

## VICTORIA FALLS ECONET MARATHON 2018

DATE: 2 JULY 2018

### RE: REPORT ON CHEATING ATHLETES

#### A: THE FINISH PROCEDURE

The above matter refers. This report serves to inform your office(s) about a case of cheating athletes. The event's finishing point was manned by five groups of officials namely; Medals Team [All finishing athletes- 21.1 and 42.2km], Position Tags Team, Transponder Timing System Crew [FINISH TIME], NAAZ and Volunteers from competition organisers. The former and latter enter the Bib number of each finishing athlete as they pass the Finish Line and the Transponder Timing System automatically detects the finishing athlete through their registration Bib number's chip; this is electronically done. On the manual system, for every finishing female an -F- is added in front of the Bib number to indicate that the athlete is female. The manual back-up groups continually compare their sheets during low activity at the finish for verification. The Electronic Team produces a print out for every top ten finish of each category to verify accuracy and authenticate the results with the NAAZ officials who then compares any queries with the volunteer team. The top 10 finish results are then displayed at a designated TIC (Technical Information centre) for ease of access by athletes. Verification is also done by communications with NAAZ officials at the crucial race points to ascertain whether the athletes did come through or not to curb cheating. Of importance are the **Bridge turning Point, the Picnic Spot, the Amadeus Garden turn, Villa d'Afrique turn[Full Marathon] and Sprayview Hotel point**. Video back up is also used for some finishes; especially the top ones.

#### B: CHEATING INCIDENT

There was a case of two athletes who tried to cheat the system into winning in the 21.1km female category. An 'athlete' registered in the system as **Bib number 3059** crossed the finish point in the half marathon event as a male for an **overall position 24** in accordance to the NAAZ judge's sheet and that of the Organiser's Volunteers. The athlete's Bib was not attached to the running vest but was hand held by the athlete. It was not a difficult thing to note because there was neither pressure of a high density finish, a close finish nor a photo finish at the time. This was also when the Events Presentation Official was ushering in the first female finish of the competition by means of announcing on the State of the Art Public Address System. **Bib number 2921** finished as overall **position 25** and was entered by all manual finish judges as the first female athlete in the category. This was also in accordance to the **bib number pink marking** that denotes the female category.

**Suspicion** was raised by the fact that the athlete who crossed the finish line with **Bib number 3059** had it hand held instead of affixing it to the vest. Had the athlete bearing **Bib number 3059** at the finish been a female, then the **position 1 [First]neck tag** would have been given to 'her'. **The Position Tag official** does not confirm from the other groups whether the finishing athlete is male or female but does so by the Bib mark and also **verbally alerts the athlete of their position** and what to do next.

After the victory and award ceremony, the **two athletes** [male and female] then approached the Timing crew tent with their verbal protest. The male athlete is the one who did the talking and we explained to him that the official results at the finish had **Bib number 3059** as a male athlete not a female. The female athlete also failed to the question on why she hadn't protested within the stipulated 30minutes and why she was not given a position tag at finish. She also had no visual signs of having competed despite wearing a vest with **Bib number 3059** which was recorded as a male finish.

**C: ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING THE FINAL RACE RESULT**

1. More than one[1] finish judges positioned the races
2. No position neck tag given to the protesting female athlete
3. Hand held Bib # 3059 by male athlete at finish
4. Eventual winner is a known practising athlete whose name was announced as she approached the finish point
5. It is idealistic that a practicing, highly qualified Technical Official would miss such an important placing for such a major competition:
  - First position of a category
  - First female athlete to finish
6. No visual signs of the athlete to have participated in the strenuous event
7. The protest was initiated by a male athlete who had vivid evidence of having participated in the race.
  - Remnants of sweat salt in the face
8. Amadeus garden official had bib# 3059 passing the point as a male.
9. Finish pictures and videos show **Bib Number 3059** finishing as a **male not female**

**D: Written protest**

- No written information of the protest was made; Time of protest, Male athlete’s race number and both athletes’ details.

**E: ATTACHMENTS**

Vic Falls 21.1km - Sequence Sheet			
LANE :		WRITER: Christine	
Page:		CALLER: Kieran	
1	3605	31	3223F
2	2850	32	3214
3	3056	33	3062
4	3611	34	3220
5	3404	35	2915
6	3403	36	1914
7	3240	37	3215F
8	3168	38	2683
9	3218	39	1500
10	2688	40	3121 F
11	3291	41	2908
12	3276	42	3055 F
13	3402	43	1579
14	3239	44	3400
15	3063	45	3366
16	2909	46	3277F
17	3609	47	2742
18	3235	48	3552
19	2916	49	3368
20	3217	50	2745 F
21	3553	51	3406
22	3151	52	3288
23	3219	53	3071 F
24	3059	54	3053
25	2921 F	55	2846
26	2992 F	56	3606F
27	2914	57	3297
28	3405	58	2723
29	2567	59	3610
30	2589	60	3073
61	1591	62	2867
63	2972	64	3070 F
65	3607 F	66	1934
67	2537	68	1033
69	3278 F	70	2912
71	2848	72	2681
73	2746 F	74	1752
75	3401	76	3401
77	2729	77	2729
78	3216 F	78	3216 F
79	3069	79	3069
80	2732	80	2732
81	2889	81	2889
82	3232	82	3232
83	3154	83	3154
84	1616	84	1616
85	3003	85	3003
86	3067	86	3067
87	2885	87	2885
88	3153	88	3153
89	3107	89	3107
90	1552	90	1552



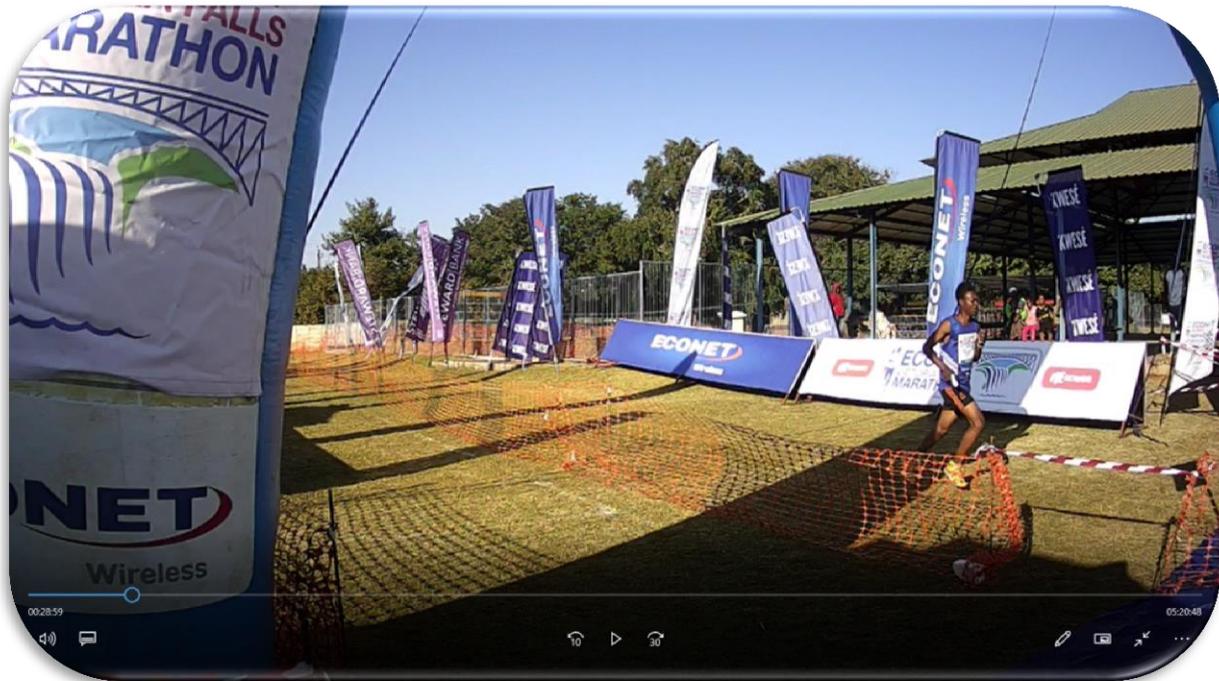
E (i) Manual Backup by Organisers’ Volunteers

E (ii) Manual Back up by NAAZ official



VICTORIA FALLS ECONET MARATHON - 2018 EDITION			
RACE: 21km		POINT: FINISHING	
		Page 1 of 7	
1	3605	51	3288
2	2850	52	3071 F
3	3056	53	3053
4	3611	54	3246
5	3404	55	3606 F
6	3403	56	3307
7	3240	57	2723
8	3168	58	3610
9	3218	59	3073
10	2688	60	1591
11	3291	61	2867
12	3276	62	2970
13	3402	63	3070 F
14	3239	64	3607 F
15	3063	65	1934
16	2909	66	2537
17	3401	67	1033
18	3235	68	3212 F
19	2916	69	2912
20	3217	70	2848
21	3553	71	2881
22	3151	72	2746 F
23	3219	73	3169
24	3059	74	1752
25	2921 F	75	3401
26	2992 F	76	2729
27	2914	77	3216
28	3405	78	3069
29	2567	79	2732
30	2589	80	2889
31	1591	81	3232
32	2867	82	3154
33	2972	83	1616
34	3070 F	84	3003
35	1934	85	3067
36	2537	86	2885
37	1033	87	3153
38	3212 F	88	3107
39	2912	89	1552
40	3216 F	90	3207
41	2729	91	2632
42	3070 F	92	2970
43	3606 F	93	2867
44	3401	94	1491
45	3297	95	1552
46	2723	96	1559
47	3610	97	2867 F
48	3073	98	3072
49	2867	99	2869
50	3073	100	2889
101	2679		
102	2975		
103	2817		
104	3294		
105	1950		
106	2950		
107	3080		
108	1466		
109	2704		
110	3166		
111	2970		
112	2515		
113	2924		
114	3468		
115	3067		
116	1587		
117	2182		
118	2248		
119	3088		
120	2972		
121	2492		
122	3078		
123	3549		
124	1875		
125	1865		
126	2027		
127	3223		
128	2729		
129	2700		
130	3505		
131	1924		
132	2226		
133	3269		
134	2849		
135	3181		
136	2829		
137	2732		
138	2381		
139			
140	28		
141	1252		
142	2701		
143	2827		
144	3244		
145	1574		
146	2234 F		
147	1401		
148	1911		
149	2737		
150	1184		

KURT SIBAKO



E(iii) Athlete Bearing Bib Number 3059 approaching the Finish Line [video extract]

Finish Line



E (iv) Athlete Bearing Bib Number 3059 centimetres away from the Finish Line clutching the Bib.

**PENDING**

- Brenda Makonyere and Male accomplice's Base/Organisation/Club
- Personal Details
- Contacts

**WAY FORWARD: NAAZ SECRETARIAT TO CONTACT COMPETITION SECRETARIAT OR RACE WEBSITE.**

**PRIZES**

<b>PLACE</b>	<b>2018 ECONET FULL MARATHON MALE AND FEMALE OPEN CATEGORY</b>	<b>2018 ECONET HALF MARATHON MALE AND FEMALE OPEN CATEGORY</b>
1st	\$900 [1800]	\$500 [1000]
2nd	\$750 [1500]	\$350 [700]
3rd	\$600 [1200]	\$300 [600]
4th	\$450 [900]	\$250 [500]
5th	\$300 [600]	\$150 [300]
6th	\$200 [400]	\$125 [250]
7th	\$150 [300]	\$100 [200]
8th	\$100 [200]	\$75 [150]
9th	\$75 [150]	\$50 [100]
10th	\$50 [100]	\$25 [ 50]
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$7150</b>	<b>\$3850</b>

**Thank you**

**Report compiled by Kurt T. N Sibako [National Technical Official - NAAZ]**

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