

**Tsogo Sun Amashova Durban Classic in a category of its own**

To ensure all cyclists’ and the associations for SA and KZN Cycling’s needs were met ahead of this year’s race, Tsogo Sun Amashova’s organisers have revised and proudly announced the final official racing categories for this year’s popular Pietermaritzburg to Durban race.

Not only will SA’s elite racing categories for men be shifted to the challenging 160km race, but all the men’s Vets cyclists will be grouped in one batch for the 106km route with overall winners for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place receiving prize money. The u19 men will also race in their own batch where 1st place will receive a gold medal. U17 boys and girls and U15 boys will ride the 65km distance in line with the CSA maximum distance ruling. Within the women’s section there will still be one women’s category that includes elite, U23 and vets for the 106km distance where the first 5 women across the line will receive the same prize money as the men.

Chairman of KZN Cycling, Greg Stedman, who worked closely with the Tsogo Sun Amashova team to further revise the categories, commended the organisers for their agility and genuine interest in trying to support the sport of cycling. “It’s not very often you’ll find a sporting event of this magnitude that displays such a willingness to listen to the needs of the participants of the race. I think the organisers of the Tsogo Sun Amashova Durban Classic have done a great job in streamlining categories while still supporting cyclists of all ages and recognised categories to race competitively. This is a race that all competitive cyclists look forward to on the racing calendar and is also a great feeder for our juniors to train for and ultimately starts them on their journey to becoming professional riders,” stated Stedman.

According to Tsogo Sun Amashova Race Director, Annie Batchelder, the first 100 people over the line across all categories of the 106km race receive a silver medal, and for the first time ever – cyclists who cross the line first in their respective, recognised age category will also receive a gold medal. “We love how engaging and passionate our cyclists are and have always encouraged positive and constructive feedback and ideas from participants and the public to help us improve the Tsogo Sun Amashova experience every year. I am proud of how dynamic and responsive my team has been to the changes recently made to the race’s categories and batches and we are confident we have achieved a winning formula that not only supports the competitive cyclists across all age categories, but still emphasises and provides even greater support to the elite riders for this year’s race,” concluded Batchelder.

Durban’s popular Tsogo Sun Amashova Durban Classic will be taking place in KwaZulu-Natal on Sunday the 20th of October 2019 and online entries are now open to everyone with a bike and a helmet! The oldest annual road classic cycling race in South Africa enjoys full road closure and follows the famous ‘Comrades’ route from Pietermaritzburg to Durban. Apart from the race being one of the oldest, it’s also one of the prettiest with picturesque and challenging routes that will see cyclists young and old, beginners to advanced participate in the 35km, 65km, 106km and 160km routes.

Apart from the Tsogo Sun Amashova being regarded as a great family event with a wonderful hospitality area and atmosphere created on the lawns in front of Suncoast Casino and Hotel after the race - there are some exciting new changes to the race and route that will still be revealed. Online entries will close on the 19th of September 2019 but normal late registration on the weekend of the race will still take place.

Tailored corporate and charity packages are available and for more information email melissa@amashova.co.za. For more information to enter the Tsogo Sun Amashova Durban Classic, go to [www.shova.co.za](http://www.shova.co.za).

**ENDS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **WORDS****PICTURES****DISTRIBUTED****DATE** | **:****:****:****:** | **650****Images from 2018 Tsogo Sun Amashova Durban Classic****On behalf of Tsogo Sun Amashova Durban Classic** **April 2019** |

**Notes to Editor:**

**Tsogo Sun Amashova Classic**

The Tsogo Sun Amashova Durban Classic began in 1986 and has been successfully taking place for the past 32 years – making it SA’s oldest ‘classic’ cycling race. The idea of having a bicycle race on the route of the world famous comrades marathon was the dream of veteran Springbok Cyclist, Dave Wiseman and his friend Tony McMillian. Over the years the improvements on the route and road closures, accompanied by a steady increase of entries year after year and the involvement of some of the country’s top sponsors has helped make the ‘Shova’ one of the most loved and KZN’s biggest cycling race.

**Connect with us on…**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Amashova>

Twitter and Instagram: @Amashova

Website: [www.shova.co.za](http://www.shova.co.za)

 For more information or visuals, please contact Janna Strang on janna@promotecommunication.co.za or call 031 825 1244.