

MEDIA STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

09 DECEMBER 2023

TO: ALL EDITORS | NEWS EDITORS | SPORTS JOURNALISTS

KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HAILS MANDELA DAY MARATHON AS A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

HOWICK: KwaZulu-Natal Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube has hailed the Mandela Day Marathon as a resounding success as hundreds of runners braved the KZN Midlands chilly and foggy conditions to finish the two races – 21.1km and 10km – at the Mandela Capture Site.

Xcel Running Club emerged as the biggest winner of this year's Mandela Day Marathon with two athletes taking the top honours.

In the men's category 27-year-old Sibusiso Kubheka of Xcel Running Club finished the 10km in 30 minutes, 27 seconds while 31 year-old Nwabisa Mjoli of Phantane Athletic Club finished the same distance race in 39 minutes one second in the women's category.

In the 21.1km, Jobo Khatoane of Maxed Elite finished first in the men's category in one hour, five minutes (1h:05m); while 29 year-old Janet Mbhele of Xcel Running Club took first spot in the women's race in one hour 19 minutes (1h:19m).

Premier Dube-Ncube said the race, on its 10th year, save for the three-year Covid19 break, demonstrated a true spirit of Madiba with all races battling it out with one common goal. The Premier added that the Mandela

Day Marathon is not just about running but about embodying the spirit of Nelson Mandela, fostering unity, and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

“This is what our icon Madiba would have loved, to see the people of this country united under one common goal to demonstrate that anything is possible. We are reminded of his words when he said ‘sport has the power to change the world, sport can awaken hope where there was previously only despair,’” said Premier Dube-Ncube.

KwaZulu-Natal Athletics President Steve Mkasi said that despite prior challenges ahead of the race the marathon got off to an explosive start with athletes from all walks of life demonstrating enthusiasm, determination, and commitment.

Mkasi said representatives from KZN Athletics, KZN, Provincial Government and Umgungundlovu District Municipality (including Msunduzi and Umngeni Local Municipalities) worked around the clock to tie in loose ends and at the end ensure the race lived up to its stature.

“Athletes are what makes this race one of the best in KwaZulu-Natal and we hope to continue with it in the coming years for the sake of Madiba spirit. We thank the stakeholders in provincial Government, participating municipalities and sponsors for working tirelessly and diligently to ensure the safety and hospitality of the athletes,” said Mkasi.

ISSUED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

RESULTS

10 KM

MALES

1. Sibusiso Kubheka (XCEL Running Cub) – 00:30:27
2. Kamohelo Mofolo (MAXED Elite Club) – 00:30:29
3. Bongelani Mkhwanazi (CHILLIE RUNNING CLUB – 00:30:31

FEMALES

1. Nwabisa Mjoli (Phantane AC) – 00:39:01
2. Andisiwe Njungula (XCEL Running Club. – 00:39:15
3. Nonhle Dlamini (Umzimkhulu AC) – 00:40:52

21.1KM

MALES

1. Jobo Khatoane (MAXED ELITE KZN) – 01:05:01
2. Seutloali Khoarahlane (Under Armour) – 01:06:00
3. Sinethemba Tshangase (Nedbank Running Club) – 01:06:47

FEMALES

1. Janet Mbhele (XCEL Running Club) – 01:19:05
2. Mathakane Letsie (MAXED Elite KZN) – 01:20:13
3. Ntokozo Mkhize (Black Diamond AC) – 01:24:39