

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

Attention: Sports Editors, Sports Journalists

KZN MEC FOR SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE AMANDA BANI-MAPENA SOAKS IN THE EXCITEMENT AHEAD OF THE RETURN OF THE COMRADES MARATHON THIS SUNDAY

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture Amanda Bani-Mapena welcomes the return of the Comrades Marathon which takes place on Sunday, 28 August, following a two-year hiatus.

Over 15 000 runners will line up outside Pietermaritzburg City Hall on Sunday morning to tackle over 89 km of one of the world's gruelling races to the finish at Durban's Moses Mabhida Stadium.

The Comrades Marathon is the signature race on the road running calendar and attracts a strong field of local and international competitors. It was not hosted in 2020 and 2021 following the declaration of the National State of Disaster due to COVID-19 pandemic.

MEC Bani-Mapena said the Province of KwaZulu-Natal is ready to welcome the thousands of runners from all over the world.

"We are excited that the Comrades Marathon is making a welcome return this year. The past two years have been lonely without the Comrades, which is a premier road racing event that exposes our Province to international audiences and contributes immensely to the local tourism industry," said MEC Bani-Mapena.

She added that the KZN Department of Sport, Arts and Culture will continue its support for the Ultimate Human Race through availing prizemoney for top KZN runners and funding overnight accommodation for needy participants.

"I am excited to confirm that once again the Department is providing incentives for the first male and female athletes from KZN to cross the finish line who will receive R50,000 each. In addition, top thirty KZN males and female runners will share a total of R300,000. This is in addition to the normal Comrades prize money. The Department will also provide meals and overnight accommodation for the 800 needy runners who cannot afford hotel accommodation on the night of the race," said MEC Bani-Mapena.

"We are happy to welcome back to our shores thousands of runners who will participate in the 2022 Comrades Marathon. I wish them all the best. We are obviously rooting for KZN runners to keep the first prize here at home and to have more podium finishes," she said.

Ends

ISSUED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF SPORT, ARTS AND CULTURE.

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