



## Marius Kipserem and Ababel Yeshaneh Win First-Ever ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon

- **Men's elite race title awarded to Kenya's Marius Kipserem who beat his personal best with a time of 2:04:04**
- **Ethiopia's Ababel Yeshaneh crossed the finish line in 2:20:17 to take first place in the women's elite race**
- **Over 10,000 participants from across the world took part in the first-ever ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon**
- **World-class runners taking part in the inaugural event included Abraham Kiptum, Stanley Biwott, Gelete Burka, Eunice Chumba Chebichii, Ababel Yeshaneh, Helen Tola, Abera Kuma, Marius Kipserem and Merima Mohammed**
- **Elite wheelchair category won by Emirati Husain Al Mazam followed by Rashed Al Dhaheeri**

**Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates – December 7, 2018:** Kenya's Marius Kipserem and Ethiopia's Ababel Yeshaneh stormed the finish line to secure victories in the first-ever ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon this morning.

The event was attended by over 10,000 professional and novice runners who took part in the inaugural ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon across four race categories - 42k, 10k, 5k and 2.5k - and were able to take in the capital's iconic landmarks including Emirates Heritage Village and Qasr Al Hosn. In a special awards ceremony held outside the headquarters of the marathon's title sponsor, the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), the event's trophies were presented to first, second and third place male and female finishers in the 42k, 10k and wheelchair races. All participants who took part also received a congratulatory medal.





Beating his personal best, 2016 Rotterdam Marathon winner Marius Kipserem from Kenya crossed the finish line in a time of 2:04:04, securing his place in history as the first male winner of the ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon and recording the 12<sup>th</sup> best marathon time in the world. He was followed 12 seconds later by fellow Kenyan and half-marathon record holder Abraham Kiptum who also beat his personal best with a time of 2:04:16. The marathon's third place award went to Ethiopia's Dejena Gonfa who secured a time of 2:07:06.

Commenting after his win, Kipserem said: "I feel very good and happy because I ran my personal best today. The route was perfect and it was great weather."

In-form long-distance runner Ababel Yeshaneh from Ethiopia secured the first elite female victory at the ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon, storming the line with a time of 2:20:16. Bahrain's Eunice Chumba crossed in second place with a time of 2:20:54, the best performance by an Asian female athlete in 2018. Chumba was followed over the finish line by Ethiopian runner Gelete Burka with a time of 2:24:07.

Ababel Yeshaneh expressed her delight in winning the ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon: "I'm pleased with my result and personal best performance. It's my first time in Abu Dhabi and I was very happy with the route of the marathon."

Bahrain's Eunice Chumba commented: "I am proud and I ran a good time for second place. It was a competitive race and it is my first time in Abu Dhabi. Everyone is very friendly and I am so happy to be here."

Omar Suwaina Al Suwaidi, Executive Office Director at ADNOC, said: "ADNOC has been proud to play an integral part in bringing such an iconic event, the marathon, to Abu Dhabi. The UAE has long been recognized as one of the world's great destinations, now placing the ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon on the same map as all of the great marathon cities of the world. Thank you to everyone who made today's event a beautiful part of our great history."

H.E Aref Al Awani, General Secretary of Abu Dhabi Sports Council said: "Bringing a new world-class sports event to the city of Abu Dhabi has been an exciting and rewarding challenge. The success of the first edition of the ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon has been cemented with over 10,000 runners taking part across the four race categories and we aim to build on this in the coming years. A special mention and congratulations must go to the winners of today's races and to all the international athletes who travelled from across the world to be with us here today."





Richard Kimunyan and Abeba Semanew successfully completed the male and female 10k race respectively with a time of 28:21 and 32:40, followed by second and third place male and female finishers, Maxwell Rotich, Emily Kipchumba, Samir Jouaher and Anne-Mari Hyrylainen.

The elite wheelchair category was won by Husain Al Mazam followed by Rashed Al Dhaheri, both from the UAE, and the 10k by Abdollah Fard, Abdulla Al Ghaferi and Theban Al Mheiri.

Andrea Trabuio, Race Director, said: “The results of ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon exceeded expectations, both in terms of the number of runners and the amazing records achieved today.”

He added: “We are very optimistic about the next edition of the marathon. After this successful edition, we can absolutely say that we now have one of the most competitive marathons in the world.”

Yeshaneh and Chumba joined Kipserem and Kiptum in securing the best performances of their careers to date.

For more information visit: [www.adnocabudhabimarathon.com](http://www.adnocabudhabimarathon.com)

- [Facebook: ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon](#)
- [Twitter: @ADNOCADmarathon](#)
- [Instagram: adnocadmarathon](#)
- [Hashtags: #EnergyInMotion #RunInAbuDhabi](#)

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## About Abu Dhabi Sports Council

Abu Dhabi Sports Council (ADSC) was established in 2006 by His Highness Sheikh Mohamed Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Abu Dhabi Crown Prince and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

ADSC is aligned to the emirate’s leadership vision to develop sport and youth activities. The Council promotes an effective, emirate-wide sports calendar that stimulates the desire to participate in quality sports among all Abu Dhabi residents and helps the talented and motivated reach their sporting potential.

The Council also hosts and supports the staging of international world-class sporting events. These include: the annual Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship presented by EGA; the Formula 1™ Etihad





Airways Abu Dhabi Grand Prix; the ITU World Triathlon Series; both the Abu Dhabi and Gary Player Invitationals; the Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Open on the Ladies European Tour, the Red Bull Air Race; the Mubadala World Tennis Championship; the 2017 and 2018 FIFA Club World Cups; the 2019 AFC Asian Cup UAE and the UCI WorldTour event, The Abu Dhabi Tour.

We at ADSC firmly believe that sporting events deliver a host of benefits for the emirate and its residents. These span improved health and wellness, the building of community spirit, the discovering of local talent and the delivery of international exposure of the emirate as a world-class sporting events hub.

Whether it is land, sea or air, we have sport covered.

For more media information please contact: Ahmed Wahab Al Juboori at Abu Dhabi Sports Council: [awahab@adsc.abudhabi.ae](mailto:awahab@adsc.abudhabi.ae)

## About ADNOC

ADNOC is one of the world's leading diversified energy and petrochemicals groups with a daily output of about 3 million barrels of oil and 10.5 cubic feet of natural gas. With 14 specialist subsidiary and joint venture companies, ADNOC is a primary catalyst for the UAE's growth and diversification. To find out more visit [www.adnoc.ae](http://www.adnoc.ae). For further information: [media@adnoc.ae](mailto:media@adnoc.ae).

## TV Broadcasting

Official footage of the inaugural edition of the ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon will be distributed all over the world. In the United Arab Emirates and MENA region, the host broadcaster Abu Dhabi Media will provide the full live coverage of the event, with pre-race and post-race studio shows. Commentary will be in both English and Arabic on Abu Dhabi Sports Channel 1 and 6; highlights will be shown a few hours later on Abu Dhabi Sports Channel 2.

Fox Sports will offer live coverage across 19 countries in the Asia Pacific region, including China where Tencent will be broadcasting highlights of the event.

In the USA and Canada, exclusive rights to the race are owned by Flosports, while ESPN Latinoamerica will broadcast the highlights magazine in all Spanish-speaking countries of South America. Coverage of the event in 7 territories of Sub-Saharan Africa, home to the most important athletes of such discipline, will be provided by AZAM TV, while Sky Sports will air the main sporting action from the race in New Zealand.

In Europe, highlights will be broadcast by Freesports in the United Kingdom and in Ireland, by BeinSports in Turkey and TV Start in Russia.

The Olympic Channel will cover all remaining countries of the world showing the 52 minute highlights, thus linking the mythic brand of 5 rings to the first edition of ADNOC Abu Dhabi Marathon and carrying it on board the project.



