



AIMING BIG: IAAF world champion Luvo Manyonga. PICTURE GETTY IMAGES

# Manyonga in unique world record attempt

NEVILLE KHOZA

FRESH from being crowned IAAF world champion in London, Luvo Manyonga will attempt to break the world record when he competes at a specially arranged meet in the French Alps tonight.

The competition at 3 032m above sea level in Tignes will be on a specially built long jump track.

Mike Powell, who jumped 8.95m in 1991 at the Tokyo World Championships, holds the world record that Manyonga and five other hopefuls will try to shatter.

After he won gold in London with his 8.48m leap, there is a belief Manyonga can improve on his 8.65m national record he set this year in Potchefstroom, 1341m above sea level.

His coach, Neil Cornelius, said: "We have planned for the world record attempt. Karen Gibbs, Luvo's physiotherapist, has been helping him with special breathing exercises.

"We also made provision for special thermal clothing should it get really cold."

Cornelius said many had failed when officially going for the record.

"Luvo is not obsessed with jump-

ing a specific distance. Obviously, we want Luvo to do that really big jump. I honestly believe he's capable of doing something remarkable.

"But our approach will be the same as at the World Championships in London. Luvo's goal will be to make sure his first jump counts because with a good first attempt you buy five more jumps.

"It is important Luvo should have fun because the more relaxed he is, the better he performs.

"Competing at such a high altitude creates its unique challenges. For example, I know that Luvo is going to be much faster in his approach so we will have to make certain adaptation to compromise for the extra speed."

As to whether the IAAF will recognise a world record at such a high altitude, Cornelius said he foresaw no problems.

"All of this is legal. What might happen is that the statisticians will put an 'A' in brackets behind whatever distance is jumped to indicate it happened at altitude. I don't view this as any different than Luvo jumping at Tuks, which is also at altitude."

*nevillek@thenewage.co.za*

