



# Luvo's injury scare before London

KGOMOTSO SETHUSHA

LONG jump star Luvo Manyonga may have suffered more than an injury scare when he landed awkwardly in his winning leap at the IAAF Diamond League series in Stockholm at the weekend.

But it is hoped the injury is not as severe as it initially looked when the 26 year old jumped to another terrific win at the sixth leg of the Diamond League series.

Manyonga was immediately aided by a medic as he hobbled from the sandpit, grimacing in pain. His best leap of 8.36m having helped him establish a good lead with yet another victory in the Diamond series.

"At this stage, I will certainly hesitate to use the word 'injured'. I have spoken to him afterwards and although he is in slight pain, I am confident that it is nothing serious," Manyonga's agent, Lee-Roy Newton, said.

"However, when he is back at the Tuks High Performance Centre he will definitely go for a scan, just to make 100% sure. I think we will have all the answers by tomorrow. We certainly don't want to be taking any chances before the World Championships in London as our main goal for the season is to win a medal there, preferably gold."

The Rio Olympic medallist, however, could not match his best effort of 8.61m in the Diamond League he set in Shanghai, nor replicate his African record of 8.65m he produced at the SA Senior Championships in Potchefstroom.

But his leap earned him victory ahead of compatriot second-placed Ruswahl Samaai as the South African contingent once again dominated the long jump discipline at a Diamond League meeting.

Samaai secured second spot with 8.29m while Radek Jaska of the Czech Republic was third with a jump of 8.09m.

Yet apart from his third attempt, in which he misjudged his approach, Manyonga managed to jump 8m and further each time.

This was despite the windy conditions which complicated matters for all the

But agent hopes the pain is 'nothing serious' that could derail their plans

athletes, according to coach Neil Cornelius.

"I honestly think Luvo's performance in Stockholm is one of his best.

"He proved that he can keep his cool in difficult conditions and that is comforting because one never knows what might happen during the World Championships," Cornelius said.

The form of former Olympic silver medallist Khotso Mokoena, however, has been in contrast to that of Manyonga. This underlined by the former's sixth finish with a 7.98m attempt in Stockholm.

LJ van Zyl will have to recover psychologically as he clattered into the last hurdle and jogged across the line in eighth position in 51.42 in the 400m hurdles race.

Fellow hurdler Antonio Alkana was scratched from the 110m hurdles event due to a false start.

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#### CONCERN:

Luvo Manyonga appeared to be in some discomfort from an injury he picked up in Stockholm. PICTURE:AFP

