

Original Mambas Athletics Club Tel: 083 761 5935 - Secretary

Tel: 073 223 8114 - Chairperson

Email: omacexecutive@gmail.com

PRESS RELEASE

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<u>Cancellation of the 2025 Bramble Berry Run – Safety First Amid Infrastructure Upgrades</u>

It is with deep regret that Original Mambas Athletics Club (OMAC), in partnership with Galaxy Bingo East London, announces the cancellation of the 2025 Bramble Berry Run, originally scheduled to take place at Kings Mall, in Gonubie on the 29 November 2025.

This decision follows a site inspection and consultation with the Mall authorities regarding the ongoing infrastructure upgrades at King's Mall, which was to serve as the race venue. The construction work has introduced significant safety and logistical challenges, including:

- Restricted pedestrian access due to barricades and fencing
- Active construction zones with safety warnings
- Disrupted traffic and limited parking affecting emergency access
- Uneven surfaces and machinery posing risks to runners and spectators

In light of these developments, and in keeping with our shared commitment to safety, we have made the responsible decision to cancel this year's race.

We acknowledge the disappointment this may cause to athletes, clubs, supporters, and the broader community who have embraced the Bramble Berry Run as a highlight on the Border Athletics calendar. The event has grown in stature and spirit, and we are grateful for the continued enthusiasm and support.

Looking Ahead to 2026 - A Stronger, Safer, and More Spectacular Bramble Berry Run

While this year's cancellation is unfortunate, it also presents an opportunity. With the anticipated completion of the King's Mall upgrades, we are excited to begin planning for a **revitalized 2026 Bramble Berry Run** that will offer an even better experience for all participants.

We remain committed to delivering a safe, inclusive, and memorable event that celebrates community, athleticism, and the vibrant spirit of Gonubie. Further updates and announcements will be shared in due course. For any queries, please contact:

Email: omacexecutive@gmail.com

Phone: 083 752 6794

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Issued jointly by:

Alvin Singama – Chairperson, Original Mambas Athletics Club **Laxine Gallant** – Marketing Coordinator, Galaxy Bingo Eastern Cape