



PRESS RELEASE

23 April 2014

## Moses Mosop faces defending champion Nicholas Kemboi in Prague

The defending champion and course record holder are among a contingent of strong rivals for Moses Mosop when he runs the Volkswagen Prague Marathon on May 11. While the participation of this outstanding talent from Kenya has long been announced, the line-up of his toughest rivals is now known. They include last year's winner Nicholas Kemboi (Qatar) and the Kenyan Eliud Kiptanui, who holds the race record of 2:05:39. The field has impressive strength in depth with eight men who have run under 2:08 and a further six with 2:10 to their credit. The women's field includes Firehiwot Dado of Ethiopia, the 2011 New York Marathon champion. The race presents a tantalising prospect in the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the Volkswagen Prague Marathon which is an IAAF Gold Label Race, the top category of road races awarded by the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF).

"I think this is an elite field fit to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We can look forward to a great race and hope to have times of around 2:06 in the men's race. If the weather is good, the race record of Eliud Kiptanui might even be in danger," said Jana Moberly, who is the co-ordinator for the elite field at the Volkswagen Prague Marathon.

Moses Mosop is the second fastest marathoner of all time with his 2:03:06, run in Boston in 2011 although the course does not confirm to record regulations. Now recovered from a knee injury, he hopes to run between 2:06 and 2:07 in Prague. Taking into account the opposition, this should make for an exciting contest. The race record holder Eliud Kiptanui caused a sensation in winning the 2010 race with 2:05:39. The Kenyan hasn't been able to get close to that kind of time in his recent marathons but others on the start list might well have a chance of doing so. Among them is last year's winner Nicholas Kemboi, who ran 2:08:51 for victory in very warm conditions and hasn't run a marathon since. Kemboi, born in Kenya and running for Qatar since 2005, has a best of 2:08:01. Another expected of making a major advance is Patrick Terer. The Kenyan's personal best is 2:08:51 and he finished third last year in 2:10:10 but that was after problems with a visa meant he only arrived at short notice in Prague. "I'll come back and win," was Terer's promise after the race.

Terer has lived up to the first part of his promise in returning to race this year, but making good the second part will be a tough proposition. Apart from Mosop and Kiptanui there are another four athletes who have already run under 2:07: the Ethiopians Dadi Yami (2:05:41) and Deresa Chimsa (2:05:42) who both ran their personal bests in Dubai in 2012, as well as the Kenyans Nicholas Manza (2:06:34) and Nicholas Kipkemboi (2:06:35). A total of 14 runners entered have best times under 2:10



which highlights the potential drama in Prague on May 11. Only the prestigious Boston Marathon this spring had more runners with personal bests under 2:10.

Two women take centre stage in considering the women's field: Firehiwot Dado and Flomena Chepchirchir. Dado of Ethiopia enjoyed the biggest success of her career so far when she won the New York Marathon in November 2011, setting what remains her personal best of 2:23:15. Beating her personal best in Prague is the objective for the woman who has won the Rome Marathon for three consecutive years (2009 to 2011). She showed good form in January this year, finishing third in the Dubai Marathon. She ran the Sportisimo Prague Half Marathon at the beginning of April, using the opportunity to become more familiar with conditions in the Czech capital along the way to finishing ninth in 71:15.

"Firehiwot Dado is in the form to run a personal best," said Jana Moberly, who has also been able to recruit Flomena Chepchirchir at short notice. The Kenyan has been producing strong consistent performances under 2:25 in recent years and dropped out of the Boston Marathon at 25 km on Easter Monday. If Boston turned out not to be her day, she is keen to show it was only a temporary setback when she runs in Prague where she finished second two years ago. She ran her best of 2:23:00 when finishing second in Frankfurt last year.

Apart from the two favourites in Dado and Chepchirchir, another eight women have personal bests under 2:30 and will be on the start line for the Volkswagen Prague Marathon.

#### Leading Men Contenders:

Moses Mosop	KEN	2:03:06
Eliud Kiptanui	KEN	2:05:39
Dadi Yami	ETH	2:05:41
Deresa Chimsa	ETH	2:05:42
Nicholas Manza	KEN	2:06:34
Nicholas Kipkemboi	KEN	2:06:35
Yared Asmerom	ERI	2:07:27
Teferi Kebede	ETH	2:07:32
Nicholas Kemboi	QAT	2:08:01
Abere Kassw	ETH	2:08:15
Dereje Tadesse	ETH	2:08:46
Patrick Terer	KEN	2:08:52
Kennedy Kwemai Naibei	KEN	2:09:54
Asmare Workneh	ETH	2:09:56

#### Leading Women Contenders:

Flomena Chepchirchir	KEN	2:23:00
Firehiwot Dado	ETH	2:23:15
Aberu Mekuria	ETH	2:26:07





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Yeshimebet Tadesse	ETH	2:26:17
Bethelhem Moges	ETH	2:26:42
Yuliya Ruban	UKR	2:27:00
Eunice Kales	KEN	2:27:19
Fantu Eticha	ETH	2:27:36
Beatrice Jepkemboi	KEN	2:27:41
Konjit Tilahun	ETH	2:28:11

Please Note: you may use the attached photo, showing last year's winner Nicholas Kemboi, only online and in conjunction with this press release with the following credit: Volkswagen Prague Marathon

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**Notes for editors:** <http://www.runczech.com/en/for-the-media/notes-for-editors/index.shtml>



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