Govt gifts Rwenzori Marathon Shs3.7b

Label. The Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon has been awarded World Athletics Label Road Race status, becoming the first marathon in Uganda and only the third in East Africa to earn the prestigious international recognition.

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Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon
Edition: Fifth
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Ve[illegible]: Kasese



Shared vision. The launch of the fifth edition of the annual Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon was graced by the deputy speaker of parliament Thomas Tayebwa, ministers, official from various ministries, diplomats A-listers from corporate Uganda, runners, walkers, entertainers and ordinary folks. PHOTO/COURTESY

The Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon is now one of the major events to tick on the Uganda sports calendar every year.

Since its inception in 2022, the annual event has steadily grown every other year and seems to have something new in every edition.

The fifth edition of the marathon was launched Tuesday evening at Sheraton Hotel in Kampala and attracted some of the big shots in government.

In the presence of Deputy Speaker of Parliament Thomas Tayebwa, who was the chief cuest, Peter Ogwang, the state minister for sports, committed the ministry's support for the event.

Ogwang revealed a Shs3.5b contribution from the Ministry to the organizers of the marathon.

"[illegible]ears, our people have travelled abroad to run major marathons. But elite runners from abroad were not coming to us. We are changing that," Ogwang told the gathering.

He added: "Last year, the Ministry of Tourism stepped forward to support this marathon. This year, the Ministry of Sports is stepping in. We are committing US$1m (about Shs3.6b) to support the Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon."

Tayebwa also pledged his support for the event, confirming that he would be in Kasese for the fifth edition with a team from Parliament of Uganda.

"The Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon has built something special. We have taken notice and we are ready to support. It will be reflected in the national budget," Tayebwa said in his remarks.

He added: "Parliament will send a team to participate — and I will lead it myself. I am pleased to congratulate the organisers on achieving World Athletics Label status. See you in Kasese."

One of the major highlights from the launch was the revelation that the marathon had become the first event in Uganda to be awarded World Athletics Label Road Race status.

It is the first of a kind in Uganda and only the third one in East Africa to receive the prestigious international designation.

World Athletics Label Road Races are recognised as among the leading road races globally.

The designation confirms that the event meets stringent international standards, including AIMS-certified course measurement, full electronic timing, closed roads, and the hosting of an international elite field.

The marathon, which takes place annually in Kasese, begins at the equator inside Queen Elizabeth National Park before finishing in the foothills of the Rwenzori Mountains.

"This recognition affirms what we have been building since 2022: A race that meets global standards while remaining truly Ugandan," said Amos Wekesa, Team Lead of the Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon.

The Label status further strengthens the marathon's standing as an official qualifier for major international races, including the Two Oceans Marathon and the Comrades Marathon, and positions Uganda as a serious destination for global sport tourism.

"Kasese has changed. It has become more vibrant, more prosperous, and safer. More importantly, events like the Tusker Lite Rwenzori Marathon have increased both international and domestic tourism," Martin Mugarra, State Minister for Tourism, said.

Catherine Ndungu, Marketing & Innovations Director at Uganda Breweries Limited, revealed that as title sponsors, Tusker Lite continues to champion active, balanced, and vibrant lifestyles.

She said: "We're proud of the impact the marathon has created. We have boosted the economy of Kasese and the surrounding areas, elevated tourism in the Rwenzori region, championed healthy living, supported talent development, and strengthened environmental conservation efforts."

The 2026 edition of the Marathon will take place on August 22, 2026, in Kasese, Uganda.

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