01 March 2016

## REGISTRATIONS FOR FREE STATE OR TAMBO MARATHON OPEN

The Free State Department of Sport, Arts, Culture and Recreation is proud to announce that registrations for the inaugural Free State OR Tambo Marathon are now open. The Free State OR Tambo marathon is a first of its kind to be hosted at the heart of South Africa in the historic city of Bloemfontein.

Named after one of South Africa's architects of freedom and democracy, Oliver Reginald Tambo, it is expected that this marathon will draw a large number of athletes locally and internationally to compete for lucrative prizes that are up for crabs. The inaugural Free State OR Tambo marathon is said to be the second largest marathon in terms of prizes awarded to winners and is set to be a premium event on South Africa's annual sporting calendar.

The objective of the Free State OR Tambo marathon is to enhance and promote social cohesion, promote nation building and national identity, and encourage healthy life style.

Participants will compete in three categories, namely the 42.2 KM race, 21.1 KM race, and 10 KM race. The Free State OR Tambo marathon will take place on **Saturday, 16 April 2016** from the Free State Sport Science Institute (FSSSI) to the Dr. Rantlai Molemela Stadium. The prize money for the Free State OR Tambo 42.2 KM marathon ranges from R350 000 to R10 000. Both first position male and female winners will each bag the R350 000 prize, while the rest of the top ten winners take home prizes ranging from R100 000 to R10 000.

For the 21.1 KM race, the first position winner will bag the R50 000 prize, while the rest of the top ten winners take home prizes ranging from R30 000 to R 700 while the 10 KM first position winner bags the R10 000 prize money and other top five winners take home prizes ranging from R 8 000 to R1 000.

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It is also important to note that there are other prizes in store for winners. These include the High Performance Training and Nutrition package at the FSSSI, promotional material hampers, lucky draw prizes, and T-shirts. Registration for the participation at the inaugural Free State OR Tambo Marathon is open until 04 April 2016. Registration forms are available online at <a href="www.fssacr.gov.za">www.fssacr.gov.za</a>.

A media briefing will be hosted to launch the event as follows:

Date : 09 March 2016

Time : 10:00

**Venue** : The Edge Restaurant (Naval Hill – Bloemfontein)

All media houses are invited to the briefing.

"The Free State O.R. Tambo Marathon was conceptualized to celebrate the spirit of Comrade Oliver Reginald Manyane Tambo in appreciation and recognition of the sacrifice and contribution made by this gallant in our country's struggle for freedom. Comrade Tambo had a vision of a free, fair and equal society, and we celebrate him through this marathon." said MEC Mathabo Leeto.

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