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All Media Houses

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### BTC successfully delivers the 3<sup>rd</sup> Francistown Marathon

Botswana Telecommunications Corporation Limited (BTC) successfully hosted and delivered the 3<sup>rd</sup> Francistown Marathon at Obed Itani Chilume Stadium this weekend. The BTC Francistown Marathon, which is deemed a significant pivotal event in the local sporting calendar, brought together thousands of athletes, enthusiastic participants, spectators and other key stakeholders together in celebration of community spirit and partnerships into the vibrant city of Francistown.

This year's marathon witnessed the participation of over 3100 runners, who competed across distances such as: 5km, 10km, 21km, 42km and wheel chair athletes. The diverse field of participants showcased the inclusive nature of the event, welcoming individuals of all ages and backgrounds to join in the pursuit of fitness and personal achievement.

Giving the key remarks, the Assistant Minister of Trade and Industry, Honourable Beauty Manake applauded "the efforts of the Government in its commitment to commercialising and professionalising sports through strategic investments, such as the construction of mini stadiums aimed at improving sports infrastructure and developing grassroots talent". Furthermore, she extended her appreciation to the private sector for "their invaluable contribution to the Government's efforts in sports development and commercialization". She emphasised that, "together we can harness the potential of sports to not only create employment opportunities but also to enhance our global standing as a destination for sporting events".

Delivering his welcome remarks, the Mayor of Francistown, His Worship Godisang Radisigo emphasised the profound impact of the marathon stating, "The BTC Francistown Marathon serves as a rallying point, bringing together people from all walks of life, transcending barriers and fostering a sense of unity and togetherness." The event has become more than just a race, "it's a platform for forging friendships, strengthening bonds, and enriching the social fabric of the city" said Radisigo. He also stated that "since its inception, the BTC Francistown Marathon has evolved into a cherished tradition within the Francistown community".

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Giving the overview of the marathon, the BTC Managing Director Mr. Anthony Masunga highlighted BTC's commitment to community empowerment and social impact. "Our participation in the marathon demonstrates our steadfast commitment to having a positive influence on our communities", he said. He further stated that "the BTC Francistown Marathon is a manifestation of our dedication to promoting education and a healthier, more active society". Below is a highlight of the outstanding performances of the winners in each category, whose determination and skill exemplified the spirit of sporting excellence;

The 42.2km seniors race category female was won by Sheila Saina who walked away with P35,000, followed by Abigail Jerop who won P25,000 while Monicah Jekroriro walked away with P15,000 on position 3. The male category was won by Lyno Muchera who pocketed P35,000. On second position was Andrew Kiprop who won P25,000 while Amos K. Kemboi took third position and won P15,000.

The 42.2km masters category female was won by Keamogetse Magodu pocketing P7,500. The second position went to Lorato Oabile with P5,000 and third position was taken by Tebogo William with a prize money of P2,500. On the males' side, the first position was clinched by Albat Kangor walking away with the prize money of P7,500 and followed by Leonard Koki on second position who scooped P5,000 while position three was clinched by Julius Monyeki, walking away with P2,500. Gofaone Letshelaphala who participated in the 10km wheelchair race category won P7, 500.00.

The success of the 3<sup>rd</sup> BTC Francistown Marathon 2024 reaffirms its status as a cornerstone of community unity, athletic prowess and social progress. As the event continues to grow in stature and impact, sponsors and organisers remain committed to fostering a culture of health, wellness and inclusivity for all.

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