



Soon  
Pretorius

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## UWK the new attraction

The inevitable has happened in the world of karate-do. A very powerful new world organisation has been formed and seems to have huge support and following. The fact is that current federations on national and international levels have been making promises which could not be honoured. A number of flaws were recognised in the World Karate Federation (WKF) including their persistent but unsuccessful attempt at Olympic participation. Even their brave undertaking to guarantee karate as part of the Olympics to be hosted in Japan proved unsuccessful. The United World Karate was formed in Switzerland in 2014 attracting major role players from across the world plus strong support from Japan, and speculation is rife their support base includes Kanazawa sensei, Yahara sensei, Higo sensei and JKA WF.

The WKF exploited a specific path in the last number of years and grew into a very powerful and competent world organisation. Technically their direction was far removed from traditional Japanese karate catering for theatrical entertainment. Non-technical politics made this organisation very unpleasant to follow. The UWK will cater for traditional Shobu-Ippon competition, General Rule Divisions and Full-Contact Karate which apparently cover more than 90 percent of practitioners across the world. The following popular organisations joined forces with the UWK: International Traditional Karate Federation (ITKF); World Karate Confederation (WKC); World Union Karate-do Federations (WUKF); International Karate Union (IKU); World United Karate Organisations (WUKO); International Karate Organisation, Kyokushinkaikan

In South Africa, a strong force in the karate world, Emtiaz Abdulla took the lead to establish this world all-styles organisation. A former chairperson of Karate South Africa, he is well connected in especially Eastern Europe. It's interesting times ahead for the current KSA executive. Next weekend, JSKA South Africa hosts the largest national karate championships to date. This two-day event includes team kata and adult events on Friday evening and the opening ceremony followed by participation on six floors on Saturday. The importance of this event is the fact that the JSKA National Development Team will be selected to participate against neighbouring countries in August. The World Squad will be announced after the Development Champs. Our aim is to prepare a winning team for the eighth JSKA World Championships to be hosted in Namibia next year!