**HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

**“Together We Deliver and Grow”**

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HARRY GWALA DISTRICT MARATHON 2023

Media Statement

It was a dream come true for the Harry Gwala District athlete who came in a second place in this year’s race, as he was running his debut race at home.

Sinethemba Tshangase (24) from uMzukhulu was received by Mayors and his family at the finish line on Sunday (14 May 2023), after running 42.2km.

Seeing his family and realising that he had come out second place, saw Tshangase not being able to hold his emotions and cried tears of joy.

“I would like to send my gratitude to everyone, I am so happy It is my first time running a race at home and to come second, I didn’t think it was possible. I am crying because I am so happy, to see my family and everyone welcoming me at the finish line. It a dream come true for me being able to come out in the top three running in my hometown,” said Tshangase.

The weekend race was won by Jobo Khatoane from Lesotho who ran-2:16:47, Tshangase ran-2:17:59 and third place was Bonginkosi Mavuso who ran- 2:19:12.

Khotoane walked away with a R50 000 first prize, Tshangase took home R30 000 as a first runner-up and Mavuso R15 000.

In the Ladies race, Zinhle Shabalala won the race by running 2:46:13, second place.

Mswawenkosi Nsibande who ran-2:58:20 and third was Jennifer Koech who ran-3:00:04.

Shabalala walked away with R50 000, Nsibande R30 000 and Koech R15 000.

Harry Gwala District Municipality Mayor Cllr. Zamo Nxumalo said it was exciting that more participants in this race were from the district and that more youth participation was noted.

“The marathon is growing each year and it exciting that more people from this district are entering the race. This year we saw an athlete from Mzimkhulu coming second, we are very happy for him and his family. We congratulate the winners of this race and all those that participated. Next year it will be bigger,” said Mayor Nxumalo.

Harry Gwala District Municipality is in partnership with uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality, uMzimkhulu Local Municipality, the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Genius Athletic Club, and other stakeholders in hosting the Harry Gwala Marathon.

459 participants entered the race.

The race started in Highflat(R612) and the finish was at UMzimkhulu College.

Athletes in this marathon shared prize money over R400 000.

The Race Director Celi Makhoba also congratulated athletes.

“I wish to congratulate All Athletes participated on this 2023 edition Marathon, we also Thank God as the weather was on our side which assisted Athletes to run good times. Athletes received everything they need on the route. This wouldn`t have been possible if it wasn`t the dedication and commitment of the Organizing Committee. I would like to thank each, and everyone contributed in the success of this marathon,” said Makhoba.

Harry Gwala Marathon Results

Males 42.2 km

1. Jobo Khatoane 2:16:47

2.Sinethemba Tshangase 2:17:59

3.Bonginkosi Mavuso 2:19:12

4.Sphamandla Nkosi 2:10:20

5.Phumlani Dlamini 2:21:43

6.Siboniso Skhakhane 2:23:15

7.Mholi Jali 2:25:13

8.Mfundo Chagwe 2:25:51

9.Tsepo Mathibelle 2:25:51

10.Siyabonga Nkonde 2:26:09

35 to 39

1.Luthando Hejana 2:37:25

2.Bongumusa Zondi 2:44:54

3.Thandokwakhe Ndlovu 3:07:15

40 to 49

1.Bareng Moqett 2:36:59

2.Justice Sawana 2:45:43

3.Mkhaliseni Ndwalane 2:50:38

50 to 59

1.Michael Ndlovu 2:47:03

2.Mbongeni Sosibo 2:51:06

3.Thembinkosi Gumde 3:10:54

60 to 69

1.Nkosi Ndlovu 3:20:36

2.Willie Majombozi 3:37:32

3.Bongani Ndlovu 3:40:26

Women 42.2km

1.Zinhle Shabalala 2:46:13

2.Mswawenkosi Nsibande 2:58:20

3.Jennifer Koech 3:00:04

4.Likeleli Majara 3:09:27

5.Refiloe Khechane 3:10:59

6.Banele Mabizela 3:12:57

7.Nokuthula Ntshangase 3:17:17

8.Leeketseng Molefe 3:18:09

9.Leneo Lebotla 3:23:04

10. Masoabi Tsoeu 3:30:36

35 to 39

1. Masoabi Tsoeu 3:30:36

2.Zodwa Magidigidi 3:35:53

3.Nkediseng Malongoana 4:29:05

40 to 49

1.Jennife Koech 3:00:04

2.Lieketseng Molefe 3:18:09

3.Lineo Lebolta 3:23:04

50 to 59

1.Hleziphi Ncayiyana 4:12:25

2.Thokozile Zulu 5:05:29

3.Zukiswa Kula 5:18:06

21.1km open  Men

1.Ayanda Ngcobo 1:02:00

2.Sipho Mbanjwa 1:02:45

3.Lungelo Khumalo 1:02:55

4.Teboho Noosi 1:03:32

5.Kabelo Lesia 1:05:21

21.1km Open Women

1.Jenet Mbhele 1:10:31

2.Mathakane Letsie 1:15:03

3.Nomasebesti Khajoane  1:17:19

4.Reitumetse Thethana 1:18:28

5.Andisiwe Njunguza 1:19:09

10km Open Men

1.Sibusiso Kubheka 28:09

2.Pakiso Mthembu 28:17

3.Sbonelo Khumalo 28:56

4.Bongukwanda Shezi 29:55

5.Mluleki Mbatha 30:03

6.Thabiso Mnculwane 30:15

7.Andile Mbatha 30:25

8.Emmanuel  Seetsi 30:32

9.Sabata Elias 30:35

10.Sphamandla Goba 30:53

10km Open Women

1.Molutubete Makatisi 34:21

2.Rorisang Tlhoba 37:27

3.Inganathi Ngubo 38:12

4.Anele Ndawonde 38:35

5.Thembekile Mjwara 38:37

6.Siphokazi Nkabane 39:25

7.Amanda Nkomo 39:40

8.Refiloe Karreebos 40:36

9.Nonhle Dlamini 41:51

10.Thobeka Phungula 43:52

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