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## South African Post Office hosts 'SAPOA Games 2024' in Pretoria

The Southern Africa Postal Operators Association ('SAPOA') games was revived this year after a shut down due to Covid-19. Launched in 2008, the objective of SAPOA Games is to create a fun environment through competing in various games and sports. It intends to foster a positive mind set among employees at different operational levels within the postal operators. Four members of SAPOA, namely South African Post Office, Lesotho Post, Zimbabwe Post and Botswana Post participated in this year's games in athletics, volley ball, netball and soccer.

The various participants have taken turns to host the event in the past and this year the South African Post Office hosted the event in Gezina, Pretoria. Conducted from the 23 – 25 September 2024, the event also provided a platform for sharing best practices, networking with peers, understanding and appreciating diverse cultures and promoting regional unity and collaboration. This year's overall winner was Botswana. South Africa took gold in the men's volley ball and woman's netball

SAPOA Executive Director, Janras Kotsi mentioned that despite all the challenges, the postal industry must continue to transform to meet the demands of this massive sector. Hence this year's theme was appropriately "Transforming the Post through sport".

The SAPOA Games have grown significantly over the years, both in terms of the number of sports disciplines and the participation of countries

The event created an opportunity for the South African Post Office to show case its' last mile delivery services using motor bikes.

Joint Business Rescue Practitioner, Anoosh Rooplal, noted "The proof of concept of using motor bikes in the last mile of delivery intends to create efficient routing systems while using the correct mode of transport to speed up delivery times. Once the proof of concept has been successfully tested and reported on, motorbikes will be part of a broader plan, together with the use of vehicles and bicycles, where appropriate, to improve service delivery across the country".

Kotsi concluded, "We look forward to participating in the event again next year in Botswana and hope that more of the member countries will join to share in the fun and also share ideas and create unity amongst the Southern African postal communities."

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Notes to editors

### **About SAPOA**

Founded in 2001, the Southern Africa Postal Operators Association ('SAPOA') aims to promote

development, establishment and operation of efficient, affordable and accessible postal service that meet the diverse needs of customers while being economically and commercially sustainable for all its members countries.

SAPOA members include South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius and Eswatini

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