



MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS

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MEC CONGRATULATES SPI TOLOMO ON HIS SUCCESS

It was a joyous moment in the offices of the department of community safety and transport management yesterday when the MEC, Dr Mpho Motlhabane met and congratulated SPI Tolomo, who recently participated in the 2016 comradesqmarathon and brought home a bronze medal. MEC Motlhabane said %for one to be considered a South African, one has to have done one of two things. First meet Nelson Mandela, and secondly take part in the comradesq marathon, it is good to see someone from the department having done that. Necessary support will be given to SPI Tolomo in order to encourage him in upcoming races. He should also start a team with upcoming athletes.

Staff members are encouraged to live a healthy lifestyle because it is the first of premier's 10-points plan that was launched in Brits last week, which is to combat obesity and to live a healthy lifestyle+said the MEC. SPI Tolomo has been a traffic officer in the department for 17 years. He moved to Taung in 2013 on a promotional post and there he trained with his team. The team registered to run in the standard marathon such as the Soweto marathon, two oceans and others, that enable them to qualify for the comrades.

In January this year he relocated back to Mahikeng due to his wife's passing, which made his training suffer a bit because he had no team to practise with and he had to take care of his four children. %faced a lot of challenges that hampered my performance and training, I persevered though it was difficult at the time+, said Tolomo.His comradesqmarathon journey started when he first participated in 2013, where he ran 90 kilometres race. In 2014 he performed well but could not finish the race due to cramps and injuries he sustained in an accident, but that did not stop this passionate runner. In 2015 he got a medal of completing a 90km race that motivated him to work harder.

The year 2016 was his fourth attempt at the marathon. %did not think I would make it, because when I got to the marathon I was placed in the group which was the back. I was a bit discouraged when the race started but I managed to pull myself together and focused on the task at hand even though it took me 40km to clear away from the crowd and start to move. The challenges I face as a runner is the travelling and accommodation fees+said Tolomo. In conclusion MEC Motlhabane assured Tolomo that all his needs will be taken care of.

END.

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**ISSUED BY THE NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SAFETY AND TRANSPORT
MANAGEMENT**

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