



International Taekwon-Do Federation South Africa

Phone: +27 83 280 9398 • Fax: 0866 286 445 • E-Mail: info@itfsa.co.za • Web: www.itfsa.co.za

22nd August 2017

The Fenias Claudio Project

International Disability Month, October 2017

Dearest ITF Friends and Family,

It is with great appreciation that I am afforded this opportunity and equally, my great honor to share this remarkable story of a 2nd Degree black belt from Maputo, Mozambique, named Bosabum-nim Fenias Claudio.

I met Bosabum-nim Fenias in April 2014 in Mozambique while attending the 2nd ITF African Championships. I was astounded by what I saw. His upright and moral character was a mere indication of what lay ahead as he later demonstrated his patterns and sparring. Besides the apparent hindrance through disabilities while performing each movement, I stood in witness as his indomitable spirit captured the hearts and attention of every person in the arena.

After the championships, I started to get to know Bosabum-nim Fenias Claudio. Learning his story, I asked him if he ever tried to attain a prosthetic leg? He conveyed that this was a luxury in his country but more so, his Government does not provide the medical support and or financial support for his disability. Thus, the financial considerations required is well beyond his reach. Not to mention, the Mozambique local currency of Mozambique is at an all time low against all major currencies. Bosabum-nim Fenias Claudio confirmed the concept of being able to walk without crutches is a dream he cannot comprehend. Beholden to his crutches since three years of age, he inherited a deformity where one of his legs never developed fully.

It was at this juncture, a decision was taken that we had to do what we can to help Bosabum-nim Claudio achieve his dream in obtaining a custom-made prosthetic leg. The International Taekwon-Do Federation of South Africa (ITFSA) came together and developed a strategy. With both Jaren Phillips and myself being the incumbent ITFSA President and Senior Vice President, it was agreed by the ITFSA Executive Committee that all funds received will be collected and managed through the ITFSA on behalf of Bosabum-nim Fenias Claudio.



International Taekwon-Do Federation South Africa

The Campaign:

After 14 months of cold-canvassing globally, and with failed efforts in trying to get either an organization or hospital to sponsor his custom-made prosthetic leg, we changed course in taking an alternative approach. We realized the money had to be raised by ourselves to pay for a custom-made prosthetic leg. We developed a crowd sourcing initiative which was registered on a non-profit website called, GivenGain.org.

This launched in February 2016 and to date we have raised US\$3000 through friends and families mainly, with some ITF members from Ireland and further afield donating. Our target is US\$15,000. Beyond the purchase of the prosthetic, this budget target caters for travels and the required three week stay in Johannesburg where Bosabum-nim Claudio undergoes rehabilitation with team of physicians, namely, and learning to walk again. For your kind reference, our campaign site page and Facebook page can be found at –

Fund Raising Page on GivenGain.org: <https://www.givengain.com/cc/TheFeniasClaudioProject/>

Facebook Official Cause Page: <https://www.facebook.com/thefeniasclaudioproject/>

INTERNATIONAL DISABILITY MONTH 2017:

We will **STAND with Fenias**

In a pledge to complete our efforts in reaching the needed target for Bosabum-nim Fenias Claudio, we have designed a new **call-to-action** – and **this is where we need your help!**

On October 1st, 2017, we call upon the global ITF Community to wear a T-Shirt with a specific graphic design on it (“**STANDwithFenias**”) that we have designed. The aim is that each NGB will use the provided graphic design from the ITFSA and coordinate local sales of the T-shirt to members and families. This can be done from as early as July 2017 already and should thusly be coordinated prior to October 1st, 2017. On October 1st, 2017 we want every person that has purchased a T-shirt to wear it proudly in honor of International Disabled Month and Bosabum-nim Fenias Claudio; upload a picture or video to Facebook, Twitter and Instragram and include the tag, “**#STANDwithFenias**” in their post description. We hope this will go viral on social media as all ITF brothers and sisters **STAND** together.

At the same time, we ask that all NGB’s deposit their money raised by going on to our [campaign page](#) listed above. With a real-time barometer, we will all be able to watch our target being met in collective applause.

To summarize:

1. NGB and Instructors to **request the artwork design** from the ITFSA (Email: info@itf.co.za);
2. **Manufacture T-shirts** in your country (NGB logo or dojang logo can be added to sleeve or back);
3. **Begin sales** to your members;
4. Collect and prepare sales proceeds;
5. **DDAY**: October 1st, 2017 – **WE GO VIRAL** on social media - “**#STANDwithFenias**”



International Taekwon-Do Federation South Africa

The T-shirt:



Conclusion:

While this certainly is a blessing for each one of us to be able to help, and enriching ourselves in return, we can hope and trust this will be a new seed planted for all ITF members as we display to the world our Moral Culture (Jungshin Sooyang). More over, the efforts of the International Taekwon-Do Federation's continuance towards the Disabled Community as we continue to grow into the 21st century.

I personal avail myself to any member or individual who wishes to participate and has any questions.

In service of humanity, Yours Sincerely in Taekwon-Do,

Brannon Phillips
Senior Vice President

ITFSA: International Taekwon-Do Federation South Africa
 ITF: 6th Dan (SA-6-2) | Class-A Intl. Umpires (IUA-867) | Intl. Instructor Certified (IIC-1584) | Plaque: 7311

Email: bphillips@itfsa.co.za