**20 March 2019**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**OLD MUTUAL TWO OCEANS MARATHON 2019 TO CELEBRATE ITS MILESTONE YEAR**

**WITH A GAME-CHANGING RELAY CONCEPT**

Africa’s biggest running event, the Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon, celebrates their 50th milestone year, with the launch of the inaugural 2 X 28 km Relay, adding to an already exciting array of celebration events.

Marking 50 years of running 'Oceans’, this new addition signals a new era, with innovation becoming the hallmark of South Africa’s leading mass participation event,’ says Rodney Maharage, Two Oceans Marathon Board chairperson.

‘The race has earned its iconic status as a spectacular global sporting event, and this inaugural 2 X 28km Relay will provide what we hope will be a nostalgic, yet memorable experience for runners and supporters alike’ Furthermore – it serves as a fund-raising tool for TOMI – (our Two Oceans Marathon Initiative) where a substantial portion of the entry fee will be channeled into some of our social upliftment projects.

The 2 X 28km relay forms part of the Ultra Marathon event, with the number of participants limited to 500 teams only. Each relay team will consist of two runners – male or female, neither of whom have entered to run the OMTOM 2019 Ultra or Half Marathon. However, one member of the relay team, must have completed at least one Two Oceans 56km Ultra Marathon.

The Relay changeover, located approximately 600m past the 28km mark in Noordhoek, boasts a uniquely conceptualised chill zone and refreshment station with live entertainment, adding to the festivities. The second runner will continue on the coastal route, through Hout Bay, to the finish at UCT’s Race Village on Upper Campus in Rondebosch.

Runners, who enter the relay, are encouraged to wear their club colours or the matching commemorative TOMI Relay Team shirts, epitomising the essence of what TOMI stands for, ‘*Together our Magic Inspires’.*

To add to the unprecedented hype around OMTOM’s 50th year, spectators are advised to get an early start at any of the many entertainment spots along the scenic route, which connects the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, to cheer on friends and family, and some of the celebrity teams taking part in the inaugural Two Oceans Marathon Relay.

Entries for this innovative, first of its kind event, are open and can be purchased via Webtickets. Entries cost R1500 per team which includes the unique relay T-shirt, a goodie bag and a beautiful medal. The minimum age for participation is 18 years. The Two Oceans Marathon has evolved from its humble beginnings as a training run, which saw 26 slightly shaky runners take their first strides at the start line, to what has now become Africa’s biggest running event with more than 29 000 runners participating.

Now, at 50 years of age, this much-loved family event has become an Easter Weekend tradition and the world’s most beautiful marathon, has expanded into a full and exciting internationally recognised running event.

The weekend running festival, includes the IAU-accredited Ultra Marathon (56km), a Half Marathon (21.1km), a 24km- and 12km-Trail Run, the Cape Town International Friendship Run, the 56m Nappy Dash, 250m Toddlers’ Trot, the 2.1km and 5.6km Fun Runs, and now the Relay as its newest addition.

‘We are excited at the potential of this event to be a game-changer in long-distance running,’ says Rodney.

“As a globally recognised brand, we remain committed to growing running across all communities and demographics, whilst enhancing the runner experience through innovative thinking and concepts such as the relay. Likewise, we are developing numerous channels for enhancing our social impact footprint and using our powerful platforms to uplift and empower people. This thinking is already actioned in our relay where many social enterprises, community groups and clubs with a development programme are providing services and entertainment for us”

The Old Mutual Two Oceans Ultra Marathon, incorporating the TOMI Relay, as well as the 21km Half Marathon takes place on Saturday, April 20, 2019.

For more information and to enter the inaugural Two Oceans Marathon Relay, visit our [website](https://www.twooceansmarathon.org.za/).

Follow the updates as they unfold on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

**ENDS**

EDITORS NOTES

**Event Dates:**

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| **17 – 19 April** | The Old Mutual Two Oceans Marathon Expo, Cape Town International Convention Centre |
| 19 April 2019 | * 56m Nappy Dash, 250m Toddlers’ Trot, 2.1km and 5.6km Fun Runs
* Cape Town International Friendship Run
* Trail Runs - 24km and 12km
 |
| 20 April 2019 | * Ultra Marathon
* Half Marathon
* Two Oceans Marathon Relay
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Relay entries can be booked here: <https://www.webtickets.co.za/v2/event.aspx?itemid=1485581309>

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