



Soweto Marathon winner Onalenna Khonkhobe is among the favourites for the men's race. /Antonio Muchave

MEN'S RACE IN 2025 COMRADES IS OPEN CONTEST

● Wiersma, Dijana, Mothibi and Khonkhobe among favourites to win the 49th edition of the Down Run

By NEVILLE KHOZA

With the 98th edition of the Comrades Marathon taking place on Sunday, the question is which athlete will win the men's race? Unlike the women's race, where Gerda Steyn is the clear favourite to claim the title, the men's race is wide open, with one runner from the Nedbank Running Club likely to walk away with the title.

The club has been successful in the men's race in the past, and manager Nick Bester is optimistic they have enough depth to dominate the Down Run again. More than 22,000 runners will hit the road from Pietermaritzburg to Durban, starting at City Hall and ending at People's Park. Last year's winner, Piet Wiersma, 27, will be up against Down Run defending champion Tete Dijana, 37, and former winner of the Up Run, Edward Mothibi, 40. Onalenna Khonkhobe, 27, who won the Two Oceans and Soweto marathons last year, is also one of the Nedbank Running Club athletes to look out for. "I'm confident, but anything can happen," Bester told Sowetan yesterday.

"I think we've got the most depth out of all the clubs. We don't concentrate on one or two athletes, we focus on a big team of Comrades runners. We make sure all of them are well prepared, so if one, the favourite, had a bad day, number two got sick, number three got an injury, number four is not mentally well

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Nick Bester, Nedbank Running Club manager

prepared, then number five should come through. "We support a big number of Comrades runners because we know the race is the most important in the country, and that's why we get well prepared. "So, I'm expecting to be victorious on that day." Bester said he expects both Wiersma and Dijana to put up a fight, but that anyone from his elite team is capable of turning the tables. "The ones that want the race the most, the ones who are mentally strongest on the day, will win. That's a deciding factor at Comrades, the one who will be mentally prepared [the best]," he said. "I can't decide for the athletes, they will choose themselves who will win the race. Wiersma was very strong last year. He was complaining that the guys were not picking up the pace in the beginning, and that's why he missed the record. "But, also, you must think about the down run because down and up are different things."

THEMBISILE HANI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY



BIDS ARE HEREBY INVITED FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT:

Tender No	Description	CIDB Grading	Compulsory Briefing	Technical Enquiries	Availability of Tender Documents	Closing Date
THLM/SCM33/2024-2025/RS02	Construction of Boekenhouthoek (Mohlamonyane) Bus Road	7CE or Higher	12 June 2025 @ 10H00 Venue: Municipal Shelter	Mr. S. Kalipa T: 013 986 9179 E: KalipaS@thembisilehanilm.gov.za	10 June 2025 @ 08H00	11 July 2025 @ 12H00

Prospective Service Providers are encouraged to download the tender documents from the E-Tenders Portal according to the dates indicated above at www.etenders.co.za. The only time hard copies will be made available is if there are technical challenges from the E-Tenders portal.

Cash and EFT payments will be accepted and must be made payable to Thembisile Hani Local Municipality only for hard copy tender documents, any tender documents which are downloaded from the E-Tender portal are free of charge, the price per document is not applicable to them. Sealed envelopes marked with the tender number as indicated above, must be placed in the bid box at the Municipality's Offices, Stand Number 24, Mthombomuhle (Kwaggafontein C), no later than 12h00 on the above-mentioned dates.

Please take note that no bid documents will be given to couriers unless the courier company is in the possession of a letter on an official letterhead, confirming on behalf of the company the full details of the specific bid(s) to be collected and the payment of the full amount payable for bids is required.

The Council reserves the rights to either accept the whole or part of any bid, or not to appoint. Facsimiles or e-mailed documents will not be accepted. No awards will be made to a person who:

- Is in the service of the state,
- If that person is not a natural person, of which any director, manager, principal shareholder or stakeholder is a person in the service of state, and/ or
- Who is an advisor or consultant contracted with the municipality or municipal entity.

A Preferential Point system shall apply whereby a contract will be allocated to a bidder in accordance with the Preferential Procurement Policy Framework Act, Act No 5 of 2000 and as defined in the Conditions of Tender in the tender document, read in conjunction with the Supply Chain Management Policy of Thembisile Hani Local Municipality and the Preferential Procurement Regulations of 2022 where 80/20 points system will be applied wherein **80 points** are for price and **20** for Specific Goals.

SCM Enquiries: Ms. L.S. Sehlako through 013 986 9187, Email: SehlakoL@thembisilehanilm.gov.za and/ or Ms. P.V. Sibiya through 013 986 9153, Email: SibiyaP@thembisilehanilm.gov.za.

Municipal Manager – Mr. D.J.D. Mahlangu