

# Sh3m raised as song and dance crown marathon

By NATION Correspondent

There was colour and excitement, on Monday, when more than 130 tourists took part in a charity marathon, in Malindi District.

The 42 kilometre walk under the sweltering coastal heat raised over Sh3 million.

A number of Kenyans took part in the race that took Dutch and German tourists, airlifted into Kenya two days earlier through the Sala Gate road, to a small primary school, Viriko, that is to benefit from the funds from the first Kenya-Jambo marathon.

Mr John Charo, 21, led the pack in three hours and 18 minutes.

The part-time fisherman and amateur marathoner has taken part in several district and national trials.

Another runner said: "I thank God for winning the race. Although there were no rewards, I believe one day I will get a sponsor and an expert to train me to become a professional marathoner.

"I wholeheartedly believe I have the potential to become one of the best and win local and international races."

## Led the tourists

Dutch tourist Lamko Hulzebos, 37, led the tourists in finishing the race in three hours and four minutes and was received with song, dance and pomp by parents of the school and villagers, who are eagerly waiting for its transformation.

"The race was tough because of the heat and the hills. Holland is cool and flat, so it is easier to finish the race in a short time," said the tourist. He had attempted such marathons in his country on various occasions, he said.

Kenyan Harrison Karunzi Lukas, 19, a boda boda taxi operator, finished third and expressed his joy at completing the race.

Flagging off the marathon, Tourism assistant minister Boniface Mughanga disclosed that following the decision to waive visa fees for the tourists participating in the race, the Government had in one way encouraged sports tourism.

Malindi MP Lukas Baya Maitha and Mayor Alfred Mramba Kashari praised the Government for waiving the fees.