



08 July 2026

The Acting President

Athletics South Africa

By Email

Dear Mr Acting President

Re: Correspondence from Deneys Reitz Inc on behalf of KwaZulu-Natal Athletics — 7 July 2026

1. I write to you in my capacity as Chairperson of the Comrades Marathon Association (“CMA”) Board to bring to your attention a matter of concern which, we trust, has arisen without the knowledge or endorsement of Athletics South Africa (“ASA”).
2. Earlier today, the CMA received a cease and desist letter from Deneys Reitz Inc, acting on behalf of KwaZulu-Natal Athletics (“KZNA”), demanding that the CMA retract its announcement of the date of the 100th Comrades Marathon and furnish a signed undertaking to that effect by 10 July 2026. The letter further threatens an application for an urgent interdict to prevent the CMA from hosting the 2027 Comrades Marathon. A copy of that letter, together with our response thereto, is enclosed for your reference.
3. We write to you not in the spirit of complaint, but out of genuine dismay. The CMA has consistently sought — and continues to seek — a close, cooperative, and constructive partnership with ASA as well as KZNA. We regard ASA as the custodian of athletics in South Africa, and we value enormously the relationship between our respective organisations. It is precisely because of that regard that we feel compelled to raise this matter directly with you.
4. The combative and adversarial approach adopted by KZNA — engaging high-priced legal counsel to issue threats of litigation against the CMA — is deeply regrettable. We presume that this course of action has been taken without ASA’s knowledge or blessing, as it is wholly inconsistent with the spirit of cooperation and partnership that has always characterised our engagement with ASA at the national level.



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5. We are bound to record our concern that political manoeuvres of this nature — instructing attorneys to issue cease and desist demands in circumstances where ASA itself has already approved the race dates in question — are not conducive to good relations between the CMA and the athletics family in South Africa. As you will note from the enclosed correspondence, Mr Enoch Skosana, in his capacity as ASA's Chair of Road Running, confirmed in writing on 27 November 2025 that the 2027 and 2028 Comrades Marathon race dates were approved. The CMA has acted in reliance on, and in good faith pursuant to, that approval.
6. The CMA has no desire to be drawn into adversarial exchanges with any provincial federation. Our sole objective is to continue delivering the Comrades Marathon — an event of immense national and international significance — for the benefit of athletes, the province of KwaZulu-Natal, and the country as a whole. We can achieve this most effectively when we work hand in hand with ASA and its structures, not in opposition to them.
7. We respectfully ask that ASA take note of KZNA's conduct in this regard and, if it sees fit, engage with KZNA to ensure that the relationship between our organisations remains one of mutual respect and constructive dialogue. The resources and energy currently being directed toward legal posturing would, in our respectful submission, be far better spent on the development and promotion of athletics in South Africa.
8. The CMA remains, as it has always been, willing and eager to engage with ASA as a committed partner. We are confident that any differences can be resolved through open and good-faith dialogue, and we look forward to continuing to work with you toward our shared goals.

Yours faithfully

MR. MARK LEATHERS
CHAIRPERSON: COMRADES MARATHON ASSOCIATION

Encl: (1) Letter from Deneys Reitz Inc dated 7 July 2026; (2) CMA Response to Deneys Reitz Inc dated 8 July 2026

Cc: ASA Acting CEO; ASA Chair of Road Running



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