
MEDIA STATEMENT

Issued by the Department of Women, Youth & Persons with Disabilities

Attention: Journalists and News Editors

Pretoria, 10 July 2021

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DEPUTY MINISTER MKHIZE CONGRATULATES KGO THATSO MONTJANE ON REACHING THE WIMBLEDON WHEELCHAIR FINALS

The Deputy Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities Professor Hlengiwe Mkhize wishes to congratulate Ms Kgothatso Montjane on reaching the finals of the Wimbledon Wheelchair Singles.

On Friday, 09 July 2021, Montjane defeated world sixth seed Japan's Momoko Ohtani to reach her first Wimbledon final. This is an exceptional accolade for the athlete who can now boast playing in a Grand Slam Singles Final as well as in a Wimbledon Final.

This latest achievement comes on the back of many achievements for the Limpopo-born star. She is ranked in the top 10 in the International Tennis Federation Rankings. She has been named South Africa's Disabled Sportswoman of the year multiple times, and holds 29 singles titles and has also had success in doubles tennis. She is also the first Black South African woman to qualify for Wimbledon.

"I am so excited to hear of Montjane's success in reaching the Wimbledon Finals. This latest success is as a result of decades of hard work and sacrifices made by her. She has overcome all odds and proves that with the right mindset, you can achieve great things," said an elated Deputy Minister Mkhize.

The department is busy with the Framework on Disability Rights Awareness Raising and Self-Representation. This is an essential document in moving persons with disabilities out of the



periphery to the centre. This framework talks to strengthening the key aspects of access and participation through self-representation. This framework seeks to prevent and combat discrimination and secondary victimization of persons with disabilities by providing early intervention and reintegration programmes into society through institutionalization of self-representation to enhance the representative voice of persons with disabilities.

“Montjane’s achievement is not just a sporting one, but goes a long way in showing South Africans that persons with disabilities are able to participate in everyday life and are able to compete at the highest level. Self-representation is an important milestone in the battle for disability rights. We are all proud of Montjane’s achievements thus far and I hope South Africans rally behind her in the finals. We wish her all the best and want her to know we are proud of her,” added Deputy Minister Mkhize.

ENDS

MEDIA ENQUIRIES:

Mr Shalen Gajadhar (Director: Communications, Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities)
060 979 4235

Know and Share these contact details:

GBV Command Centre: 0800 428 428 / *120*7867# from any cell phone

Persons with disabilities, SMS ‘help’ to 31531

Women Abuse Helpline: 0800 150 150

Child line: 0800 055 555

SAPS Crime Stop: 0860 10111 / SMS Crime Line: 32211

GBVF-related service complaints (SAPS): 0800 333 177

National AIDS Helpline: 0800 012 322

National Human Trafficking Helpline: 0800 222 777

Suicide Helpline: 0800 567 567

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