

# Tanzanians very distant in Long-Distance Running

By Moses John  
Dar es Salaam

THE word Kilimanjaro turns our minds back to the highest mountain peak in Africa and one of the loftiest on planet Earth, yet at least 4,500 runners from across the world were taking part in an annual challenge under the foot hills of this African roof top - Mount

champions in the tournament were Kenyans, for instance, in the full marathon, the winner, first runner-up and second runner-up were all Kenyan, moreover in both full and half marathons many positions were occupied by them.

Stephen Kibiwott Chebogut says "I am happy to win this tournament, although there were challenges which I think added

And yet we cannot stay far from names like Suleiman Nyambui, Juma Ikangaa, Kidamis Shahanga and Filbert Bayi in long distance running in this country, because these were heroes of the nation when they did wonders at the international level.

For the Kilimanjaro Marathon is an opportunity for Tanzanians to figure in the competition so that

nyans do.

Frida Lodeba the twenty-eight year-old young lady who, also a Kenyan, won the half marathon title says: "I am happy to win this title again, although this is not the first time I have won such a race, in fact I also won last year's Bangkok marathon and that was a full marathon - this is like my bit of practice for that big tournament this June - in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia".

A corporate runner for the half marathon from Tanga Cement, Michael Chikoma, said: "Amazing that when I was about six kilometers along the route I met with the first full marathon runner for the 42 kilometres on the way back, he passed me like a jet airplane, then while I was still going at about eight kilometers I was crossed by this young lady also coming back, actually it is really these people who are the professionals, both the boy and the lady".

He said "I am still thrilled to have taken part in this year's tournament because I'm getting experience anyway, and I'm happy too because I've done what I set out to do in this corporate running race."

Athletics Tanzania Assistant Secretary-General, Julius Msomi, said earlier: "The Kilimanjaro Marathon 2010 will once again be a showcase of the country's top long-distance talent, where some of the big Tanzanian marathon super stars, like Samwel Kwaang, Patrick Nyangero, Banuelia Brington and Jumanne Tluway will participate in this year's tour-



Some Kilimanjaro Marathon 2010 runners in action

Kilimanjaro.

It was a cool Sunday, Moshi town was surrounded by clouds, the Kibo peak itself indeed was covered - then at twenty minutes past six, great noises were heard and the pistol shots indicated the start of the 42.2 kilometre full marathon, for Kilimanjaro 2010.

Here I can only write of two big names, since I did special exclusive interviews with them, Stephen Kibiwott Chebogut, a Kenyan youth of 25 years who won the 42.2 kilometre full marathon in only 2:14hrs, and Frida Lodeba also a Kenyan but a young lady of 28, the winner of the 21 kilometre half marathon.

The Kilimanjaro Marathons this year was dominated by Kenyan runners, not only Steven and Frida but also a great number of

some minutes to my race, for instance we were not given water in bottles, instead they gave it us in these kind of cups which take some seconds to use for drinking while running; if this were to be modernized maybe I would have finished sooner."

This is was the first time Chebogut had taken part in the Kilimanjaro Marathon, although he had participated in another three major marathons in Kenya, the first tournament in his country he finished in 2:43 and the second, which was the Kass marathon held at Eldoret, he finished in 2:23 and the third marathon he knocked off in 2:26.

Now he had won the title for the Kilimanjaro 2010 in 2:14 hours, where are the Tanzanians to show the flag in such trials of distance running, at the moment?

they can bring home prizes and learn more as well as creating an image and an example for young Tanzanians, yet there are still low numbers of our countrymen who win the super trophies, whilst there is also very low promotion in long running races at the moment in this country.

Most of the companies and institutions which might sponsor such sports are not engaged in promoting new talents, although some are trying their best to revive the distance running in this fair land of ours. From such a situation, the great question is what is happening in Kenya?

No doubt that most Tanzanians do love football more than other sports, but we have to invest in other sports not only football, so that other talents may be created and developed like our fellow Ke-



Stephen Kibiwott Chebogut - winner of 42.2 km

naments to race on the foothills of Mt Kilimanjaro".

The winners of the full Marathon this year were one hundred percent Kenyans, not only the champion Steven Chebogut but the first runner-up David Kipromo and second runner-up Julius Tumakui were all from Kenya, so Chebogut got a three million shilling reward as the victor of the Kilimanjaro 42 kilometre full marathon.

The guest of honour at this year's tournament was Prime Minister Mizengo Pinda, accompanied by Deputy Minister, Ministry of Information, Culture and Sports Joel Bendera, who witnessed the start of the race early in the morning at the stadium.

It is the time for Tanzanians to learn through our fellows how they accomplish their triumphs, so as to implement the same, even more so that we can also revive our long distance races, because this country was also in a high position in those former years, but the light has disappeared to the end of the tunnel.

It is the responsibility of all of us to play our part so that we can make changes, because together we can make it, let's start today and not tomorrow because tomorrow is forever.

The Kilimanjaro Marathon 2010 race was sponsored by Kilimanjaro Premium Lager, Vodacom, Tanzania Tourist Board, Tanga Cement, DT Dobie, New Africa Hotel, Goodyear Tyres, Tanzanite One, KK Security, Keys Hotel, TPC Sugar and Kilimanjaro Water.



Frida Lodeba - Winner of half Marathon 21km