



## Colin Venter to fly flag for Team Maccabi SA at 20<sup>th</sup> Maccabiah

Maccabi South Africa is delighted to announce that cricketer Colin Venter will be the flag bearer for Team Maccabi SA at the Opening Ceremony of the 20<sup>th</sup> Maccabiah, taking place on 6 July 2017 at the Teddy Kolek Stadium in Israel.

The 28-year-old Venter, who was a member of the gold medal-winning team at the 2013 Games, has amassed an impressive list of achievements. He made his debut for the SA Deaf Cricket Team in 2011 and was appointed captain in 2016. He has also captained the Gauteng Deaf Cricket Team since 2011, winning numerous championships. Colin has twice won Cricket SA's Deaf Cricketer of the Year and also won multiple Inter-Provincial Player awards.

Being selected as flag bearer is a prestigious and sought after role, with many high profile sportsmen and women flying the SA flag at the Games. These include Protea batsman Adam Bacher, Karate World Champion Shane Dorfman and Paralympian Shireen Sapiro.

"Colin is a talented cricketer who has represented his country with distinction both on and off the field. He has all the qualities we seek, including sporting success, leadership skills, sportsmanship and importantly is a very proud South African. He is an exemplary role model for our juniors and we are honoured to have him as our flag bearer," said Clifford Garrun, Chairman of Maccabi SA.

On learning of his selection, Venter commented: "It is with great pride and honour that I accept the immense responsibility of bearing the South African flag at such a prestigious Jewish event. Having been the captain of the SA Deaf Cricket Team, I am humbled by the opportunity to once again lead a group of exceptionally talented sports men and women. May the gold in our flag be a reminder of what we as South Africans are capable of achieving and may it remind us of the spirit of Ubuntu. Let's bring home the gold!"

Team Maccabi SA has included many differently abled athletes, including SA Paralympian swimmer Shireen Sapiro who won gold at the 2013 Maccabiah. Sapiro, who is also a Maccabi SA Ambassador, is Junior Swimming Manager for the 2017 team.

Commented Venter: "One of the fundamental principles of South Africa is that of diversity and acceptance of this diversity. I feel honoured to personify this belief as I am a deaf athlete who has been privileged to represent my country in various events".

Maccabi SA congratulates Colin and wishes him and the cricket team all the best for the 2017 Games.

**-ends-**

For further information, please email [comms@maccabi.co.za](mailto:comms@maccabi.co.za)