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# MANYONGA ACTS AGAINST DRUG ADDICTION

By MATHEWS MPETE

**OLYMPICS long jumper Luvo Manyonga has acted proactively by asking Tuks Athletics club to check him into a drug rehabilitation centre.**

*SunSport* has reliably learnt that the talented athlete has always battled to do away with the monkey on his back.

Newton Agency and Athletics SA announced yesterday that Manyonga, "as is public knowledge, has battled drug addiction for many years and openly acknowledges it is a daily challenge to fight his addiction".

Manyonga said he hoped his decision to come clean about rehabilitation would allow other athletes to admit their daily challenges too.

He said: "I am committed to staying drug-free and want to achieve great things in my career and life. To achieve my goals and dreams, I understand I will need all the support I can get.

"I have been playing sport since an early age and have grown to love athletics deeply. Unfortunately I have been battling substance abuses since I was a teenager and it has been a difficult journey. "I wanted to release this state-

ment to show others there is no shame in your past and to empower them to shake off the stigma associated with addiction."

An official from his club's High Performance Centre said the majority of athletes admired his brave decision and regarded him as a role model. "He stays at a rehabilitation centre where he cannot come into contact with drugs. He comes here for training and returns to the centre," said the official.

The statement says Manyonga remains fully committed to testing requirements and submits to regular monitoring.



Long jumper Luvo Manyonga has checked into drug rehab.

*Photo Supplied*

