



**MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

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**MEDIA STATEMENT**

**13 April 2023**

**TWO OCEANS TO BOOST MOTHER CITY TOURISM**

The Minister of Tourism, Patricia De Lille, warmly welcomes all participants to the 2023 Totalsports Two Oceans Marathon. This marathon remains a bucket list item for most runners and takes place in the beautiful province of the Western Cape.

As always, we stand ready to host the 53<sup>rd</sup> edition of this iconic race. As one of its premier annual events, the Totalsports Two Oceans Marathon is the Africa's biggest running event by economic impact, contributing R672 million annually to the Western Cape economy. It has earned a reputation as the world's most beautiful marathon. The first race was held in 1970 and saw 26 runners line up to face the unknown challenge. Since then, the race has become a national institution and a firm favourite with all athletes.

Attracting over 20 000 local and international participants for the half and ultra-marathon, this weekend will see the route filled with bright colours as runners take on the challenge once again.

Ultra marathon runners will begin the race in Newlands heading out towards Noordhoek, followed by the sea view from Chapman's Peak, before the big climb up Suikerbossie Pass and eventually crossing the finish line at UCT rugby fields. Participants consistently agree that the event is one of the best in South Africa and it continues to attract strong fields and an increasing number of international entrants. En-route entertainment on the race day provides fun, excitement, and a unique experience to runners, family, friends, and spectators alike.

This event works to empower and grow individuals and communities, values teamwork, relationships and building win-win partnerships as well as to embrace diversity and values the contribution of all its team members.

Runners filter into town and tourists visit the local restaurants and popular running routes. The Western Cape is a melting pot of immersive tourism experiences with something for everyone.

Minister de Lille said: “I encourage all runners and visitors to visit iconic and picturesque sights attractions and grab a Sho't Left while you are here and enjoy all the beauty and vibrancy Cape Town has to offer”.

From professional athlete to first-time participant – crowd support is always appreciated and for many, the unconditional cheering is what gets them through the race. True to its moniker, the Mother City in all its splendour, will host and house the world this weekend – at the tip of Southern Africa, where two oceans meet.

“I wish all runners good luck and may the inherent race spirit of camaraderie, courage and commitment prevail. On your marks, get set and go,” Minister de Lille said.

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