

Lebohang Masango
25 July 2022
Sanlam Cape Town Marathon
Poem: African Champions Unite

African Champions Unite

by Lebohang Masango

The Atlantic sea breeze whispers a salty greeting
As the morning mist drifts before us
Parting a path that reveals
only a little of what the day holds

Behold, this moment you have wished and waited for;
Timed yourself and trained tirelessly for
Alongside your fellow runners
You warm up and take your place
To put your best foot forward
At the Sanlam Cape Town Marathon
Where victory awaits

At the sound of the starting gun, bodies lunge forward as one
Your racing heart, your determined lungs
The music of the marathon has now begun
The sharp breaths and the steady beat of running feet
Pound a relentless rhythm into the hard concrete
Hear the wind whistle against your body as it tries to keep pace
Feel your legs and feet power through pain
Let that ache be a reminder:
that there is nothing on earth that your mind can't conquer

'If you want to go fast, go alone
If you want to go far, go together'
These ancient words of wisdom, we remember
And you are not alone
From our homes; our radios, our TVs, our phones
We marvel at all your strength

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We spectate on the side-lines
As you carry our hopes across distances and lengths
And though each one runs as an individual
Today isn't only about how we compete
Runners and supporters
Officials and spectators
We all collaborate to achieve
The Abbot World Marathon Majors dream
We run towards the goal
To make Africa's future brighter
With every milestone we reach
Behold, this moment you have wished and waited for;
Timed yourself and trained tirelessly for
Who we are is who we have always been:
A proud people who live with confidence,
Knowing we are worthy of this dream
Worthy of winning together
Beneath these open skies
We race to meet our best selves at the finish line
Here in Cape Town where African Champions Unite