

The 19th Kigali International Peace Marathon, held on June 9th, 2024, witnessed another year of Kenyan dominance on the podium, but also a surge in international participation.

The race attracted a staggering 10,183 runners from 35 countries, a significant increase compared to previous years. This included 3,605 tackling the Half Marathon, 1,142 braving the Full Marathon, and a whopping 5,456 taking part in the celebratory 10km "Run for Peace."

The year's marathon wasn't just about competition; it was a celebration of unity and peace. Leading the charge was NBA Africa CEO Clare Akamanzi, who kicked off the festivities by participating in the "Run for Peace" category.

Other prominent figures joined Akamanzi in promoting peace through sport. Kigali's esteemed mayor, Samuel Dusengiyumva, lent his support alongside Sports Minister Aurore Mimosa Munyangaju. Rwanda's beauty and talent were further represented by Miss Rwanda 2012, Aurore Mutesi Kayibanda. Additionally, Frank Habineza, a parliamentarian and contender in the upcoming July elections, demonstrated his commitment to national unity by participating in the event.

Besides that, Kenyan athletes asserted their strength in the Half Marathon. Francis Kipkorir emerged victorious, followed by his brother Leonard Kipkoech Langat. Rwandan runner Mutabazi Emmanuel secured a well-deserved bronze.

Winfridah Moraa Mosei of Kenya dominated the women's Half Marathon, with Vivian Jepkogei Cheruiyot from Kenya clinching a close second. Rwandan Imanizabayo Emeline delivered a strong performance, earning the bronze medal.

The Full Marathon saw Laban Korir of Kenya triumph with an impressive time of 2:16:06. His compatriot, Cornelius Kipeti Kiplagat, finished a close second. On the women's side, Kenyan Joan Kipyatich reigned supreme (2:33:27), followed by Ethiopian Meseret Abebavehu and Kenyan Florence Chepsoi Jepkosgei.

The event offered significant prize money for top finishers, attracting international talent. The diverse participation from countries like Canada, Denmark, Poland, and Italy solidified the marathon's global appeal.

The 19th Kigali International Peace Marathon successfully combined elite athletic competition with a focus on promoting peace and global unity. With record-breaking

participation and a thrilling display of athleticism, the event solidified its position as a premier sporting event in the region.