



FINISHER

MAGAZINE



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Semi de Lushi 2026: The race may be over, but the celebration continues.

FROM THE FOUNDERS



THE 4TH EDITION: A RACE TO REMEMBER

The 4th edition of the Semi de Lushi was a true celebration of running, community, and the spirit of Lubumbashi. With more than 500 participants representing 10 nationalities, this year's race weekend brought together runners, families, supporters, partners, and friends for an unforgettable experience.

Race weekend officially kicked off with our press conference at Pullman Grand Karavia, followed by the annual Kids & Family Run, where our youngest runners took center stage. On Sunday, the Semi de Lushi brought everyone together for three distances — 5K, 10K, and 21K — followed by the award ceremony and a post-race celebration filled with music, dancing, and an unforgettable atmosphere.

The weekend was made even more special by the strong corporate teams who joined us from Auto Lubumbashi, Brasimba, Helios Tower, Pullman Gran Karavia, and Ismaili DRC, as well as the girls' team from Malaika School, bringing their energy, enthusiasm, and team spirit to the race.

Inside this edition, we celebrate the people who make the Semi de Lushi what it is. Discover our Runner Stories and the personal bests, victories, challenges, and revelations that made this year's race meaningful for so many participants. Look back on the highlights through our best-of photo selection and relive the moments that defined the 4th edition.

And, of course, we celebrate this year's special-edition medal, featuring the leopard — a powerful symbol of strength, determination, and the spirit of the race.

Congratulations to every participant who showed up, pushed their limits, crossed the finish line, and made the 4th edition of the Semi de Lushi one to remember.

Thank you for being part of the journey. We hope you enjoy looking back on the memories as much as we enjoyed creating them with you.

NANCY BACHMANN & ROLLY KAYUMBA

FOUNDERS CONGO RIVER MARATHON EVENTS &
CONGO RIVER MARATHON FOUNDATION

RAWBANK - DIAMOND SPONSOR

PROMOTING HEALTH, PERSEVERANCE, AND COMMUNITY

WORDS BY VEDASTA MASANGU, MARKETING MANAGER AT RAWBANK

"Rawbank is proud to partner with the Semi de Lushi for the fourth time, an event that reflects values we deeply believe in: health, perseverance, and community.

We are happy to support an event that brings the entire community together, uniting people of all ages and backgrounds around a shared passion.

Congratulations to the organizing team and every finisher.

We look forward to supporting the continued growth and impact of this remarkable event."





BRASIMBA - GOLD SPONSOR

KEEPING RUNNERS HYDRATED SINCE THE FIRST EDITION

Since the very first Semi de Lushi, Brasimba has been one of the event's most loyal partners, helping create an unforgettable race experience for runners and spectators alike.

The road to race weekend began with the Brasimba Shake Out Run on the Sunday before the event, starting and finishing at the company's headquarters and bringing the running community together for one final training run ahead of race day.

Hydration remained at the heart of Brasimba's support throughout the Semi de Lushi, with Crystal Water keeping runners refreshed along the course and at the finish line. XXL energized the race-day experience, with top finishers also receiving prizes from the brand during the awards ceremony.

Brasimba's commitment was equally visible on the starting line, where 159 employees took part, led by General Manager Mehdi Ben Mesaoud and Marketing Director Gilles Vanderweerde.

Along the course, Gilles even operated his own mobile hydration station, personally handing out refreshing Simba beverages to runners — a memorable gesture that perfectly captured Brasimba's hands-on support and enthusiasm for the local running community.



"Thank you all. It was a pleasure to be part of this event. I myself had the opportunity to participate in a little more than 10 km. It was exceptional and very well organized. Bravo to the organizers, bravo to the winners, bravo to the participants, and I'll see you next year for an even more powerful and even more exceptional event. Thank you."

Mehdi Ben Mesaoud, Managing Director, Brasimba



Gilles took a more playful approach to his role on the course, joking that while the athletes were preparing for their 10K and 21K races, he had become “more of public utility” for the Sunday athletes.

“Hello, so we are here at the Semi de Lubumbashi. This morning, the participants could choose between 5 km, 10 km, and 21 km. So while the athletes are getting ready for the 10 and the 21, I’m more of public utility. For all the Sunday athletes, I’ll bring them comfort during the effort. I have 20 liters of fresh Simba, and I swear that people will not die of thirst today. Cheers to all athletes and others. Good race, thank you.”

Gilles Vanderweerde, Marketing & Commercial Director, Brasimba



**A SHARED EXPERIENCE THAT BRINGS THE
CITY TOGETHER**

SEEING LUBUMBASHI DIFFERENTLY



MOHAMED KHANAFAER, B2B MANAGER AUTO LUBUMBASHI, BRONZE SPONSOR

As a Bronze Sponsor and participant in the Semi de Lushi, Mohamed Khanafer, B2B Manager Auto Lubumbashi, experienced the event both as a partner and as part of a 59-person team taking on the race together.

Here, he shares what made the fourth edition of the Semi de Lushi so special.

“I really loved the whole Semi de Lushi experience. It was such a nice way to move around our city differently and see Lubumbashi from another perspective.

The organization was smooth, the energy was there, and the atmosphere felt very positive from start to finish.

What I enjoyed most was seeing so many different people come together — different ages, backgrounds, and professions — all sharing the same experience. That mix made the event feel very special.

Now that this is the fourth edition, I really believe the Semi de Lushi should become one of those core yearly events that the whole city looks forward to.”



FROM FOOTBALL TO THE FINISH LINE: DIEU LE VEUT KAYOMBO'S ROAD TO VICTORY

For his first Semi de Lushi, Serge Kishiko returned to the city where he was born, ran 21K through the streets of his hometown, and experienced the race from both sides—as a runner and as a partner helping to shape the future of running in the DRC.





Can you tell us a little about your passion for running and what motivated you to participate in the Semi de Lushi this year?

Speaking about my sporting journey, I initially started out as a football player. But when I realized that football was not giving me what I hoped for, I decided to take a break. After two weeks of rest, I started going for morning runs on my own. This was in 2019.

After about three months, I discovered an athletics club here in Lubumbashi. The athletes had just returned from the national championships in Kinshasa, and I approached them because I wanted to join the Lubumbashi athletics club. I spoke with the coach, and he accepted me. He is still my coach today.

After a few minutes, my coach told me, “You know that you are a great champion.” When he said that, I stayed quiet and did not know what to say. I then began training with the club and following all the programs my coach gave us. That is how my athletics journey began.

What motivates me in running is, first of all, the way I challenge myself during training. I talk to myself about my training and my performance before anyone else tells me that I can succeed during the season. I am also motivated by the training programs my coach gives me.

“

“I CONSIDER TRAINING MY DAILY WORK.”

My motivation for participating in the Semi de Lushi came from courage, self-confidence, determination, and trust in the training I had already completed.

What does this victory in the Semi de Lushi 21K mean to you?

This victory means a lot to me. First of all, I dedicate it to my family. Secondly, I dedicate it to my coach. After running the 21K, I feel that he truly deserves this victory as well.

How did you experience the race, and was there a particular moment that stood out to you during the 21K?

When I was standing on the starting line, I was thinking about only one thing: the start and the finish.

My goal was simply to finish the race with strength.

What are your next goals, and which races or challenges are you currently training for?

My goals and challenges for this season included the Semi de Lushi, the CRDB Bank Marathon, and the Congo River Marathon in Kinshasa. My objective is to achieve a strong result and finish either first or second in the half marathon. For now, I am continuing to train and will see what results come from it.



RUNNER STORIES: GAUTHIER KAKUND

RACING SMART, DREAMING BIGGER

1. You have participated in the Semi de Lushi before and came into this year's race aiming for first place. How did you experience the race and finishing second?

I came into this race with the ambition of winning, but the preparation was not easy. I had been dealing with a right knee and calf injury, and I was still coming back after a period of rest. After around 6 kilometers, I realized I needed to manage the race wisely to avoid dropping out. I decided to protect my body while still pushing to finish the race. Despite the situation, I am very happy with the result. I finished second, enjoyed the race, and also had the opportunity to encourage other athletes to achieve good performances. For me, this race was an important step in my preparation for my upcoming competitions.

2. Was there a particular moment during the race that changed the outcome or made the difference between first and second place?

Yes, the decisive moment came after the first few kilometers, when I had to reduce my pace because of my injury. I knew that if I pushed too hard, I could risk not finishing the race. I made a strategic decision to manage my effort. In the final meters, I tried to give my best and finish strongly, but the difference had already been made.

This experience taught me that in athletics, you need patience, you need to listen to your body, and you always have to think about long-term progress.





3. How do you motivate yourself to keep improving and pushing your limits as an athlete?

My motivation comes from my dreams and my love for athletics. I believe every challenge is a lesson that makes us stronger. Injuries, difficult moments, and defeats should not stop an athlete; they should create more determination. My philosophy is simple: "No human being is limited. It is hard work, discipline, and perseverance that turn dreams into reality."

4. What are your next goals, and what are you now working towards in your running career?

My goal is to continue improving and reach the highest level possible. I want to compete in major international events such as the African Championships, World Championships, and the 2028 Olympic Games.

I have already achieved several important performances: 31:53 for a road 10 km, 32:04 for 10 km, 15:14 for 5000 m, and 4:03 for 1500 m. I also won the 72 Hours of the Maillot in Brazzaville over 95 km with a time of 9 hours 10 minutes. I have won several editions of the Congo River Marathon 10 km race. I am looking to take the next step in my career. I want to compete in more international races, train in countries with strong athletics traditions such as Kenya, Ethiopia, and Djibouti, and continue improving my performances.

5. You also volunteered at the Kids & Family Run, helping guide the children through their warm-up and getting them ready for the race. What did that experience mean to you, and how important do you think it is to inspire the next generation of runners?

It was a very special experience for me. I really enjoyed helping the children, guiding their warm-up, and seeing their excitement as they prepared for their race.

For a long time, I have had a dream of contributing to the development of athletics in the DRC. Today, I want to first build my career and achieve my sporting goals, but in the future, I would like to create an athletics academy to train young talents.

My dream is to help a new generation of athletes improve, believe in themselves, and hopefully one day win an Olympic medal for our country.



RUNNER STORIES: JOE KABALA

FINDING MY RUNNING COMMUNITY IN LUSHI

When I moved to Likasi, I continued running on my own. I kept asking around if there were any running events, but no one seemed to know of any. People only referred me to a walking group, which I joined a few times before returning to my solo runs.

One early morning, around 5 a.m., I met another runner on the road. I stopped him and asked for his phone number so we could coordinate our training runs. Sometimes we planned to meet, and other times we would simply cross paths by chance.

One weekend, during a long run, I met him again—this time with a group of friends. That's when he told me about the Congo River Marathon. I was excited to finally discover that there was an organized running event. Although he explained that the race had been postponed, he promised to let me know as soon as the new date was announced. I even asked him to send me the original race poster because I could hardly believe it.

When registration finally opened, I signed up immediately. A few days later, I realized I had entered the wrong email address during registration. I started to panic because I couldn't travel from Likasi to Lubumbashi without confirmation.

Thankfully, the organizing team responded quickly, corrected my registration, and confirmed my place. On Saturday, I traveled to Lubumbashi for race weekend.

After two years of running alone, Joe Kabala discovered that one race could bring together not only runners, but a community he had been searching for.





Arriving at the Pullman Hotel to collect my race pack was already an experience. Seeing so many runners picking up their bibs made everything feel real.

Race morning was even more exciting. I woke up early because I didn't want to miss a single moment. Watching runners warm up, pin on their bibs, meeting families, and seeing companies participate created an incredible atmosphere.

I ran the 10K, completing two laps of the course. Every kilometer was enjoyable—from the start line to the finish. The morning sun grew stronger, the sweat kept pouring, and the water stations were a welcome relief. Whenever I felt like slowing down, one thing kept motivating me: the beautiful finisher's medal waiting at the end.

**That race did more than give me a medal.
It helped me reconnect with my world.**

One of the best parts of running is the joy that exists whenever runners come together. I left Lubumbashi having met new people, made new connections, and already looking forward to the next race.

I hope to participate in many more Congo River Marathon events in the future. I would also love to see even more race distances one day—including a marathon—to attract runners from across the region.

I'll certainly be spreading the word back home with my running club, Lusaka Fitness Squad (LFS).

“

“THIS RACE REALLY MADE ME
RECONNECT WITH MY WORLD.”



RUNNER STORIES: DR. URIEL BONGWA

MORE THAN JUST RUNNING

A first Semi de Lushi, and the beginning of a journey



Participating in the 2026 Semi de Lushi was more than just running; it was an experience that reminded me why events like this matter. It was also my very first Semi de Lushi, which made the experience even more special.

What stood out to me most was the atmosphere. People from different backgrounds, families, and groups of friends came together with one goal: to challenge themselves and support one another. That sense of unity made every kilometer worthwhile.

Crossing the finish line was a proud moment, but the greatest reward was the journey itself.

“

“I ALSO RECEIVED MY VERY FIRST RACE MEDAL — THE FIRST OF MANY MORE TO COME.”

Thank you to the organizers, volunteers, sponsors, and fellow runners for making the Semi de Lushi such a memorable experience. I hope to make it back for the next edition and continue this incredible journey.

RUNNER STORIES: ORNIELLA MWANA SAKINA

TWO SISTERS, ONE FINISH LINE

For Ornella Mwana Sakina and Amina Mwana Yohari, running is more than a sporting challenge. It is a journey they share together. For Ornella, the race represented an opportunity to push beyond her limits, step outside her comfort zone and prove that, despite the challenges, anything is possible with determination.

Crossing the finish line alongside her sister made the moment even more special. They supported each other throughout the race, through both the easier moments and the toughest ones. Sharing that finish line became a memory they will carry with them for a lifetime.

They did not just win a medal. They shared an experience, unforgettable emotions and an immense sense of pride.

And their journey continues. Together, Ornella and Amina will take on the Semi de Brazzaville on August 16 and the Africell Congo River Marathon on September 13.



RUNNER STORIES: BEN KAPENDWE

EVERY EDITION, EVERY STEP



It is an honor and a privilege to have been part of every edition of the Semi de Lushi since its beginning.

“

“OVER THE YEARS, IT HAS
BECOME A TRADITION FOR
ME TO PARTICIPATE IN
THIS AMAZING EVENT.”

This year was another great experience. I achieved the time goal I had set for myself, which motivates me to keep improving.

I hope to continue enjoying the journey, staying fit, pushing my limits, and hopefully one day reaching the podium, whether in the 5K, 10K, or 21K.



RUNNER STORIES: OTHMAR IYE

RUNNING TOGETHER, GROWING TOGETHER

For Otmar Iye, the Kids & Family Run is about watching his daughter discover the joy of sport. The Semi de Lushi, meanwhile, has taught him that running is about more than competition—it is about growth, perspective, and being part of something bigger than yourself.

“My experience with these two events is quite special to me because they represent two very different things.

For the Kids & Family Run, it is primarily a wonderful way to introduce my daughter to running. The 2026 edition was already her second time participating. During her first race, she was still very shy and did not really run the entire distance. But this year, I saw a real change. She knew there would be a finisher medal, she was excited to run, and she truly embraced the experience.

Today, even when I go running on weekends or leave for a training session, she knows that I am going running. I believe events like this are a great way to introduce children to sport and help them understand that effort can also be rewarded. Most importantly, I can already see a change in my daughter. She is beginning to understand what it means to make an effort, take on a challenge, and feel proud of what she has achieved. As a father, this makes me incredibly proud of her.





My experience with the Semi de Lushi has also changed significantly over the years. When I first participated, I really wanted to win. I wanted to finish among the leading runners—ideally in the top three, or at least in the top five. But I quickly realized that there were runners who were much stronger and more experienced than I was.

Over time, I also came to understand something important: when you take part in a race only to win, and you do not achieve that goal, you can easily become disappointed and lose some of the joy of the experience. Personally, that did not discourage me. On the contrary, the following editions helped me see the race differently.

This year, for example, I approached the race with a different mindset. I was not running only to beat my personal record or finish ahead of other runners. I simply wanted to experience the race, enjoy the moment, and feel the unique energy that comes with the Semi de Lushi.

And that is what I truly love about this event. Over the years, I have also seen how much the organization has improved, and that is something I genuinely appreciate. For me, the Semi de Lushi has become much more than just a race. It has its own energy, its own atmosphere, and a feeling that is difficult to explain.

“

“EVERY TIME I PARTICIPATE, I FEEL AS THOUGH I AM OVERCOMING SOMETHING WITHIN MYSELF—NOT ONLY PHYSICALLY, BUT MENTALLY AS WELL.”

Sometimes, I wish the event could take place twice a year, because once a year almost feels too little! But perhaps that is also what makes the Semi de Lushi so special: you look forward to it, you prepare for it, and when the day finally arrives, you simply want to enjoy every moment.

I hope future editions will continue to grow while preserving this special energy. Most of all, I hope that the people who participate in the years to come will feel the same way I do—that unique feeling of being part of something bigger than just a race.”



PARTNER IN MOTION

A HOMETOWN RUN. A FULL-CIRCLE MOMENT.

For his first Semi de Lushi, Serge Kishiko returned to the city where he was born, ran 21K through the streets of his hometown, and experienced the race from both sides—as a runner and as a partner helping to shape the future of running in the DRC.



WORDS BY SERGE KISHIKO, RUNNER AND TECHNOLOGY PARTNER WITH ITOT AFRICA

I was born in Lubumbashi, but I had never run the Semi de Lushi. This year, its 4th edition, I finally did.

The race started back in 2023, by which time I had already moved to Kinshasa. So, when work brought me to Lubumbashi one month before the run in June, I made a decision that felt small at the time but turned out to matter: I extended my stay. I wanted to line up at the start of the Semi de Lushi and experience my hometown on foot, at race pace, the way only runners get to see a city that is moving.

Anyone who knows both cities knows Lubumbashi runs colder than Kinshasa.

Running at 9 or 12°C was a sensation I had been chasing for a long time. The sharp, invigorating air, the way the cold makes every breath feel earned, the quiet of a Lushi morning before the streets wake up. It was exciting in a way only a first-time experience can be, and it stayed with me long after I crossed the line.

When I lived in Lubumbashi years ago, I ran as an amateur. Short loops, once a quarter, nothing serious, just enough to feel the rhythm when it happens. Being back at the start line reminded me of that younger version of myself and made this return feel like a full circle moment. This time I covered 21 kilometers in my hometown for the first time in my life, thanks to Congo River Marathon. That medal now sits in my CRM collection, and this run will stay in the stories I tell for years to come.

This edition carried another layer of meaning for me. It was also my first Semi de Lushi as a partner of CRM through our company, Itot Africa. I met Rolly the week before when he landed in Lubumbashi to contribute to the preparation. From welcoming him into our office, to the press conference, to the late nights watching World Cup matches together, every moment confirmed we were building the right partnership with the right people, at the right time.



Why does Itot Africa partner with Congo River Marathon? Because running mirrors what we believe in. It rewards good health, discipline, incremental progress, and community. The same values that drive how we build technology. Sport creates healthier people, stronger cities, and a country that shows up for itself. We want to help more Congolese lace up, line up, and cross their own finish lines, whether it's their first 5K or their tenth marathon. Technology has a real role to play in that story. A well-run race is not just kilometers and cones. It is registration that works from any phone, easy payment through any method, timing that gives every runner an accurate story of their effort, live tracking that lets a family follow their runner in real time, and post-race analytics that turn a single event into a learning experience for the next one. It is the difference between a race you ran and a race you understand. Multiply that across thousands of runners and dozens of events a year, and you start to see how data and intelligence can quietly raise the standard of an entire running culture.

That is the role Itot Africa started playing alongside CRM, as its Technology and AI partner. We put data, digital solutions and infrastructure, and intelligence at the service of the running community, from the first click on the registration page to the final report after the medals are handed out. So that every runner's story, like mine at the Semi de Lushi this year, gets the platform, the precision, and the recognition it deserves.

RUNNER STORIES: NATHAN LUNDA

RUNNING IS A WAY TO PRACTICE WHAT I PREACH





You finished 4th in the 21K at the Semi de Lushi. How did the race unfold for you, and what was your mindset during those final kilometers?

For this year's half marathon, I had a hard time finding a comfortable rhythm in the first few kilometers. I trained well enough, but on the day, everything felt so hard in the beginning. I started feeling stronger at 17 km and pushed through to finish 4th. My mindset was strong towards the end, as I was only focused on finishing the last loop and reaching the finish line,

As a physiotherapist, you spend your days helping others move better. What does running mean to you personally—and what keeps you coming back to it?

As a physio, running is a way to practice what I preach. In my line of work, the focus is always on improving people's quality of life and physical aptitude. Running is a sport that allows me to improve my own life and physical aptitude. I keep coming back to it because it helps me to improve my mental resilience and keeps me physically strong for the work I do.

Was there a particular moment during the race or the weekend that you especially enjoyed or that stayed with you?

Yes, I enjoyed the ambience at the finish line the most. I loved that people were cheering for all the runners who were crossing the line. There was a great spirit of encouragement and unity.

After finishing 4th in the 21K, what's next for you? Is there another race or goal you're already looking forward to?

I'm looking forward to running a sub-90-minute half marathon next time. It will require some training, but I'm willing to put in the work required to achieve this goal. I'm also looking into running this year's Congo River Marathon in Kinshasa.



RUNNER STORIES: MALAIKA SCHOOL DRC

GIRLS WHO RUN, GIRLS WHO RISE



For the third consecutive year, girls from Malaika School joined the Semi de Lushi, bringing energy, determination, and a strong sense of community to the 5K. We invited three participating girls, Jocelyne, Viviane & Angeau, to share their experiences — from what inspired them to run and the challenges they faced, to how crossing the finish line made them feel and what they would tell other girls who are ready to take on a challenge.



What inspired you to take part in the Semi de Lushi this year?

What inspired me to take part in the Semi de Lushi was, above all, my love for sports and my desire to take on a new challenge. By choosing to run the 5-kilometer race, I wanted to push myself beyond my limits, promote a healthy lifestyle, and show that young girls can achieve great things when they believe in themselves.

What was the most challenging part of the run, and how did you keep going?

The most challenging part of the race was the final kilometers, when fatigue began to set in. Even then, I stayed focused on my goal. My determination, discipline, the encouragement from the crowd, and my desire to cross the finish line gave me the strength to keep going until the very end.

How did crossing the finish line make you feel?

Crossing the finish line filled me with immense joy, great pride, and deep gratitude. It was a rewarding moment that reflected all the effort I had put into the race. It reminded me that with perseverance and courage, it is possible to overcome obstacles. This experience strengthened my self-confidence and motivated me even more to take on new challenges.

What did this experience teach you about endurance, determination, or believing in yourself?

This experience taught me that endurance is not only about physical strength but also about mental strength. I learned that discipline, determination, and self-belief are essential to achieving your goals. Every challenge is an opportunity to learn, grow, and become stronger.

What message would you like to share with other girls about running or trying something that feels challenging?

To all the girls out there, I want to say: believe in yourself, dare to dream big, and never give up. No matter how difficult the journey may seem, every step brings you closer to your goal. With courage, discipline, determination, and perseverance, you are capable of achieving great things. The most important thing is to take the first step and never stop believing in your potential.



ISMAILI CIVIC LUBUMBASHI: RUNNING TOGETHER FOR A STRONGER COMMUNITY

For the second year in a row, Ismaili CIVIC was part of the Semi de Lushi experience with an impressive team of 64 runners, joined by 10 young participants from their community in the Kids & Family Run. Beyond taking part in the race, Ismaili CIVIC also supported the event by providing water along the course, helping runners stay refreshed throughout their challenge. Their participation reflects the power of sport to bring people together, inspire the next generation and strengthen community connections. We asked some of their runners to share their Semi de Lushi experience and what made the day special.



“Participating in the Semi de Lushi was an amazing experience. At first, I wasn’t sure if I could finish, but with every step, my stamina, confidence and determination grew stronger. Crossing the finish line gave me a wonderful sense of achievement and inner happiness. The event inspired me to stay fit, meet new people and embrace a healthier lifestyle. Seeing so many participants complete the race motivated me to push myself further. It was more than just a run—it was a reminder that with determination, anything is possible.”

Najma Charania, 5K Runner



“Completing my 10K feels amazing. My goal was to finish in exactly one hour, and I’m really happy that I achieved it. I focused on keeping a steady pace from the start and not going too fast. There were moments when it was quite hard, especially towards the end due to not having enough practice, but I kept pushing myself to achieve my goal of one hour. Crossing the finish line and seeing that I hit my planned time was an incredible feeling. This run gave me confidence and showed me that with consistency and the right mindset, I can achieve the goals I set for myself. I’m proud of this milestone, and I’m already looking forward to my next run.”

Aalin Bardai, 10K Runner





“Running a 10K for the first time was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I didn’t participate to win a race—I joined to support a meaningful movement that aimed to bring people together for a good cause. Knowing that every step I took represented hope, unity and encouragement gave me the motivation to keep going.

As the race began, I felt a mix of excitement and nervousness. The energy of the crowd, the cheering volunteers and the determination of the runners around me created an unforgettable atmosphere. The first few kilometers felt easy, but as the distance increased, I started to feel tired. There were moments when I wanted to slow down, but remembering why I had joined inspired me to keep moving forward. Crossing the finish line was an emotional moment.

I felt proud, accomplished and grateful. Completing my first 10K taught me that with determination, a positive mindset and a meaningful purpose, we can achieve more than we think.”

10K Runner Participant

“Participating in my first 10K was a rewarding experience, not because of the competition, but because it supported a meaningful cause. The excitement of the event, the encouragement from volunteers and the determination of fellow runners kept me motivated, even when the race became challenging. Crossing the finish line filled me with pride and reminded me that perseverance and purpose can help us achieve more than we imagine. This experience was more than just a run—it was a celebration of resilience, community and making a positive difference.”

Parveen Popatiya
Youth and Sports Board, Ismaili
Community Lubumbashi



BEHIND THE CAMERA: EMMANUEL MULUMBA

CAPTURING THE SPIRIT OF THE SEMI DE LUSHI





Emmanuel Mulumba, One Touch Photography:

“For the past two years, I have had the honor of leading the photo and video team for the Lushi Half Marathon.

The 2026 edition confirmed the importance of our mission: to provide high-quality visual coverage that truly captures the spirit of the event.

With my team, we captured the energy of the runners, the enthusiasm of the spectators, and the unique character of Lubumbashi, ensuring that every moment becomes a shared and lasting memory.”

Since 2025, Emmanuel Mulumba and his team at One Touch Photography have been behind the camera, capturing the Semi de Lushi through photo and video.

Over the past two editions, they have documented the energy of the runners, the enthusiasm of the spectators, and the unique character of Lubumbashi, turning moments from race weekend into lasting memories.



PULLMAN HOTEL GRAN KARAVIA HOSTS THE OFFICIAL PRESS CONFERENCE

KICKING OFF THE 4TH EDITION



From left to right: Benita Mwamb (Brand Manager Brasimba), Rolly Kayumba (Co-Founder Congo River Marathon Events), Dieudonné Kabongo (Brand Manager illicocash)

A big thank you to our Silver sponsor Pullman Lubumbashi Gran Karavia for hosting the official press conference on July 8th in Lubumbashi. The event marked the start of the 4th edition of the semi de Lushi — a celebration of four years of running, unity, and community impact in the heart of the copper Capital.

Words from Tina Ciza, Sales & Marketing Manager of Pullman Lubumbashi Grand Karavia:

“We highly value our partnership and look forward to continuing our collaboration on future successful editions.”



From left to right: Serge Kishiko (General Manager ITOT Africa), Makok (Athletic Federation Lubumbashi), Vedasta Masangu (Marketing Manager Rawbank), Ilunga Mande (Congoles Athlete)



LITTLE RUNNERS, BIG SMILES, LASTING MEMORIES

KIDS & FAMILY RUN



Watch the Recap of the Kids & Family Run 2026 on our [Youtube Channel](#)

A beautiful morning filled with running, exercise, play, laughter, and community. The 2026 Kids & Family Run brought over hundred children and families together to move, have fun, make new friends, and create lasting memories.

From the first warm-up to the finish line, the morning was all about joy, connection, and inspiring the next generation to discover the fun of being active together.





A MORNING OF CREATIVITY & FUN

This year, the Kids & Family Run brought children and families together for a joyful morning of movement, connection, and creativity, with Tufuli Lab adding an inspiring creative touch to the experience.





WORDS BY DIVINE KAMBWE, MANAGER TUFULI LAB

This year's edition of the Kids Run was exceptionally well organized and coordinated, making it another memorable experience for families across Lubumbashi. We were delighted by the overwhelming response from parents and thrilled to welcome even more children than in previous years. Year after year, this event continues to grow, establishing itself as a must-attend family tradition in our city.

Adding to the spirit of creativity and fun, Tufuli Lab hosted two engaging arts and crafts activities: tie-dye sock making and mirror decorating. These hands-on experiences kept children happily entertained for hours while parents had the opportunity to relax, enjoy refreshments, and connect with other families.

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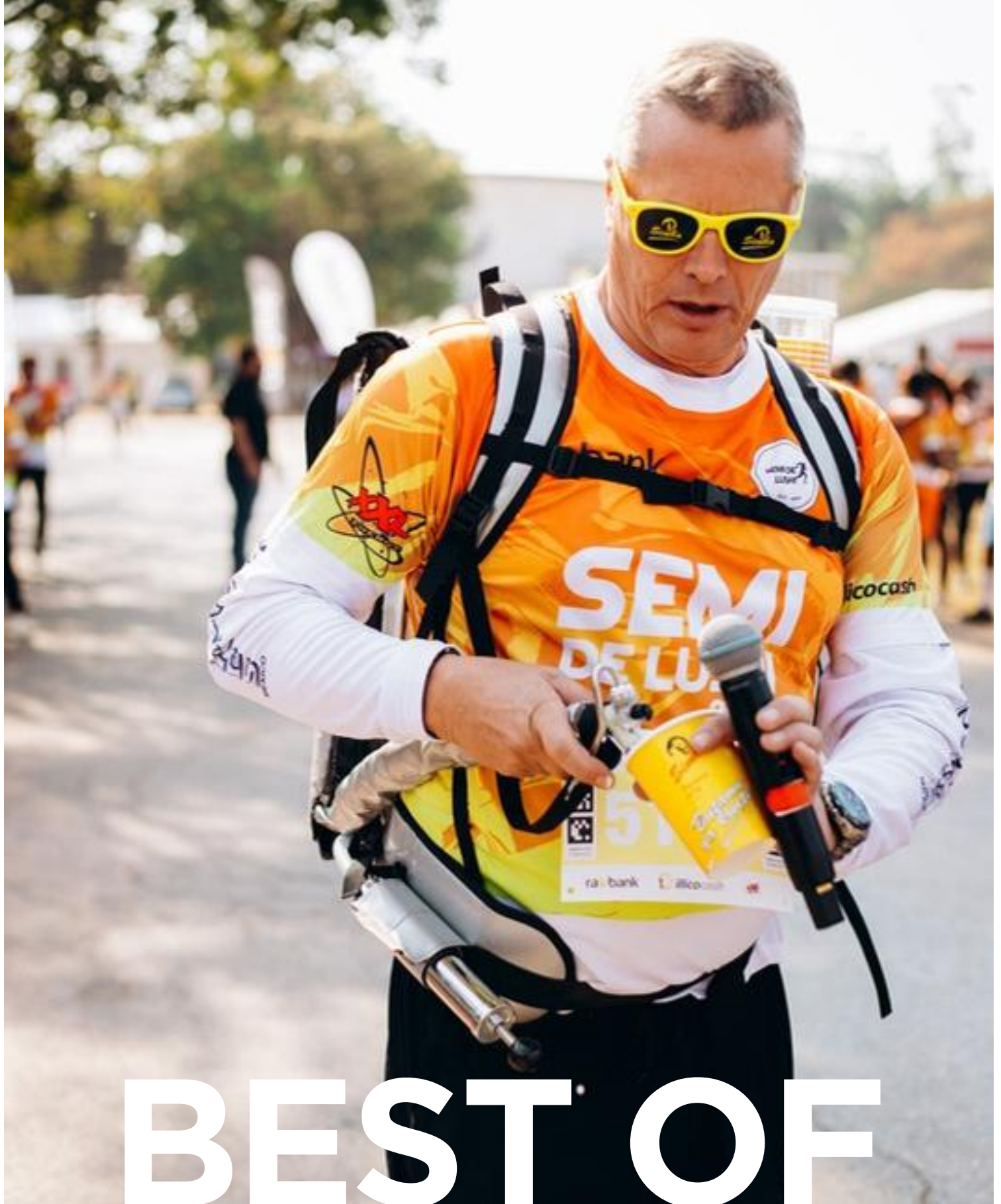
**“IT WAS THE PERFECT
BALANCE OF ACTIVITY,
CREATIVITY, AND
COMMUNITY.”**

Because the Kids Run takes place on just one day each year, we encourage parents to register as early as possible to avoid disappointment. We also invite schools, Sunday schools, youth groups, and other organizations to participate together, making the experience even more meaningful for children.

Beyond the excitement of the race, the laughter, and the post-run celebrations, this event carries a deeper purpose. We run to promote peace, unity, healthy living, and stronger communities. Every participant contributes to a cause that goes far beyond the finish line.

A heartfelt thank you to every family, volunteer, partner, and supporter who made this year's edition such a success. Your enthusiasm and commitment continue to inspire us. We look forward to welcoming you back next year, along with your friends, neighbours, colleagues, and extended family, for an even bigger and better edition.





BEST OF

Capturing the Essence of the 2026 Semi de Lushi: From the mobile hydration station and special-edition medals to the biggest smiles and unforgettable moments. Enjoy!





















































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Celebrate your achievement and keep
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with your Official Finisher Certificate.

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hello@congorivermarathon.com to
receive yours.

“IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER.” – AFRICAN PROVERB

SPONSORS & PARTNERS 2026



Thank you to all our sponsors and partners of the Semi de Lushi 2026!

Your belief in our vision and your commitment to this journey made history possible.

From the streets of Lubumbashi to the hearts of every runner, your support brought strength, unity, and purpose to every step. We are deeply grateful to have you by our side.

We are honored to walk—and run—this path with you. Here's to 2027 and the years ahead, as we continue building a powerful legacy together.

With deep gratitude,
Nancy Bachmann & Rolly Kayumba

Co-Founders, Congo River Marathon Events & The Congo River Marathon Foundation



REGISTER NOW:

**CONGO RIVER MARATHON
SEPTEMBER 13, 2026**

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FINISHER MAGAZINE 2026



See you on race weekend
June 12-13, 2027!

www.congorivermarathon.com/semidelushi