



SWEAT EQUITY: Old Mutual finance director Diane Radley, Torque IT CEO Mthunzi Mdwaba and JSE CEO Russell Loubser are taking part in the inaugural Computershare Change a Life Cycle Event 2008 to raise funds for the Mike Thomson Change a Life Trust. Picture: ADRIANORGZA

Power of the pedal

Business chiefs take the scenic route to aid crime-prevention, writes EDWARD WEST

MORE than 80 South African corporate executives set off from Victoria Falls this week to take part in the inaugural Computershare Change a Life Cycle, a 450km event that has raised R4m in funds to help combat crime.

The event entails three days of cycling along the Zambezi River and encompasses parts of Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia's Caprivi Strip and Zambia.

Each of the 81 participants has raised R20 000 in sponsorship, with Computershare matching all funds raised rand for rand, in aid of the Mike Thomson Change a Life Trust.

JSE CEO Russell Loubser, his deputy Nicky Newton-King, Sun International CEO David Coutts-Irrotter, CEO of JCI Peter Gray and Granville Rolfe, MD of Macsteel Trading, are some of the CEOs taking part in the event, aimed at harnessing the energies of corporate executives to "change a life".

Directors of Old Mutual, Macsteel, New Clicks Holdings, DRD Gold, Caxton, Toyota, Coal of Africa, Randgold & Exploration, Myelaphanda Construction and Capitec Bank will also take part.

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Leading South African cyclist Andrew McLean and Dusi King Martin Dreyer are among the sporting personalities participating.

Stan Lorge, Computershare's CEO, says the R4m raised from the event will be used to support victims of crime and to fund grassroots crime-prevention initiatives.

The 450km Change a Life Cycle route travels through some of the most prime wildlife areas in Africa.

Starting and ending at the Victoria Falls, the route travels westward from Victoria Falls through the Zambezi National Park to Botswana and into the Chobe National Park, then across the Chobe River into the Caprivi Strip in Namibia. Cyclists then cross the Zambezi River into Zambia and travel along the north bank back to Livingstone and Victoria Falls.

Safari operator Wilderness Safaris will co-ordinate the logistics.

Computershare aims to make the Change a Life Cycle an annual event, set in different locations around southern Africa each year.