



LOCALS EYE VICTORY IN TWO OCEANS!

By CHARLES BALOYI

IT'S called the world's most beautiful marathon and it takes place this Easter weekend!

More than 27 000 runners will line the streets of Cape Town for the Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon on Saturday.

The City of Cape Town is in the midst of a water crisis and there will therefore be no showers at the finish line, but the race will still have a full house – the event is sold out.

While many holidaymakers are still making their way to the Mother City, several big-name runners have confirmed their participation in the 49th edition of the Two Oceans.

A whopping R250 000 is up for grabs for the two 56km ultra marathon winners, while the fastest man and woman over 21,1km will pocket R25 000 each.

Another R1 million will go to any runner able to break the men's or women's record in the ultra marathon. It has remained unclaimed since 2014.

Thompson Magawana's record of 1988 and Frith van der Merwe's record achieved in 1989 are still standing. Magawana clocked 3:03:44 in 1988, while Van der Merwe stopped the clock on 3:30:36 a year later.

The Nedbank running club has announced that it will take its own water along from Joburg as a sign of support in light of Cape Town's water crisis.

The Two Oceans Marathon is regarded as a dress rehearsal for the Comrades Marathon taking place in Durban on 10 June.

Two-times Two Oceans winner Mike Fokoroni of Zimbabwe is the leading contender for the men's title, while former Comrades Marathon winner Charne Bosman will attempt to add another victory to her tally in the women's race. Bosman has already won two marathons, the Johnson Crane marathon and the Bestmed Tuks Race, and says she is up to the task of winning her maiden Two Oceans title.

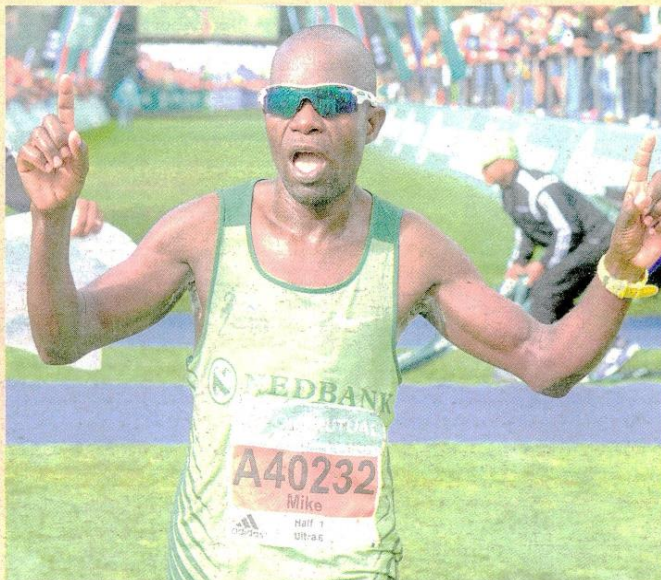
Two Oceans defending champion Lungile Gongqa, Ludwick Mamabolo and Claude Moshiywa are some of the big-name locals taking part in the men's race, while past winners Lebenya Nkoka (2014) and David Gabede (2013), will know what it takes to win this tough ultra marathon.

Caroline Wostmann, who became the first woman to win the Comrades and the Two Oceans in the same year, is back from injury and ready to show her competitors a clean pair of heels.

But she will face a challenge from locals Jenna Challenor and Tanith Maxwell, as well as international runners Dominika Stelmach (Poland) and Lindsey Scherf (USA).

Said Fokoroni: "I'm here to take back what belongs to me. This is my title. I'm confident I'm going to win again. But that record is tough to break."

Bosman said: "I feel good and ready to win!"



Mike Fokoroni of Zimbabwe and Charne Bosman (below) are hot favourites for this year's Two Oceans race in Cape Town this weekend.

Photos by Gallo Images

