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Fraudster caught page 4 >>



Buntu Gotywa reflects on running back-to-back Comrades Marathons page 8 >>

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Researchers nominated for ‘Science Oscars’

DOREEN PREMDEV

Three Durban University of Technology (DUT) researchers have been nominated for the 2023/2024 National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) South32 Awards.

Dr Emmanuel Kweiner Tetteh is a Research Fellow/Principal Investigator with the Green Engineering Research Group (GERG); Professor Ajay Mishra is a Professor in the Department of Chemistry; and Professor Saheed Sabiu, an Associate Professor in the Department of Biotechnology and Food Science.

They have been announced among individuals or organisations who have made an outstanding contribution to science, engineering, technology (SET) and innovation, under 14 different categories.

Dr Tetteh and Prof Sabiu are nominated in the TW Kamble — NSTF Award: Emerging Researcher category — looking at an individual through research and its outputs, who conducted up to six years of research work in South Africa, from the commencement of their research career. While Prof Mishra is nominated in the NSTF — Water Research Commission Award cat-



■ Three renowned researchers from the Durban University of Technology, from left, Professor Ajay Mishra, Professor Saheed Sabiu and Dr Emmanuel Kweiner Tetteh have been announced as finalists for the prestigious 2023/2024 National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) South32 Awards.

egory, looking at an individual or an organisation who worked towards achieving sustainable water management, knowledge generation and solutions, with demonstrated leadership and impact over the last five to 10 years.

The first finalist, Prof Sabiu, apart from his active involvement in teaching and learning including Collaborative International

Online Learning (COIL), currently leads the Computational and Systems Biology Research Group. His works involves the bio-prospect for secondary metabolites against degenerative and microbial diseases, for new small molecule therapeutic targets discovery and development.

“I am elated and humbled that my name was mentioned as a finalist in NSFT Awards. These

awards showcases the kind of relevant and timely research being conducted by the students and researchers at the institution,” said Prof Sabiu.

In 2023, Prof Sabiu was awarded both the Faculty Researcher of the Year (Gold) and Emerging Researcher of the Year awards at the DUT ENVISION2030 Institutional Awards.

The second finalist, Prof

Mishra, described the NSTF Awards as one of the science hubs a person needs to represent with full pride.

“I am glad I have been nominated by DUT and hopefully will keep the DUT flag on a high note. Those selected for this award must always feel proud to be a part of the NSTF Awards,” he said.

Also sharing his excitement on the nomination, the third finalist, Dr Tetteh attributed his nomination to his commitment to work.

“My sterling research contribution in the field of SET and innovation in South Africa as a young emerging researcher, made them consider my nomination that was submitted by the Acting Executive Dean in the Faculty of Engineering and the Built Environment, Professor Sudesh Rathilal,” said Dr Tetteh. “Being nominated by DUT means a lot to me because it shows that my hard work is being recognised and acknowledged. I am honoured to secure nominations in the NSTF Awards considering my hard work over the years and putting DUT on the global map of thriving excellence.”

Continued on page 3

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Sudoku No 78 ; Level: Moderate

How to play: Fill every column, row and 3x3 box so they contain every number between 1 and 9.

Solution on page 5

9			6		4			8
			3	5	7			
		7	8		9	2		
	8		5		3		7	
1								6
	3	8				1	2	
	6			8				5
7								4

Judiciary pays tribute to two judges who have died

NIYANTA SINGH

The KZN judiciary, this week, paid tribute to two local judges who passed away recently.

Judge President Thoba Poyo-Dlwati, in a statement, said "in a moment of profound sorrow, the judges in KwaZulu-Natal learnt of the death of Judge Shyam Gyanda on June 17, a few months before what would have been his 70th birthday on September 1; and mourn the death of Judge Nic Van Der Reyden on June 12."

Judge Gyanda graduated from the then University of Durban-Westville in 1978 after reading for the BA and LLB degrees.

He joined the Durban Bar, served pupillage under Peter Gastrow, and was one of the founding members of Advocates Group 7 in Salmon Grove Chambers.

He had a wide and thriving practice as an advocate, and served also as a member of the Heath Investigative Unit. After a few stints as an acting judge both in the Eastern Cape and in KwaZulu-Natal he was appointed permanently to the KwaZulu-Natal Bench during 2001. He discharged his duty with courage and diligence.

"He was a valued member of the bench, a trusted colleague and a friend to all. Both at the Bar, and on the bench, in addition to sound advice, he always had a kind word and a smile for all who sought his counsel and guidance, and if the occasion permitted it, a joke, sometimes naughty and sometimes wicked, would be added in.

"Sadly, failing health persuaded Judge Gyanda to seek release a little earlier than he would have liked, and he retired on May 31, 2020. We

remember our brother with fondness," said Mr Poyo-Dlwati in the statement.

Judge Van Der Reyden graduated from the University of Pretoria in 1972.

He joined the Durban Bar in 1976 where he practised, taking silk on April 24, 1990. He acted as a judge in the then Natal Provincial Division for a few terms until he was appointed permanently to the Bench on August 1, 1992. He served there tirelessly until his retirement in 2010.

"Judge Van Der Reyden will be remembered for his abiding decency and humility ... a true 'salt of the earth'. The judges of the KwaZulu-Natal Division extend their sincere condolences to his wife Dain, his son Nicholas and daughter Marijke and to the wider family and loved ones," said Mr Poyo-Dlwati in the statement.

KZN medical fraternity mourns death of cardiologist

NIYANTA SINGH

The KwaZulu-Natal medical fraternity is mourning the loss of Dr Surendra Singh, a distinguished cardiologist who passed away on May 16, at the age of 69 after a brief illness.

Dr Singh's death is a significant loss to the healthcare community, the numerous patients he served, and everyone who knew him.

"We wish to express our sincere condolences to Dr. Singh's wife, Professor Shanta, and his children Rajiv, Ameet, and Rhea," said Wendy Beato, the general manager of Netcare uMhlanga Hospital, where Dr Singh practised.

"We mourn the passing of an exceptional healthcare professional and a man of stature. Dr Singh was highly respected and much loved by his colleagues, patients, and the staff and management of Netcare uMhlanga Hospital, where he has practised for several years. Dr Singh will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to know him," she added.



Continued on facing page ■ Durban cardiologist Dr Surendra Singh

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Winners of science and technology awards to be announced in July

From previous page

Dr Singh qualified as a cardiologist in 1990, embarking on a career marked by brilliance, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to patient care. His exceptional expertise, coupled with his humility and deep care for his patients, set him apart in his field, Ms Beato said.

“Dr Singh’s dedication to his patients was evident throughout his career, and he continued to provide much-valued service at Netcare uMhlanga Hospital until he became ill.

“His passing leaves a deep void for all who knew him and the countless patients whose lives he touched throughout his career.”

“Dr Singh’s legacy as a compassionate healthcare provider and respected cardiologist will endure. His dedication and expertise not only improved and saved lives but also inspired a new generation of healthcare professionals. His passion for healing and deep commitment to his patients will be forever remembered. Although his time with us was cut short, the impact of his life’s work will continue to be felt for many years to come.”

From page 1

Dr Tetteh believes his win at the NSTF Awards will instil confidence and reflection in emerging researchers in the DUT community, who strives for excellence to do more. He said he was looking forward to more collaboration with stakeholders to promote green engineering research, in the field of water-energy nexus for a sustainable environment.

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research, Innovation and Engagement at DUT, Prof Fulufhelo Nemavhola congratulated the three nominees and

commended them on their work.

“On behalf of DUT, I am delighted to extend our heartfelt congratulations to Dr Emmanuel Kweiner Tetteh, Prof Ajay Mishra and Prof Saheed Sabiu, on being announced as finalists for the prestigious 2023/2024 NSTF-South32 Awards. This recognition is a testament to their exceptional contributions to science, engineering and technology, reflecting the high calibre of research being conducted at DUT.

“Their achievements elevate the status of DUT and inspire our entire academic community to strive for excellence. This recognition also aligns perfectly with our DUT ENVISION2030

strategy, which aims to position the university as a globally recognised institution of higher learning, known for its impactful research and innovation. We are honoured to have these three respected researchers represent us and we wish them the very best at the NSTF Awards Gala Event,” said Prof Nemavhola.

The winners will be announced at the NSTF Awards Gala Event, which will take place as a hybrid event broadcast simultaneously from two cities and venues, namely at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg and the Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC) on Thursday, July 11.



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Wanted woman arrested for car thefts

DOREEN PREMDEV

Last Tuesday, June 18, a woman was arrested at a car dealership in Mount Edgecombe, north of Durban.

She is alleged to be involved in fraud and uttering and theft of motor vehicles.

It is believed that she is also wanted in other provinces on allegations of theft.

The woman, who allegedly resided in Gauteng, was apprehended at a car dealership in Mount Edgecombe, on Tuesday. She had attempted to purchase another car using fake documents and a stolen identity card. She had apparently arrived in an e-hailing service. She went to the car dealership and produced the illegal documents to the finance office in order to obtain the car. However, she was arrested before proceeding further, said spokesman for Reaction Unit South Africa (RUSA), Prem Balram.

Several law enforcement agencies and detectives from KwaZulu-Natal and other provinces in South Africa made contact with the private security company on Wednesday morning, said Mr Balram.

"The officers were seeking further details and information on the female arrested in an operation between RUSA



■ A woman was arrested on Tuesday June 18 in Verulam, north of Durban. It is alleged that she is involved in numerous crimes involving fraud and uttering and theft of motor vehicles.

PICTURE: RUSA

officers, SAPS Verulam and Wesbank Forensic Division on Tuesday afternoon," said Mr Balram.

"It is believed that the female is sought nationally for fraud and uttering and theft of motor vehicles. It is alleged that her modus operandi was to provide fictitious information and fraudulent documents

to financial institutions. She would use names of females in employ of blue chip companies and buy vehicles without their knowledge. The victims were only made aware when they received summons via the Sheriff of the Court for non payment and repossession of the vehicles."

Mr Balram added that information was also received that the woman was believed to pitch up at car washes and claim high value vehicles as her own. She would retrieve the keys and drive off in these luxury vehicles. The tracking devices would be removed before the vehicle would be reported as missing, said Mr Balram.

"When she was arrested, fake documents were found in her possession. RUSA and the SAPS questioned the woman regarding the

fake documents," Mr Balram said.

"She claimed to work for a specialised police unit in Johannesburg and was acting on instructions from police officers to apprehend fraud suspects. She provided names of officers that did not exist, she was then arrested."

The woman is currently in custody at the holding cells at SAPS Verulam in KwaZulu-Natal.

The investigation is continuing to uncover the extent of her fraudulent activities.

Man sentenced to three life terms for murder and robbery

DOREEN PREMDEV

The Durban High Court has sentenced Bongumusa Sipheshile Radebe, to three terms of life and 86 years imprisonment for the crime spree of murders, attempted murders, and robberies he committed between December 2020 and June 2022 in the Umlazi area.

Radebe, 24, acted with an accomplice who is still at large, said regional spokesperson for the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Natasha Ramkisson-Kara.

"During his reign of terror, Radebe shot dead three men: Loyiso Shabalala, Mthobisi Shibase and Sthembiso Njapha, and robbed them of their cellphones. Radebe was known to his victims as he lived in the same area as they did. In some instances, the people who were with the deceased were also attacked and robbed. Radebe was eventually arrested in February 2023, in the Amaoti area in Inanda. At the time he was driving a stolen motor vehicle. He was found in unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition," said Ms Ramkisson-Kara.

In court, Advocate Bonginkosi Nelson Mbokazi led the testimonies of witnesses and ballistic evidence. Cellphone records also formed part of the state's case further. Mr Mbo-

kazi submitted Victim Impact Statements, compiled by the deceased's family members and facilitated by Court Preparation Officer, Thandeka Nadi Mofokeng. In the statements, they said that they were traumatised by the deaths, as Mr Radebe was known to them. They said the deceased were young people who supported their families.

"Radebe was sentenced as follows: one term of life imprisonment for each of the three counts of murder, 15 years imprisonment for each of the three counts of attempted murder, 15 years imprisonment for each of the two counts of robbery with aggravating circumstances, one year imprisonment for having the stolen motor vehicle, and 10 years imprisonment for the unlawful possession of firearm and ammunition (both taken as one for sentence). Radebe will serve an effective term of life imprisonment and he was declared unfit to possess a firearm," said Ms Ramkisson-Kara.

Ms Ramkisson-Kara added that the NPA welcomes the successful finalisation of the matter. The offences are serious, the like of which will not be tolerated by the courts, she added. The NPA also commended the work done by the prosecution, investigating officer and other stakeholders in securing the conviction.

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Read of the week



I Do ... Don't I
Zibu Sithole
 Pan MacMillan
 Review: Lauren O'Connor-May

If this book were a reality show, it could be called Real Career Women of Johannesburg – or something along that vein.

I've never seen a full episode of the *Real Housewives* series but this book's vibes strongly reminded me of the bits of the show that I have seen.

The novel is a follow-up to *The*

Thing With Zola and the ending suggests there is more to come.

The story follows the glamorous lifestyles and love lives of three families living in Johannesburg.

As with the first book, the story picks up when leading lady Zola returns from working abroad.

Zola and Mbali have been successfully dating long-distance but now that Zola is back, things seem to be falling apart.

Also still on the scene is the parliamentary minister's spoilt daughter, Okuhle, who is Zola's boss and

Mbali's ex.

Okuhle has found the love of her life in old school chum, Leruo, and lobola negotiations should be in full swing, except Okuhle and Leruo's families can't stand each other.

Add to the mix Mbali's long-suffering mother, Ongama, who has finally reached the end of her tether with her unfaithful husband and has moved, uninvited, into Mbali's home.

There she has taken over every aspect of his life, including his en-suite bathroom where she gets

ready for her Tinder dates – lacy g-string underwear and all.

And if that isn't juicy enough, Zoleka, Zola's cousin, has a trick up her sleeve to get her boyfriend of 14 years to finally take steps towards marriage – but will it work?

Believe it or not, this is still only about 15 minutes of the fast-paced, saucy, highly diverting plot.

If you're looking for a quick, fun, drama-filled, humorous read full of local flavour – including mini-bus taxis and load shedding – this is your book.

Sudoku solution

No 78

Level: 2
 Moderate

Puzzle on page 2

9	5	3	6	2	4	7	1	8
8	2	1	3	5	7	6	4	9
6	4	7	8	1	9	2	3	5
2	8	6	5	9	3	4	7	1
1	9	5	4	7	2	3	8	6
3	7	4	1	6	8	5	9	2
5	3	8	9	4	6	1	2	7
4	6	2	7	8	1	9	5	3
7	1	9	2	3	5	8	6	4

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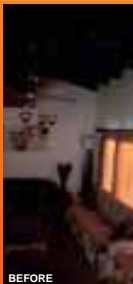
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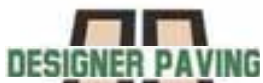


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Highway Sheila gets her own movie

NIYANTA SINGH

The premiere of the local movie *Highway Sheila — The Resurrection* was an unforgettable event, drawing enthusiastic crowds who eagerly mingled with the cast of this highly-anticipated film.

Screenings of this family-friendly movie have been captivating audiences nationwide and even extending to Namibia. *Highway Sheila — The Resurrection* is rooted in a long-standing myth associated with the Higginson Highway in Chatsworth, Durban, bringing a piece of local folklore to the big screen.

Set in the 1980s, the film beautifully recreates the modest Chatsworth home of 16-year-old Santoni Patel, whose sudden disappearance after a night out with friends becomes the heart of the story.

The narrative follows Patel's mother, who endures 40 years of heartache and uncertainty until a pundit priest (played by Dr Raj Singh) reaches out, claiming he can communicate with her daughter's



■ A collage of scenes from the movie *Highway Sheila — The Resurrection*.

spirit. Arish Sirkissoon, also known as LX Seth, who wrote, directed, and produced the movie, expressed his elation over the warm reception from movie-goers.

"We did a lot of research to ensure the scenes authentically represented the '80s. Seeing it all come together has been incredibly rewarding," Sirkissoon shared.

Sirkissoon and Dr Raj Singh's script embraces these myths, using it as a foun-

ation to build a narrative that delves deeper into Sheila's backstory, motivations, and the eerie events surrounding her alleged ghostly appearances on the highway.

The plot thickens with the help of two detectives who uncover the grim truth: Patel was murdered on the night she went missing.

Highway Sheila — The Resurrection is

an engaging film for the entire family, promising a mix of laughter, tears, and valuable life lessons on parenting, gender-based violence, and peer pressure.

From the opening scene, the film grips the audience with edge-of-the-seat tension. The cinematography is stellar, capturing the haunting beauty of Chatsworth's landscapes, especially after dark. Shadows and light are masterfully used to create a sense of chilly mystery, enhanced by exceptional make-up work. The visual effects, though not overly extravagant, effectively bring Sheila's ghost to life in a manner that feels both ethereal and terrifying. The lives of modern-day characters, from journalists to politicians to psychologists, intersect with Sheila's restless spirit.

Performances throughout the film are strong, with Singh, and Sirkissoon delivering particularly compelling portrayals of their characters.

This film is a must-watch, delivering an emotional and thought-provoking experience that resonates with viewers of all ages.

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■ Shivay Gunpath will star in the *Dream On* production at the Playhouse Opera Theatre in Durban until Sunday July 14.

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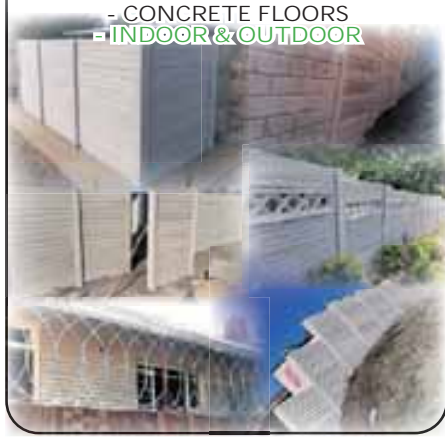
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Shivay has a passion for the arts

DOREEN PREMDEV

The 2024 annual Young Performers Project (YPP) will see a cast of 170 children aged 5 to 19 representing more than 50 schools throughout KwaZulu-Natal.

The production, *Dream On*, is a jukebox musical and will be held at the Playhouse Opera Theatre in Durban.

Among the talented young performers is Shivay Gunpath, a Grade 8 pupil.

Shivay said his passion for the arts began at the tender age of 6, when he started participating in choir, music and drama.

His dedication to his craft has earned him numerous accolades, including a role in the 2023 production of *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, where he performed as part of the children's choir. This impressive performance earned Shivay his provincial colours in Performing Arts.

"I am excited and grateful to be part of YPP. I have been actively involved in choir, music, and drama since I was little, and I am thrilled to be part of this project. It's a real achievement to be apart of this talented group of young performers," said Shivay.

"In addition to musical theatre, I have also been privileged to participate in the other exciting events, including the Education Africa International Marimba and the Steelpan Festival. This exposure has not only honed my skills but also broadened my understanding of different genres and styles."





The YPP's production of *Dream On* is taking place at the Playhouse Opera Theatre until Sunday July 14.

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Comrades is utter madness and sheer joy

Well, we did it again. The madness that is the Comrades Marathon.

This year while attempting to finish my second consecutive Comrades Ultra on Sunday June 9, I had another realisation.

For a while now, when people ask me why I do what I do, referring to running, and more importantly, ultra-distance running, I realise I usually have different answers depending on who's asking and why.

The truth may be that I don't actually have a clue, but I know one thing, it always feels like something I need to do. I mean, doing this kind of stuff makes me feel alive in a pretty twisted way.

This thing I do is very challenging; it's painful and exhausting, both physically and mentally, but equally fun and fulfilling.

Running 86km is no easy feat and my mixed feelings about it are because that's exactly what Comrades does to you. On that special day, you're guaranteed to experience all sorts of emotions: you get excited, it gets painful, you want to cry, you get emotional, and you feel like a beast, it's just one big roller-coaster of feelings.

At the start line, as soon as we began singing the National Anthem, *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrika*, I looked around at the faces of some of the athletes. It had been a while since I had seen and heard the national anthem being sung with such unity and passion.

We move to *Shosholoza* and you hear some voices trembling.

The sound of *Chariots of Fire* is where some start shaking, silent prayers and all, a lot of butterflies in the tummies.

With all that said though, I doubt there's a single soul in the world who can convince me there's a better feeling than pushing through all those turbulent feelings and pain we put ourselves through and emerging victorious by reaching the end goal of crossing the finish line.

A year ago, I successfully navigated my first Comrades Marathon, putting my body and mind through possibly the most exhausting challenge anyone can voluntarily attempt.

I made it home in 8h35min, with a Bill Rowan medal being the gift I got.

In running circles, there are always whispers that you're not really a runner until you attempt the Ultimate Human Race, as the Comrades Marathon is billed.

But after breaking your Comrades duck, well, it's customary to go for your back-to-back medal. It's not really up for debate.

And if you did the down

Buntu Gotywa



run, you have to also do the up.

So I had to be there again this year for the up run, from Durban to Pietermaritzburg.

And my take on it ... it was gruelling and tested my grit at new levels.

I mean, I knew it was never going to be easy, I've done it before, but it wasn't supposed to be that difficult and painful.

That said, and crazy enough, I don't know why I was having so much fun while being in so much pain.

Also, I do believe to run such a distance, one has to have at least one screw loose in the head, and I am no different as I again kept questioning my sporting choices.

Maybe the fun part in all the pain was realising I was not alone and everyone around me was having those doubtful thoughts.

For the up run... we knew there would be lots of climbing, but nobody told me we'd start hills barely 2km into the race, before the body even registered what I was about to put it through.

They must have lied about the number of hills, by the way. I am sure I counted at least 86 of them, as the road to Pietermaritzburg is very steep.

Initially, I said I'd move at a silver medal pace for the first 30km before relaxing and taking it easy to the finish.

I did start fast and bumped into a few runners with whom I have no business being that close to in distance running.

When I was supposed to take it easy at my 30km mark, it was anything but easy as I was already at a near walking pace. My feet started burning way earlier than I had anticipated; they felt very heavy.

Climbing up Inchanga in particular, I actually saw a nice huge rock on the side of the road that looked like a very cool, shady spot to sit and relax and watch all these fearless heroes loosening up their strides.

I deliberated for a good five seconds about it, but by the time I made up my mind, I was already past and decided to just keep it moving.

I, like the other 20 000 like-minded individuals, had to remind myself of the goal I had set for myself and why quitting is not in our vocabulary.

Marathon running is



■ Above: Edging close to the destination with Melikhaya Jandick and Sibongile Somkhosi.

■ Left: Smelling the finish line of the Comrades Marathon with Sibongile Somkhosi.

strange. Up to at least 55km of the race, I ignored my legs as they begged for mercy, and the best I could do was just slow down the pace.

Then you have that so-called Polly Shortts hill, which comes about 10km to the finish. Suddenly, my legs and my brain were in sync, and I can proudly say I bossed that hill, forgetting about the others before.

I suddenly had a burst of energy as I could feel the end getting closer with each stride.

What was even sweeter was meeting my clubmate from Cape Town's Khayelitsha AC, Ta Sbosh, running alongside one Melikhaya from Running for Gugs. The new trio, without a word, decided that a photo finish was what we were going for, and the tough part was done, now we could sprint home.

Possibly what also fuelled me was having running neighbours besides me. I had gone from a near crawl to unbelievably running below 4min/km when I joined forces with them. We crossed the finish line, and I learned that I now have a time of under 8:30, nearly 20 minutes better than the last race. I must also share that my running watch died at about 74km.

Surprisingly, that didn't deter me at all, it wasn't going to make much difference as at that point I needed no pacing but just responded to how the body felt.

I know so many were in as much pain as I was and the ones who were doing it for the first time are now lying to themselves saying, "Never again".

To them, I only give you a month or so. Your mind will clear, and you'll start thinking logically again, which means we are going back again next year to prove once more how warrior-spirited we are. It is just what we do.

A massive shoutout to the

seconding team ladies from Khayelitsha who accompanied us to Durban. And such was the joy of seeing the little ones shouting "baleka, baleka malume" and then proceeding to request I give them my cap.

And someone help me find those pretty ladies who cheered me on just after Cato Ridge and said, "wena, you're mine", promising to find me and rub my feet afterwards. Now that's some motivation.

NB: I must have had the right shoes this time around as I'm yet to see anything that suggests I may lose a couple of toenails. To those who did, I'm sure it was worth it - it's just toes. Two-time Comrades finisher takes a bow. Nakanjani!

● Buntu Gotywa is a sports reporter and sub-editor at the Cape Community Newspapers, which belongs to the same stable as DurbanLocal.

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