

## **HSH Princess Charlene of Monaco appointed Patron of Lifesaving South Africa**

On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2017, in Durban, South Africa, on the occasion of a ceremony in the presence of Mr. Gareth Wittstock, Mr. Gavin Varejes, President of the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation South Africa, Mr. Dylan Tommy, President of Lifesaving South Africa, HSH Princess Charlene was appointed Patron of Lifesaving South Africa (LSA) which is the National Association for Lifesaving and Lifesaving Sport in South Africa. The Association is committed to drowning prevention, water safety supervision, emergency response and sport.

HSH Princess Charlene of Monaco said: “It is a great honour for me to be named Patron of Lifesaving South Africa, an organization that shares the same vision as my Foundation and one that I have always been inspired by. Lifesaving South Africa’s commitment to drowning prevention is remarkable and the spirit of volunteering that you are instilling in our young people is infectious.”



From left to right: Mr. Gareth Wittstock, Mr. Gavin Varejes, President of the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation South Africa, Mr. Dylan Tommy, President of Lifesaving South Africa  
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The Princess discovered Her passion for the water and dedicated 20 years of Her life to become an Olympic swimmer, representing South Africa in the Sydney Olympics in 2000. “During those years, I learnt the importance of discipline, team spirit, dedication and respect for the water, oneself and others; values that I know LSA lifeguards appreciate and demonstrate every day,” continued the Princess.

The partnership between the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation South Africa and Lifesaving South Africa will strengthen the promotion of water safety and support “Learn to Swim” projects in South Africa.

One of Lifesaving South Africa's key initiatives called "Watersmart" is a classroom-based water safety program developed to target school-aged children. The 2017 programme, will be delivered free of charge to over 80 schools nationwide.

Mr. Dylan Tommy, President of Lifesaving South Africa, expressed gratitude to HSH Princess Charlene and Mr. Gavin Varejes for their contribution to raising the profile of lifesaving in South Africa, both on a societal level and as a sport. Mr. Dylan Tommy declared: "We are extremely grateful to HSH Princess Charlene for agreeing to serve as the Patron for Lifesaving South Africa. With the Princess as our Patron and the partnership we have established with the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation SA, we will be able to achieve far greater success in our fight against drowning in South Africa".

Mr. Gavin Varejes also announced the distribution of 200 rescue boards from the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation SA to Lifesaving SA. This will see every LSA affiliated lifesaving club in South Africa receiving rescue boards to continue their critical service to the community.

He declared: "The new partnership will hopefully continue to encourage different sporting codes to work together and form bonds, strengths and partnerships that make such a wonderful difference in our Country".

### **About the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation**

The Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation was launched in 2012 and its primary objective is to save lives by putting an end to drowning.

The Foundation's mission are to raise public awareness about the dangers of water, teach children preventive measures and how to swim.

From December 2012 through to December 2016, the Foundation has reached over 307,000 people in 30 countries (1), with operations starting in South Africa in 2013.

### **For more information about Lifesaving South Africa:**

<http://www.lifesaving.co.za/>

(1): Australia, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Macedonia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Monaco, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, U.S.A. and Zimbabwe

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### **Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation**

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