



CITY OF JOHANNESBURG
METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY



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MEDIA STATEMENT FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THE AFRICANBANK SOWETO MARATHON IS GOING AHEAD AS SCHEDULED

The Executive Mayor of the City of Johannesburg, Councillor Dada Morero, emphatically assures all runners, residents, sponsors, partners, and supporters that the 2025 AfricanBank Soweto Marathon — proudly branded as The People’s Race — will take place as planned on Saturday, 29 November 2025. Despite recent unfounded speculation regarding the marathon’s status, we clearly state: there will be no disruption, no cancellation, and no threat to this iconic event. All operational plans, city logistics, safety deployments, and service-delivery preparations are confirmed and running on schedule. The Soweto Marathon is not just a sporting event; it is a historic and cultural touchstone for Johannesburg and South Africa. It embodies resilience, unity, and the unbreakable spirit of Soweto.

As the host city, we are fully committed to ensuring that athletes from around the globe will have a safe, seamless, and unforgettable experience. Following our successful hosting of the G20 Summit — the first ever on African soil — Johannesburg has shown that it can deliver world-class events. Our dedicated teams from Johannesburg Emergency Management Services, Joburg Water, the Johannesburg Roads Agency, City Power, Pikitup, and the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department are actively engaged in meeting all operational, safety, and service-delivery requirements for the marathon. The race route, which winds through Soweto’s historic streets and includes significant landmarks such as Chris Hani Baragwanath Hospital, Regina Mundi, Vilakazi Street, the Hector Pieterse Memorial, Orlando Stadium, and the former home of Mama Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, is fully secured and ready for race day.

African Bank has reaffirmed its complete support for the marathon. Sbusiso Kumalo, Chief Marketing Officer of African Bank, asserts:

“African Bank is not merely sponsoring a race — we are investing in the heartbeat of Soweto. Every runner, every supporter, every family member contributes to the economic vitality of this community. We are rooted here, having been established 60 years ago, and we are proud of our heritage. We are here to celebrate our legacy — the connection between African Bank and Soweto is undeniable. The African Bank Soweto Marathon is more than just a race; it is a movement that aims to alter the course of unemployment and economic hardship. We run alongside our people, through good times and tough times, and in return, we support this race. Together, let’s make this the largest marathon on the continent and showcase what Soweto can achieve for South Africa’s economy.”

The City recognises and values the ongoing partnership with African Bank and all sponsors and organisers. Their unwavering commitment is vital to strengthening Soweto’s local economy, enhancing sports tourism, and supporting the creative and small-business sectors. The City remains steadfast in its support for the AfricanBank Soweto Marathon as a crucial component of

our broader strategy to build a resilient, liveable, and inclusive Johannesburg, in line with the Growth and Development Strategy 2040. To all runners: lace up with absolute confidence. To all spectators: Soweto warmly welcomes you. The People's Race continues — and it is stronger than ever.

ISSUED BY THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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