GrandPri House

P.O. Box 4151 – 30100

+254 722 929 555

info@eldoretcitymarathon.co.ke

MEDIA STATEMENT: ELDORET CITY MARATHON SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT & ATHLETE PAYOUTS

The organizers of the Eldoret City Marathon wish to address false allegations and misleading rumors regarding the financial management of the marathon. We maintain complete transparency, legal compliance, and dedication to the welfare of athletes and vendors.

1. State Funding Architecture and Custody of Funds

Under World Athletics regulations, Athletics Kenya (AK) road running rules, and public finance laws, government sponsorship funds allocated for categorized athletic events are never deposited into or managed by the private bank accounts of the Eldoret City Marathon organizers or any private organizer.

For national sports sponsorships - including the Sports Fund (Talanta Hela) - Athletics Kenya acts as the sole legally designated custodian responsible for receiving, managing, and disbursing funds:

- **5th Edition (2024):** Sports Fund sponsored the prize purse. Athletics Kenya disbursed all prize money directly to winning athletes. The Eldoret City Marathon sourced finances for race logistics from private corporate sponsors and all suppliers and technical officials were paid directly by the marathon organizers.
- **6th Edition (2025):** Sports Fund covered both the prize purse and operational logistics. Athletics Kenya directly managed these funds and paid athletes, local committee staff, and technical officials. Although the marathon organizers submitted a full, verified list of suppliers, Athletics Kenya selectively paid a small number of suppliers and left others unpaid without providing a payment breakdown or explanation to race organizers, despite fully utilizing the allocated budget, which was sufficient to fully pay every supplier.
- **7th Edition (2026):** The Sports Fund again provided funding through Athletics Kenya. Credit where due, Athletics Kenya disbursed operational and supplier funds strictly as instructed by race organizers. This enabled the event to fully pay 7th Edition suppliers and clear majority of the unpaid balances left behind from the 6th edition.

2. 7th Edition Prize Money Timeline & Statutory Compliance

The 7th Edition total prize purse of KES 18 Million was sourced through two channels:

- **KES 3 Million (Corporate Sponsor):** Upon release of official anti-doping results in late June, race organizers immediately released these funds directly to pay the male and female runners who finished second in the marathon. (KES 1.5 Million each).

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- **KES 15 Million (County Government of Uasin Gishu):** The release of antidoping results, which preempts the payment of winners, happened towards the end or close of the national financial year (June 30). In full accordance with the Public Finance Management (PFM) Act and standard public accounting laws, statutory financial system (IFMIS) roll-overs and formal audit verifications were required before government funds could be reopened and disbursed in the new financial year. Once IFMIS reopened in the new financial year, the funds were disbursed to the remaining top 20 finishers. A brief secondary delay affected a few athletes who submitted invalid bank account details; those transactions were immediately re-initiated upon receiving corrected bank records.

3. Commitment to Athletes and Climate Action

Delayed payment cycles - while regrettable - are common across Kenyan road races operating within statutory public fund disbursement timelines. However, the Eldoret City Marathon has never defaulted on athlete payouts in any edition.

Beyond competitive sports, the marathon remains committed to athlete welfare, economic growth in Eldoret City, and climate action, having established the Eldoret Arboretum from scratch and spearheaded region-wide afforestation.

Any claims of fund misappropriation by race organizers are completely false and defamatory. All payment trails, audit records, and statutory banking workflows remain open, transparent, and fully verifiable.