



Change a Life cyclists in the last challenge.

Execs go full cycle

Kate Henry

On 3 September, 70 business executives will swap their offices and suits for bicycles and cycling gear.

They will embark on the annual Change a Life Cycle Challenge, an initiative started by Computershare after the death of senior manager, Mike Thomson, during a robbery at his Craighall home.

The challenge was launched to fund anti-crime initiatives via the Mike Thomson Change a Life Trust.

At the launch of the third race at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in Sandton, Computershare chief executive officer Stan Lorge explained that, with fellow anchor sponsors Sun International, The Kelly Group and the Johannesburg

Stock Exchange on board, the company no longer had to foot the bill for overhead expenses, but still continued to match the entry fees. By the end of this race, the fund will have received nearly R9 million.

This year the six-day race will take place in Malawi, with the core group of members joined by 20 adventurous souls.

Most participants have been hard at work training, such as the group that meets at 5am at Melrose Arch to travel around the suburbs of Joburg before most residents stir from their beds.

In addition to funds raised from the race, 35 bicycle ambulances have been manufactured with sponsorship from Macsteel, and will be donated

to rural communities around Lake Malawi.

Funds from the Change a Life Cycle support four anti-crime initiatives:

- The DNA Project advances the use of DNA evidence in bringing criminals to justice
- The Martin Dreyer Change a Life Academy trains disadvantaged youths to become professional athletes
- iChoose to Change a Life provides leadership training to teenage offenders so they can launch anti-crime projects in their communities
- iThemba Change a Life Rape and Trauma Support Centre provides treatment and counselling for 80 to 100 victims of crime every month.

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Good workout... participants in the Change a Life Cycle Challenge rest at Melrose Arch after a morning cycle.

