

ATHLETICS | Marseille Classic Road race champion floors field of over 1,000 competitors

Kibarus wins Shoe4Africa annual women's race in Iten

Best placed athlete who hasn't travelled abroad wins ipad as top 12 finishers get cash prizes

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Marseille Cassis Road Race champion Mercy Kibarus outclassed other runners to win the Eighth Shoe4Africa Women's Road Race in Iten yesterday.

Kibarus clocked 16 minutes and 45.79 seconds to come out top while Valentine Kibet finished second in 16.57.32 and Diana Chepkemoi was third in 17.01.47.

In a battle of resilience by young and seasoned athletes, close to 1,000 women runners braved the cool breeze from the Keiyo escarpment that perfectly blended with the Christmas carols seeping through speakers at the race venue.

It was all sporty as cyclists embraced their dodgy skills on the edges of the meandering course, while paragliders ruled the air space with a breathtaking display from the skies, thrilling and stunning sports lovers in this athletics-rich town.

Jepleting Busienel, the recipient of an ipad from race organisers as the leading athlete who hasn't competed outside Kenya, came fourth in 17.05.1. Gladys Kwambai (17.10.07), Cynthia Limo (17.11.93), Hellah Kiprop (17.12.94), Florence Chepsoi (17.15.17), Irene Jebet (17.16.51), Magdalene Chemjor (17.17.62), Esther Jemutai (17.18.32) and Ruth Matebo (17.20.16) followed in that order.

But after failing to impress in Tuskeys Wareng Cross Country, Kibarus said she was waiting to show her op-

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Mercy Kibarus



ponents a clean pair of heels in the race. "I have been training well for the race, although I wasn't quite confident I would emerge as the winner, considering the free registration that encouraged other great road racers to participate," said Kibarus.

The winners took home \$500, with \$300 for second place and \$200 for third, with the prizes trickling down to 12th place.

Athletics Kenya vice president, Jack Tuwei, said AK would work closely with Shoe4Africa's founder Toby Tanser to introduce the children fun run in the coming years.

"This race has played a critical role in nurturing girl-child athletic talent, only that the very young line-up with seasoned runners," Tuwei said.



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Above and left: Competitors during yesterday's Shoe4Africa women's race in Iten.