



EDWARD Mothibi and Gerda Steyn won the men's and women's races respectively in the Comrades Marathon yesterday.

SA runners rule in epic uphill Comrades

THE Government congratulated Edward Mothibi and Gerda Steyn after the pair scooped the men's and women's races respectively in the Comrades Marathon yesterday.

The two ran perfect races to ensure that South Africans ruled the daunting Comrades.

Minister of Sport Nathi Mthethwa led the avalanche of congratulatory messages for the two runners. "I congratulate both Edward Mothibi and Gerda Steyn for respectively winning the 2019 Comrades Marathon," he said.

Pre-race favourite Steyn smashed the

Comrades Marathon up-run record as she won the 86.83km race from Durban to Pietermaritzburg.

The Nedbank Running Club Joburg athlete, who finished second last year to Ann Ashworth, crossed the finish line in five hours, 58.53 seconds.

Mothibi held off a strong challenge from three-time winner Bongmusa Mthembu to win the men's race.

He finished the 86.83km distance in five hours 31 minutes and 33 seconds.

Steyn was followed home by Russian Alexandra Morozova (6:17.40) and Caitriona Jennings of Ireland (6:24.12).

Steyn's effort was well inside the previous record time of 6:09.24 set by Russian Elena Nurgalieva in 2006. Defending champion Ashworth ended fourth in 6:27.15.

Steyn seemed to have the race under control from the early stages when she passed through the 43.05km mark in Drummond in 3:02.03.

Any thoughts of her competitors catching her fell by the wayside when she passed through Camperdown averaging 3 minutes, 57 second a kilometre.

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