

MBSA staff give SA Paralympic team a thrilling welcome

The international arrivals terminal at the O.R. Tambo International Airport came to a halt on Saturday morning when employees of Mercedes-Benz South Africa and other South African citizens welcomed back the triumphant Paralympic team from the thirteenth Paralympics, which took place in Beijing, China from September 6 to September 17, 2008.

The visibly exhausted team landed at 6:55am on Saturday, 20 September and were greeted with screams and cheers by many avid supporters.

The likes of Oscar Pistorious, Natalie Du Toit, Ernst van Dyk, Jonathan Ntutu, Tadhg Slattery and Hilton Langenhoven – amongst others – willingly offered their autographs to the many supporters and paraded their gold medals around the airport on Saturday.

The team's sterling performance has been praised in every part of the country and comparisons between the Olympic and Paralympic teams have unavoidably been made.

China bid farewell on Wednesday, 17 September to the 12-day Beijing 2008 Paralympics, when its 40-day mission to host the world ended, which began in August with the Beijing Olympics opening.

Mercedes-Benz is a proud sponsor of the SA Paralympics team. Well done team SA. It is your drive that has made us proud!

See medal table below with all the South African medal winners;

Medal	Name	Sport	Event
Gold	Natalie du Toit	Swimming	Women's 100 m freestyle - S9
Gold	Natalie du Toit	Swimming	Women's 400 m freestyle - S9
Gold	Oscar Pistorius	Athletics	Men's 400 m - T44
Gold	Ernst van Dyk	Cycling	Men's individual road race HC C
Gold	Shireen Sapiro	Swimming	Women's 100 m backstroke - S9
Gold	Hilton Langenhoven	Athletics	Men's long jump - F12
Gold	Natalie du Toit	Swimming	Women's 100 m butterfly - S9
Gold	Fanie Lombard	Athletics	Men's discus throw - F42
Gold	Charl Boucher	Swimming	Men's 400 m freestyle - S13
Gold	Natalie du Toit	Swimming	Women's 200 m individual medley - SM9
Gold	Hilton Langenhoven	Athletics	Men's pentathlon - P12
Gold	Philippa Johnson	Equestrian	Individual championship test - grade IV
Gold	Philippa Johnson	Equestrian	Individual freestyle test - grade IV
Gold	Kevin Paul	Swimming	Women's 100 m breaststroke - S9
Gold	Fanie van der Merwe	Athletics	Men's 100 m - T37
Gold	Oscar Pistorius	Athletics	Men's 100 m - T44
Gold	Hilton Langenhoven	Athletics	Men's 200 m - T12

Gold	Fanie van der Merwe	Athletics	Men's 200 m - T37
Gold	Oscar Pistorius	Athletics	Men's 200 m - T44
Gold	Natalie du Toit	Swimming	Women's 50 m freestyle - S9
Gold	Ilse Hayes	Athletics	Women's long jump - F13
Silver	David Roos	Athletics	Men's long jump - F46
Silver	Riaan Nel	Cycling	Mixed Individual Road race CP 1/CP 2
Silver	Ilse Hayes	Athletics	Women's 100 m - T13
Bronze	Ernst van Dyk	Athletics	Men's marathon - T54
Bronze	Gavin Kilpatrick Michael Thomson	Cycling	Men's sprint (B&VI 1-3)
Bronze	Fanie Lombard	Athletics	Men's shot put - F42
Bronze	Nicholas Newman	Athletics	Men's javelin throw - F35/36
Bronze	Tadhq Slattery	Swimming	Women's 100 m breaststroke - S5
Bronze	Teboho Mokgalagadi	Athletics	Men's 100 m - T35

(Information from Wikipedia:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Africa_at_the_2008_Summer_Paralympics