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

BY COPPERFIELD LAGAT

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Marseille Classic 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 Ribe finished second in 16:57.32 and Elena Chepngetich 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 Koiyatt 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 parachuters ruled the air space with a breathtaking display from the skies, thrilling and stunning sports lovers in this athletes-rich town.

Jeptalei Busieni, the recipient of an ipad from race organizers as the leading athlete who hasn't competed outside Kenya, came fourth in 17:05.1, Gladys Koech (17:06.07), Cynthia Limo (17:21.91), Hailah Kiplagat (17:28.94), Florence Chegweel (17:35.17), Irene Jebet (17:36.51), Magdalene Chemtai (17:37.52), Esther Kiprotich (17:42.33) and Ruth Matebo (17:43.36) followed in that order.

But after failing to impress in Turkana Warg鲜艳 Cross Country, Kibarus said she was waiting to show her opponents 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,”

Mercy Kibarus

The winners took home $300, 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.

“ать race has played a critical role in nurturing girl-child athletic talent, only that the very young line-up with seasoned runners,” Tuwe said.