

# ZIMBABWE SO-KYOKUSHIN KARATE ORGANIZATION – 2013 TECHNICAL REPORT

## BACKGROUND

The year 2013 was full of challenges that covered a spectrum of areas while it was also a year of achievements and glory in some events. It was a year of realization that there was room for improvement and calls for more team work.

## OBJECTIVES

The technical team was tasked with the following objectives;

1. To participate in local, regional and international events with adequately prepared athletes.
2. Maintain tournament results that reflect the standard set in preceding years.
3. Attain a higher level of technical standard in our karate for both tournaments and gradings.
4. Work with other Kyokushin organizations in national events as required by Zimbabwe Karate Union in a cordial and friendly manner that helps to achieve good results for the country while upholding the good name of So-Kyokushin.
5. Conduct technical Dan and Kyu promotions that are up to standard and also nurture talent in our karateka for continuous development while identifying future fighters for our team.

## EVENTS

In 2013 we did not have any local tournaments however we had two Kyu grading and a Dan promotion seminar.

### Regional

- Shorin Kempo Karate tournament in Thokoza, South Africa.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Len Barnes Memorial International Karate tournament held in Cape Town

### International

- KWU Kyokushin world championship in Sofia, Bulgaria
- 2013 So-Kyokushin cup international karate tournament in Shanghai, China

#### ➤ **Shorin Kempo Karate tournament in Thokoza, South Africa.**

This event was a national event with Zimbabwe sending a team which consisted of fighters from our organizations as well as from other kyokushin groups. The trip to South Africa had challenges financially, thank you to sempai Steve Mudawarima for availing his van which took all the fighters to the tournament. We also thank Sempai Kudzanai Shaba and Sempai Kevin Ben who assisted the fighters with accommodation, food and up keep. We also thank sempai Tau who assists whenever we travel to South Africa.

The Zimbabwe team performed well though there is room for improvement .We scooped a fourth place in the open weight category through sempai Brain Chiringa Kyokushin-kan while most of our fighters bowed out early their respective categories.

These results were affected by a number of factors;

- i. Most of our fighters were competing at such a level for the first time and hence they did not yet have the experience.
- ii. We need more officials so that officiating becomes more balanced. We only Sensei Mutikani and Sempai Kumbi as officials.
- iii. This was a national team event however the effort from all organizations involved in funding and preparation was not up to the expected standard. This left the delegates from So-Kyokushin doing most of the work
- iv. The tournament was poorly organized. Time keeping was poor, the tournament finished very late and most of our fighters had their bouts late in the day after weighing in at 9:00am.

➤ **5<sup>th</sup> Len Barnes Memorial International Karate tournament held in Cape Town**

We almost failed to go to this important tournament because of financial problems and again we thank Dr. Togarepi, Sempai Kudzanai Shaba, Sensei Samson Muripo, Sempai Kevin Ben, Sempai Owen Marakati, and Sempai Taurai Takarupiwa for support and assistance which came in different forms. Thank you to all those who helped to make this trip succeed.

This was also a national event which called for all kyokushin groups to work together but again So-Kyokushin members went out of their way to ensure that Zimbabwe got representation. Although it was difficult to get there, the fighters performed excellently and got eight medals with a clean sweep of the light weight division, first position in middleweight, second position and fourth position in the open category as well as the most spirited award which went to sensei Samson.

I also reiterate that we need more officials at such tournaments. We lost the open weight category due to poor officiating. The corner judges in the final were all from the same organization and this affected the result to our disappointment.

➤ **KWU Kyokushin world championship in Sofia, Bulgaria**

This was supposed to be a national event with a national representation but the majority of the fighters came from Kan and the only outsider was Sensei Samson Muripo who received a special invite. The team selection was not transparent as it was done by Kyokushinkan members. However Sensei Samson did us proud and brought a bronze medal, the only medal for Zimbabwe.

➤ **2013 SO-KYOKUSHIN CUP INTERNATIONAL KARATE TOURNAMENT – SHANGHAI, CHINA**

We managed to send two fighters only due to financial challenges. Sensei Samson and Sempai Naison. Despite the challenges faced, the two brought Gold and silver in the open weight and silver in super heavyweight category through Sensei Samson who got Gold in the open weight while Sempai Naison scooped silver in the same category.

## GRADING

Kyu grading was conducted twice in the year and a Dan promotion seminar was conducted in November with Shihan Bas Van Stenis and Shihan Shibata from Japan in attendance. Thank you to Sensei Samson and his team for making this grading seminar a success.

## CHALLENGES

It is noted with great concern that finance was the biggest challenge in almost all the events that we took part in. I would like to note that attendance at team training was not as good as I would have expected. All karatekas are encouraged to attend team training so that they are exposed to different opponents and training methods in preparation for future events.

We did not have any local events; this should be addressed so that grass root development continues to feed into our team as well as into the national team. The importance of local events for future development cannot be over emphasized.

## PROPOSED 2014 PROGRAMME

	DATE (2014)	NAME OF TOURNAMENT	VENUE	CLOSED	OPEN
1	(TBA) March	So Kyokushin Tournament	Warren Park, Harare	Yes	
2	26 April	So Kyokushin	Japan	Yes	
3	31 May	Thokoza	Johannesburg-SA		Yes
4	8 September	World Championships	Durban – SA		Yes
5	(TBA) November	Champion Of Champions	Harare		Yes

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. It is my recommendation that we develop a team of referees that do duty locally and aim to train these referees for international events and ultimately have a referees team and committee that aim to raise our standard until we are at the same level with the international standards.
2. I also recommend that we put in place a travelling and fund raising committee that carter for our trips; locally, regionally and internationally. This should be made up of dedicated karatekas and non karatekas who have the drive to see our karate going to higher levels.
3. Food and supplements for fighters is an area of concern for us to raise world class fighters hence the budget for this needs to be provided for.

## CONCLUSION

The technical department would like to thank every member of So-Kyokushin for their support and input towards the training and attendance to events. We managed to attend the events that we had intended to with good results in very difficult conditions, further affected by our unyielding national economic environment. The spirit of OSU was truly seen in all of you, thank you ARIGATO

OSU!

**Sensei Kumbirai Musinami**  
**(Acting Technical Director)**