University of Limpopo
Marketing and Communication
Private Bag X1106, Sovenga, 0727, South Africa
Tel: (015) 268 2625, Fax: (015) 267 0485, Email: victor.kgomoeswana@ul.ac.za

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MEDIA STATEMENT
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University of Limpopo dancers make history with world dance championship win

Two University of Limpopo (UL) Ballroom and Latin couple dancers have etched their dance moves in the history of the World Dance Championships Amateur League (WDC AL) and Dutch Open Amateur Latin Championship, winning gold and bronze medals in their debut international act.

Mr Happy Ramano and Ms Adelaide Hlungwani of UL Dance Club made their debut at the annual WDC AL, which was recently held in the Netherlands from November 7 to 13, 2022. The pair won gold at the Dutch Open Latin Championships and bronze at the Open World Amateur and Latin Championships.

The dance couple represented South Africa as ambassadors for the South African Dance Foundation during the competition and are grateful for the opportunity to represent the country and learn from the best in the world.

Director of Sport and Recreation at UL, Mr Kakata Maponyane, congratulated the dance couple, highlighting that the institution is proud to have sent competent dancers who have represented the University and country admirably. "We are proud to produce athletes of this calibre; this is not the first time we have been represented on a global stage; previously, we had athletes who performed admirably in chess and karate."

Mr Obed Mofoleng, the duo's personal coach, is overjoyed with their success. "I believe that the preparation and work that we put in immediately after learning that they would be performing at an international level paid off."

In congratulating the dancers, their mentor and UL alumnae, Advocate Molatelo Mahapa, who recently hosted the Dance Masterclass to give back to the University, couldn't hide her indescribable excitement, noting that it took years of development, hard work and dedication for them to be where they are today. "We are proud to have World Dance Champions from the University of Limpopo," Adv Mahapa, who also serves as the Chairperson of the World DanceSport Federation's Equality Commission, said.

The dance couple is travelling back home and will arrive at the OR Tambo International Airport today at 22h00 from the Netherlands. As a result, the University invites all South Africans to join in as it gives these world champions a warm welcome home.

For media enquiries, please contact Johannes Selepe at +2715 268 3210 or +2782 882 5818 or mosela.selepe@ul.ac.za

Victor Kgomoeswana
Executive Director
Marketing & Communication