



09 January 2019

**PRESS RELEASE**

**2019 African Track Cycling Championships Pietermaritzburg from 17-19 January 2019**

With the African Track Cycling Championships fast approaching, riders from Burundi, Egypt, Morocco, Nigeria, Seychelles, Zimbabwe and hosts South Africa are making their way to Pietermaritzburg to contest the many Continental titles and medals on offer.

The Egyptian team will be led by Olympian Ebtissam Zayed who will be defending a host of titles in the women's category. The South African women's team led by multiple National Champion Charlene du Preez will however be going all out to ensure that they share in the medal haul.

South African Sprint champion Jean Spies will have his eyes firmly fixed on retaining his Sprint, Keirin and Time Trial titles and ensure qualification for the upcoming 2019 World Championships scheduled for Pruszkow, Poland at the end of February.

Steven van Heerden, Joshua van Wyk and Carl Bonthuys will lead the South African charge in the endurance events while exciting new prospect and newcomer to the junior ranks, Jonathan Boucher will be up against the likes of teammates Matthew Fortuin and Aiden Geary in the junior category.

Although the other nations are relatively new to track cycling, surprises cannot be ruled out, especially from the Seychelles team who participated at the 2018 Commonwealth Games. A training camp under supervision of South African Olympian Jean-Pierre van Zyl is currently underway to assist with the preparation of riders who do not have access to tracks in their home countries.

There will be seven events per category as follows:

<b>Men Elite</b>	<b>Men Junior</b>	<b>Women Elite</b>	<b>Women Junior</b>
Sprint	Sprint	Sprint	Sprint
1Km Time Trial	1Km Time Trial	500m Time Trial	500m Time Trial
Keirin	Keirin	Keirin	Keirin
Points Race	Points Race	Points Race	Points Race
Scratch Race	Scratch Race	Scratch Race	Scratch Race
Omnium	Omnium	Omnium	Omnium
Madison	Madison	Madison	Madison

With Africa guaranteed spots in the Omnium and Sprint events in Tokyo, at least four African riders will be on the track in Tokyo. The competition amongst the nations for these spots will therefore be extremely fierce leading up to the end of the Tokyo 2020 qualification period.

The local youth of KZN will also have an opportunity to be part of this event as the African Championships will run alongside the KZN Invitational event which runs until 20 January 2019.



*Confederation Africaine De Cyclisme*  
*African Cycling Confederation*



Racing takes place at the Sax Young Cycling Track, Alexandra Park daily from 17-19 January 2019, starting at 09:00am. Entry is free to the public.