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PRESS RELEASE

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Anticipating race records at the Volkswagen Prague Marathon

The start of this year's Volkswagen Prague Marathon will be displaying an impressive line-up of elite runners. But will the participating African runners succeed in smashing the current race records? Manager of Elite Athletes taking part the race, Jana Moberly certainly believes it's a distinct possibility: "We've got some top runners and, providing the weather conditions are right, we can start to think about this."

Albert Kiplagat Matebor is the number one and as such stands as the favourite to win. The 32-year old Kenyan running talent managed to complete the Frankfurt Marathon the year before last with a time of 2:05:25. Kiptanui's record in Prague from 2010 is only 14 seconds behind this.

Matebor is back in top form after returning from a break. He earned his living work on a farm and enjoys spending his free time listening to Kenyan music. He triumphed at the famous Gothenburg Half Marathon two years ago.

His compatriots Mariko Kiplagat Kipchumba (2:06:05) and Benjamin Kolum Kiptoo (2:06:31) aren't too far behind him however. "They can all mutually help each other push past the 2:06 boundary," Jana Moberly predicts.

Philemon Limo also features on the list of top stars having secured himself a number of fantastic times on Czech soil from half marathon courses as well as the 10 km Mattoni Grand Prix race which he still holds the record for with a time of 27:34.

The Eritrean pair Yonas Kifle (2:07:34) and Amanuel Mesel will surely also have their sights set on scooping up superior times than their counterparts. At just 22, Mesel who recently gave current world record holder, Zersenay Tadese a good run for his money at the Hervis Prague Half Marathon, will be making his debut marathon performance at this race.

In terms of the women, everyone in Prague right up to its cobblestones, will be looking forward to welcoming the much-exalted 35 year old Kenyan athlete, Lydia Cheromei (2:21:30 from last year in Dubai). Already picking up the Junior Championship title in cross-country running at the tender age of thirteen, Lydia took part in the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 as well as the Sydney Olympics in 2000. The year before last, she broke the race records in Prague for both the half marathon and marathon distances. And as if this weren't



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enough, last year she also emerged as the 4th greatest world champion running the half marathon course.

“Lydia taking part is something we can interpret as a seal of quality. She started off rather late this year, however once again chose Prague despite receiving offers from other prestigious marathons. She certainly won’t be running alone, a total of five women will be chasing after their dreams to smash the record,” the manager of elite runners adds. The current race record stands at 2:22:34.

It’s also worth watching out for two other Kenyan names- Caroline Rotich, who emerged with a fantastic result from the New York Half Marathon and Philes Ongori. The Ethiopian squad will be made up of Koren Jelela (2:22:43) and Ehitu Kiros (2:23:39).

In addition to the above, the line-up of elite runners will also include first-class athletes hailing from Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Estonia, Switzerland, Great Britain, Japan, Russia, Ukraine, Ireland and Hungary.

It also looks likely we’ll be in for an interesting spectacle when it comes to seeing local runners battle it out for the Czech Championship title. While Olympian runner, Jan Kreisinger won’t be taking part this year after deciding focus on shorter distances instead, in his place we have Petr Pechek, who has managed to complete the course under 2:10. Aside from road races, both have a number of successes under their belt in uphill running and trails.

There’s also a chance he may be caught up by the half marathon course champion and holder of this year’s best time, Vít Pavlišta (who has previously managed to complete the marathon course in 2:20:42) and Jiří Homoláč who emerged as the best local runner at the Hervis Prague Half Marathon held in April and who last year completed the marathon in 2:21:06.

Also taking part in the race is the Czech-Slovak long-distance runner and participant at two Olympic Games, Róbert Štefko. The 43-year old trainer for Kreisinger as well as others previously managed to complete the marathon in 2:09:53 which has earned him genuine admiration from his successors.

In terms of the women, Ostrava-based mother of three, Petra Pastorová supported by entrusted trainer, the legendary record holder Alena Peterková, will also be keen to show what she’s got. So far her best time is 2:39:42. A possible challenger for her could present itself in the form of mother and trail runner, Radka Churaňová.



TOP 10 Men:

	Nat	Name	Surname	Born	PB
1	KEN	Albert Kiplagat	MATEBOR	20.12.1980	2:05:25
2	KEN	Mariko Kiplagat	KIPCHUMBA	1.1.1975	2:06:05
3	ERI	Amanuel	MESEL	29.12.1990	debut
4	KEN	Benjamin Kolum	KIPTOO	1.1.1979	2:06:31
5	KEN	Julius Ndiritu	KARINGA	1.1.1976	2:08:01
6	ETH	Girmay	BIRHANU	27.1.1987	2:08:11
7	ERI	Yonas	KIFLE	5.11.1977	2:07:34
8	KEN	Philemon Kimeli	LIMO	2.8.1985	2:09:25
9	ETH	Teshome	GELANA	31.10.1985	2:07:37
10	KEN	Julius Arile	LOMERINYANG	15.6.1983	2:12:13

TOP 10 Women:

	Nat	Name	Surname	Born	PB
1	KEN	Lydia	CHEROMEI	11.5.1977	2:21:30
2	ETH	Koren	JELELA	18.1.1987	2:22:43
3	KEN	Caroline	ROTICH	13.5.1984	2:23:22
4	ETH	Ehitu	KIROS	13.1.1988	2:23:39
5	KEN	Philes	ONGORI	19.6.1986	2:24:20
6	JAP	Azusa	NOJIRI	6.6.1982	2:24:57
8	ETH	Selomie	GETNET	10.4.1986	2:25:15
9	RUS	Tatyana	ARYASOVA	2.4.1979	2:26:13
10	UKR	Yulia	RUBAN	6.10.1983	2:27:10

Should you be interested in any further information, please contact:

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Notes for editors:

The RunCzech running league

The RunCzech running league brings together all the prestigious Prague races organized under the Prague International Marathon heading, along with races in selected regions of the Czech Republic organized by tempo team prague, and collectively known as the RunCzech races. This series of races spanning the whole Czech Republic allows all those involved to combine their passion for running with a love for travel.

During the course of 2012, 64,043 runners from all over the world took part in the RunCzech running league. This created a prestigious running ranking system for the 34,346 people participating in competitive runs allowing them to measure their results against other runners in categories according to sex, age, and the new grouping by professions.

In 2013 the RunCzech running league includes the following races:

- Hervis Prague Half Marathon (April 6th)
- Volkswagen Prague Marathon (May 12th)
- Mattoni Karlovy Vary Half Marathon (May 25th) – a new race in 2013
- Mattoni České Budějovice Half Marathon (June 8th)
- Mattoni Olomouc Half Marathon (June 22nd)
- Prague Grand Prix (September 7th)
- Mattoni Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon (September 15th)
- And the host race the Košice International Peace Marathon (October 6th)

An eighth race will be added to the RunCzech running league in 2014, at which point capacity is expected to reach 81 000 runners, completing the project.

Boasting a total of five IAAF Road Race Label awards, organizers of the RunCzech running league have received more of these accolades than any other group in the world which attests to the first-rate standards of the organization.

These awards include:

- The IAAF Road Race Gold Label for the Hervis Prague Half Marathon
- The IAAF Road Race Gold Label for the Volkswagen Prague Marathon
- The IAAF Road Race Silver Label for the 10 km Run featured as part of the Prague Grand Prix
- The IAAF Road Race Silver Label for the Olomouc Half Marathon – new in 2013
- The IAAF Road Race Silver Label for the Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon - new in 2013

Prague International Marathon, spol. s r.o.

Prague International Marathon spol. s r.o. ("PIM") was set up in 1995 by Carlo Capalbo, President of the Company with the aim of organizing a large-scale international marathon on the streets of Prague. A total of 958 runners made it to the start line of that first race. Since then, PIM's activities have burgeoned into a whole series of running events referred to as the RunCzech running league.

The Volkswagen Prague Marathon ranks among the top 10 world marathons taking place in one of the most beautiful locations. The 2012 race attracted 9 057 competing runners from all over the world. Since 1999 we have also been organizing the Prague Half Marathon along with the the Prague Grand Prix races over shorter courses. In 2012 the Hervis Prague Half Marathon became the year's fastest half-marathon in the world! The Ethiopian runner, Atsedu Tsegay completed it in the event record time of 58:47.

Races organised by PIM are sponsored by some of the largest companies in the Czech Republic; Volkswagen, adidas, Hervis and Mattoni. The whole organization and atmosphere of the races has drawn a number of





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renowned names in the athletic world to the Czech Republic (the likes of Haile Gebrselassie, Stefano Baldini, Paul Tergat, Moses Tanui, Antonio Pinto and Patrick Makau), as well as thousands of visitors.

In addition to the above events, PIM also organizes the Junior Marathon for high school students. A relay race comprised of ten member teams which initially participate in regional rounds, the winners will proceed to the final as part of the Volkswagen Prague Marathon, scheduled for Sunday May 12th 2013.

tempo team prague s.r.o.

tempo team is dedicated to developing marathon races along with other running events held in Europe. It was established in 2000 by a group of experts and sporting enthusiasts. The term “tempo” is derived from the name of the organization “The European Marathon Promotion Organization”.

tempo team’s activities entail concept creation, brand building, and marketing as well as the actual organization of sporting events. Right from the start, tempo team has played a key role in organizing the Prague marathon as well as developing the RunCzech Running series.

tempo team is the name of the main organizer of races taking place in various regions under the RunCzech running league heading comprising the České Budějovice Half Marathon, the Olomouc Half Marathon, the Ústí nad Labem Half Marathon and most recently the Karlovy Vary Half Marathon.

