*By Howard Owen.*

“Xolisa Makubalo (15), Bayanda Ganyaza (12) (the two riders who had won gold medals at the SA BMX Championships in April 2010), Skeezo Vicani (Team Manager) and I flew to Durban on Tuesday, July 27 while the rest of the team (invited as part of the South African Development squad) drove up from Cape Town with the bikes and equipment.

On arrival at the Royal Showgrounds in Pietermaritzburg it was straight into the track for practice (9000 tons of soil was brought in by truck to construct one of the longest (380m) and technically most difficult tracks in the history of the championships). The three other riders from Velokhaya, Akhona Jim (15), Anita Zenani (12) and Wanga Moshani (11) joined their team mates on the track. Wednesday was another practice day, giving all the riders a chance to experience this awesome track.

Thursday, July 29, was first day of competition for the younger age groups and Bayanda, Wanga and Anita competed hard against some very strong opposition (there were 1100 riders in total at the championships – 900 from overseas – ranging in age from 5 to 60+). The boys were eliminated in the quarter finals however Anita powered through to the final and achieved a fantastic 6<sup>th</sup> place overall.



***Velokhaya’s Anita Zenani – Sixth in the World (Girls, Age 12 category) with her trophy!***

Friday saw Xolisa and Akhona in action however, against some very strong and experienced opposition, were also eliminated in the quarter finals.

We were then treated to some incredible riding from the pros on the Saturday and Sunday – highlights being Sifiso Nhlapo's (Skizo 105) second place in the men's elite final and Sharlene McGilvray's gold in the women 45 and over Cruiser class.

We stayed at the Umphiti Backpackers in Pietermaritzburg for the duration of the event, together with 23 development riders from Johannesburg and Durban.

The owners and staff at the backpackers lodge were great and it worked well that we could all stay at one venue. The Velokhaya kids were very well behaved and I received several compliments from the owner of the backpackers lodge in this regard.

In conclusion, I think it was a most worthwhile and successful trip and the kids (and Skeezo and Anele – our BMX mechanic who drove up with the three riders from Cape Town) really benefitted from this learning experience.

**I have no doubt that the lessons learnt and the fond memories of the UCI 2010 BMX World Championships will stay with them all their lives.**

**Well done to the Velokhaya team and a big thank you to Primedia Broadcasting and The Dis-Chem Foundation for making this trip possible."**

*By: Howard Owen – on behalf of Do Communicate, PR Consultant to Velokhaya and the Life Cycling Academy.*

## **THANK YOU TO PRIMEDIA BROADCASTING AND THE DIS-CHEM FOUNDATION FROM:**

### **XOLISA MAKUBALO**

**"I just want to thank KFM very much because without you we wouldn't be here. I have gained so much from the riders that were from overseas and also from riding from a different track. It is such a great thing for me to participate in World Championships. I believe that from now I will grow to another level. The place that we were accommodated in was very clean and big, we were treated like children that were staying there for long time, we felt at home. Thank you very much."** - From Xolisa Makhubalo

### **ANITA ZENANI**

*"Ndifuna ukubonga abantu bakwa KFM ngokusizisa kwi World BMX Championships. Sihambe kakuhle safika kwindlui enekamere ezahlukeneyo, bekumnandi kula dlu nakwi worlds bekumnandi. Ndiqhube kakuhle ndiye ndaphuma usix kwi worlds. Ndiyavuya ngokuphuma u six kwi Worlds, ndiyabulele kwi."* From Anita, love you!

**"I would like to thank people of KFM for letting us come to the BMX World Champs. We had a nice journey and we arrived in this beautiful house where we had different rooms, it was nice to be in that house.**

**I rode well and I managed to be number six in the worlds. I am so happy KFM and thank you. I am happy that I came sixth. From: Anita, love you!**

#### **AKHONA JIM**

**“Thank you KFM for giving us this opportunity and for putting us to the place that we have never been before. We saw a big track and we also saw many professionals that we have never known. Thank you for the place to stay - we enjoyed to be at that home because they were treating us as their children. Thank you KFM, we enjoyed Pietermaritzburg very much. I wish we can get more opportunities like these.”**

#### **BAYANDA GANYAZA**

*“Ndiyavuya ukuba kwi BMX World Champs apha e Pietermaritzburg. Kwi race yam yokuqala ndifumene u four. Kwi kota fanals ndafumana u six. Enkosi.”*

**“I am happy to be part of BMX World Champs in Pietermaritzburg. In my first race I got four and at the quarter finals I got six. Thank you**

#### **WANGA MOSHANI**

*Ndifuna ukuthi enkosi ngokundizisa kulendawo. Ndibone izinto ezininzi ngokuza apha. Ndiqhuba kakuhle ndashiywa kwi kota fanal. Ndifunde lukhulu, umgangatho wona ubuxhomile. Ukuvalelisa enkosi kwi KFM ngokungazenzisiyo, siyazingca ngawe nangamso.*

**“I would like to say thank you for bringing me to this place. I have seen lots of things here. I rode well but was beaten on the quarter finals. I have learnt a lot. The level of racing was very high. I would like to say thank you to KFM, we are very proud of you.”**



***Visit Velokhaya’s facebook page for more photos and details on the Velokhaya participation at the 2010 UCI BMX World Championships***