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Date: April 3, 2006

KZN PROVINCE APPLAUDED FOR STREET RACE

KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, and South Africa came tops in a glittering award ceremony in Shanghai last night as A1 Grand Prix celebrated the end of its first season.

CEO for A1 South Africa Dana Cooper clinched the award for 'Best Presented Event' in recognition of the brilliant event put on for A1 Grand Prix's first street race in Durban, South Africa. A1 seat holder Tokyo Sexwale won the award for 'Most Supportive Franchisee' along with Colin Giltrap from A1 Team New Zealand and Emerson Fittipaldi from A1 Team Brazil.

Another winner was Stephen Simpson, the young South African who won 'Most Improved Driver'.

On the 28th and 29th January more than 1.2 billion people in 122 countries had their eyes glued on Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, and over 100 000 spectators converged around the city's racetrack as it proudly hosted South Africa's first ever A1 Grand Prix.

Professor Mandla Mchunu, Director General of the Province said today: “We certainly did our province and our country proud, delivering a world-class event and putting ourselves on the global map as a winning destination.

“These awards last night sends a message that the best is yet to come. What we have used is just a fraction of our capability. We still have the warmth, the tourism mecca and much more we can offer the world.

“We want to become front runners in the motor racing world, something like the Monaco of the Southern Hemisphere.

“We can become the trail blazers for motor racing in South Africa. It would be exciting to associate with international motor shows, giving us impetus to be in the driving seat for motor sport,” Professor Mchunu said.

In Premier Sibusiso Ndebele’s State of the Province address in February this year, he said: “We have shown again to the world that we do indeed have the will and the skill to thrill an international audience. We have once and for all dispelled the myth of Third-World ineptitude by effectively placing the Province and South Africa on the world map for hosting high-tech sporting events.”

Professor Mchunu added again: “The best is yet to come.”

Issued by the Office of the Premier

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