

## **ORBIT CELEBRATES OUR *MSWENKO BOYS* - ORBIT COLLEGE FC!**



### **ORBIT FC team and officials celebrate their runner-up position in the 2022/2023 Motsepe Foundation Championship, which secured their inclusion in the First National Division**

More than thirteen years of continuous dedication, hard work, a steadfast winning attitude and unwavering motivation saw the ORBIT College Football Club or our Mswenko Boys – as they are popularly known – finally rise to the occasion during the 2022/2023 season to become the only soccer team from the TVET College Sector to be included in the First National Division.

ORBIT College Football Club was established in 2009 when former College Principal, Ms Maryna Marais and Deputy Principal Academic, Mr Tumisang Mosito presented a proposal to the College Council to approve the establishment of a College soccer team to participate in the Inter-Provincial College Competition. The proposal was approved, marking a milestone in the history of ORBIT College sport and the start of an incredibly successful journey for the ORBIT FC. The ORBIT College Soccer team participated in the Inter-College Provincial games from 2009 until 2012. The team performed very well with almost 90% of the team's players being selected for the Provincial team during the competition. In 2013 ORBIT College FC bought the status from Rustenburg Sea Eagle FC and started playing in the ABC Motsepe League.

Since its inception, the team managed to accumulate a number of extraordinary achievements. During the 2015/2016 season the team won the ABC Motsepe NW League and qualified for the national play offs in Bloemfontein, but they did not manage to make it to the finals.

The dedication, unwavering perseverance and consistent positive attitude of the ORBIT FC paid off when the team walked away as the proud winners of the ABC Motsepe NW League in the 2021/2022 season. By producing top quality soccer, ORBIT FC managed to produce a number of players over the years who were absorbed by Professional Soccer Teams which include Orlando Pirates, University of Pretoria (Tuks), Free State Stars and Maritzburg United amongst others.

During the 2022/2023 season the team made sure that they are noticed by playing the Under 21 division of the Pirates Cup and finishing as runners-up in what is commonly known as an extremely tough competition. The team continued their top performance spree and claimed victory in the ABC Motsepe NW League.

It was this formidable performance record of the ORBIT FC that finally saw them forming part of the play-offs tournament for the Motsepe Foundation Championship (NFD). Preparations to participate in the play-offs came with its own challenges as the play-offs took place during the Business Studies examinations and the players had to prioritise their studies without compromising practice sessions. With resolute support from the College, Rustenburg Municipality and the NW Sports, Arts, Culture and Recreation Department, the team's preparations, practice camp and performance in the play-off tournament in Pietermaritzburg finally paid off. The team had to face off against Upington City in the finals on 11 June. After a nail biting game and a score of 3-1, ORBIT FC walked away as runners up – a position that firmly promoted them into the NFD. What makes this achievement even more remarkable is the fact that the ORBIT FC is the only soccer team from the TVET College Sector to be absorbed in the National First Division.

Upon their return from the play-offs, College Principal, Mr Dika Mokoena, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the team for remaining loyal to the ORBIT brand and vowed the continued support of the College to the team.

Extra-curricular manager of the College, Mr Stanley Kekana pointed out that apart from the team remaining focused to remain at their best performance, player development remains the corner stone. ORBIT FC aspires to be an outstanding Educational Institution-based Football Club that provides a high-quality experience for all soccer playing students where every soccer player is coached using the principles of "Positive Coaching". Key to this approach is exposure and talent identification from the most rural areas of the North West Province with the aim of developing the full potential of each individual player so that they may ultimately outperform themselves and become the best they can possibly be.