



GAUTENG PROVINCE

SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE AND RECREATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To: All media

Attention: News and Editors/Journalists

Date: 05 November 2019

MEC SENDS CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF THE SOWETO MARATHON RUNNER WHO DIED FEW METERS BEFORE THE FINISH LINE

The Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation is saddened by the untimely death of a colleague from Gauteng Community Safety who died during the 2019 Old Mutual Soweto Marathon.

The 33-year-old athlete, who participated in the 21km run, collapsed a few meters before the finish line and was immediately treated by paramedic. He was taken to hospital where he later passed.

It is the first time that the Soweto Marathon experienced such tragic loss of life. The department and marathon organizers are in touch with the family of the deceased.

"We are extremely saddened by the passing of government official who collapsed during the race. On behalf of the Gauteng Provincial Government, we extend our heartfelt condolences to the family, colleagues and friends. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to his family. May his soul rest in eternal peace," said MEC Mbali Hlophe.

At this stage we do not know what might have caused his death. The emergency medical staff treated a higher number of people for dehydration and heat-related illnesses on the day than previously.

"We hope the investigation by relevant authorities will provide us with more answers into circumstances surrounding his death", added MEC Hlophe.

ENDS...

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**Issued by the Gauteng Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and
Recreation**