



MY SPORT. MY PASSION.

21 February 2017

Arnold Classic Africa to host R20 climate change conference

With the Arnold Classic Africa set to attract a record number of spectators and participants, the annual multi-sport spectacle will be utilised this year to launch the South African division of one of the world's leading climate change initiatives.

At Sandton Convention Centre on May 4, the day before the 2017 Arnold Classic Africa opens its doors, the SA branch of the Regions 20 (R20) organisation will be launched.

"It is important for us to showcase sport, which promotes people's well being, but we must also remember that protecting the environment is very important, so we will be meeting for a conference one day before the Arnold Classic Africa to showcase how we can become the leader in creating a green Africa," says R20 Executive Director Dr. Christophe Nuttall.

Arnold Schwarzenegger, the brains behind the international Arnold Classic series, founded the R20 organisation in 2010, while he was Governor of California, with the support of the United Nations. The non-profit environmental body, which is based in Geneva, has since launched satellite offices in Santa Monica (USA), Beijing (China), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Oran (Algeria), Vienna (Austria), Paris (France) and soon Dakar (Senegal) and South Africa.

A coalition of private companies, international organisations, NGOs, and academic and financial institutions, R20 aims to help sub-national governments around the world implement low-carbon and climate-resilient economic development projects in order to build a green economy.

Creating a network and association of sub-nationals, the objective is to enable a large shift to the green economy and develop green infrastructure.

'the nation' s biggest international multi-sport festival and expo'

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South Africa has long been a leader in addressing climate change in Africa. At the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference, SA was one of five countries to sign the Copenhagen Accord which committed to addressing the challenges of climate change, and at the 2015 UN Climate Change Conference, SA signed the global Paris Agreement to promote the reduction of climate change.

"R20 was asked at the 2015 Climate Change Conference to start mobilising in South Africa, and in the first year of the campaign we want to reach 60 municipalities with 68 infrastructure projects," Dr. Nuttall says.

Over 50 sport codes will be contested at the 2017 Arnold Classic Africa, offering a unique blend of variety for spectators. The event also includes a Health and Fitness Expo with around 300 exhibition stands.

"We are pleased to be able to use this popular event to launch such an important initiative, and the Arnold Classic Africa will continue to play its role in meeting environmental challenges," says Arnold Classic partner Wayne Price.

Tickets for the Arnold Classic Africa, to be held at Sandton Convention Centre between May 5-7, can be purchased at www.webtickets.co.za and more information on the event is available at www.arnoldclassicafrica.com



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