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FS ATHLETES SHINE AT WORLD PARA ATHLETICS JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2019 World Para Athletics Junior Championships took place in Nottwil, Switzerland from 01 – 04 August 2019. At these championships Obed Lekhele and Arina Nicholaisen who both hail from the Free State Province were selected to represent South Africa. Lekhele won silver in the T42 High Jump male u/20 event while Nicholaisen broke the 2001 Senior World Record in the T38 800m Female u/20 event with a time of 2:35, 83.

The Junior World Championships were first launched by the International Paralympic Committee in 2017. Under the motto “Face the Challenge” athletes aged 14 to 19 years competed against each other with the aim of getting a step closer to their dreams of participating in the Paralympic Games. Magda Wessels (Physiotherapist) and Deidri van den Hever (Team manager) from the Free State Province were also part of the South African contingent at this year’s championships.

Congratulating these Free State athletes and the technical team, Free State MEC for Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation Ms. Limakatso Mahasa stated, “The Department is proud of all athletes that are groomed within our sport development programmes for continuing to compete at global platforms. This proves that our efforts to grow sport in the province are bearing fruition. We will continue to create opportunities for many other young people through institutions such as the Free State Sport Science Institute.”

Issued by the Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation (DSACR)

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