



# Mzansi athletes mean business at Grand Prix meeting

By CHARLES BALOYI

ALMOST forgotten sprinters Simon Magakwe and Anaso Jobodwana announced their return to the track in style at the first Liquid Telecom Athletics Grand Prix Series at Ruimsig Stadium last night.

The series that has been described as a fresh breath to South African athletics saw about 13 countries taking part. The series lived up to its expectation as the fans were the biggest winners on the night with top notch performances by big name athletes.

Jobodwana produced a superb per-

formance clocking 20.13 seconds to beat Botswana great Isaac Makwala in the men's 200m, who did the double as he also won the men's 400m.

Jobodwana has had a tough two years but this win will boost his confidence.

Jobodwana said: "The last two years have been hard, but it's good to be back I'm delighted with my performance."

Clarence Mnyai was second with 20.18, while Makwala finished in a strong 200m field.

Magakwe, who moved to the University of the Western Cape in January, in a bid to rediscover his best form, clocked

10.27 seconds in the men's 100m to finish ahead of former South African 100m record holder Henricho Bruinjies (10.28).

The 31-year-old Mahikeng born sprinter won the SA 100m title six times in the past, but injury and suspension robbed him of big things in world athletics.

The first leg attracted a decent crowd and things are expected to get better next week Thursday in Pretoria at the Tuks Athletics Stadium.

International athletes from the USA, United Kingdom, Kenya and Uganda to

mention a few entertained the crowd. Makwala won his event clocking 45.06 sec as he got one of the biggest cheers on the night.

The Botswana super star, who is known for his trade mark push up celebration after winning his event, looked tired as he crossed the line.

Makwala said: "I'm happy with the time this is my first race." Botswana Amantle Montsho of Botswana won the women's 400m recording 50.68 and she was happy with her time, it was one of the fastest 400m of all-time in Botswana.

