



SA event is 'world-class'

By CHARLES BALOYI

BOTSWANA sprint star Isaac Makwala, 31, believes South Africa has the potential to host the IAAF Senior World Championships.

The sprint king, who specialises in the 200m and 400m events, said it was about time Mzansi hosted events of such magnitude to boost athletics in Africa.

Makwala, who won the men's 400m Diamond League Series title last season, was one of the household names that took part in the Liquid Telecom Athletics Grand Prix Series first leg meeting at the Ruimsig Athletics Stadium, Roodepoort, Jozi, on Thursday night.

It was his first meeting of the season and he did the double in the 200m and 400m events in front of a near capacity crowd.

Makwala, who is based in his native country, ran one of the fastest times in the 400m when he clocked 45.06 seconds to bag his first win of the season.

But he finished fifth in the men's 200m when he managed 20.89 seconds.

Mzansi's prominent sprinter Anaso Jobodwana won the men's 200m when he stopped the clock in 20.13 seconds, with promising sprinter Clarence Munyai grabbing second place with 20.18 seconds.

Makwala will run the 300m in the second leg in Tshwane at the Tuks

Athletics Stadium on Thursday.

Athletics SA, together with their partners Telecom and Stillwater Agency, put together a world-class event according to Makwala, who has travelled all over the world to take part in high-profile events.

Makwala has participated in huge one-day series events with big prize money on offer but he praised the Grand Prix Series.

Makwala said: "This is the best meeting so far in Africa. I think the atmosphere is awesome."

Makwala, who is not shy to share his opinion, said South Africa could stage big athletics event.

Makwala said: "Yeah, the IAAF World Championships could be hosted here. SA has world-class facilities to host top-class events. They should go for it."

Makwala will stay in SA until the duration of the Grand Prix. The final leg takes place in Paarl, near Cape Town, on 22 March.



Botswana's Isaac Makwala has praised the Grand Prix Series as a top class event. Photo by Gallo Images

