

Gatebe looking to add the Nedbank Runified 50km title to his record books.

With 10km to go of the 2016 Comrades Marathon, it wasn't a question of how far ahead David Gatebe would finish ahead of the 2nd placed runner, but how far under the race record he would get. After 5:18:19, Gatebe not only smashed the race record but rewrote the record books becoming the first man to run the distance under 5:20:00. On 6 March, Gatebe returns to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality for the 2nd running of the Nedbank Runified Breaking barriers 50km and will be taking aim at another record, although this time a World record.

It's still dark outside at 05:00am in Rustenburg as Gatebe laces up his running shoes for yet another long run in his prep towards the event. "If you want to achieve something good, you need to work hard for it," says Gatebe. A former petrol attendant, Gatebe is now employed at the Impala Platinum mine, but instead of working deep underground, he has an office job. "Impala really look after me and give me the time to do my training. We can run over 200km a week but now towards the race, we are working on the speed because although it is a 50km, the pace is much faster."

In last years Nedbank Runified Breaking Barriers 50km, Gatebe finished 13th in 2:47:58, after losing touch with the race leaders just with around 15km to go. His time was still so quick, that it would have won many of the local 50km races around the country. "Last year I was strong for the race but the thing that was missing was the speed when they started to push so we are fixing that for this year."

As a former South African Marathon champion and Two Oceans winner as well as a Comrades time nobody has come close to, Gatebe possesses a potent running CV that is enough to scare any of his competitors. "This year I have two big goals," said Gatebe. "First is Nedbank Runified 50km and a world record, and then we will focus on Comrades with my manager Blackie Swart."

The Nedbank Runified Breaking Barriers 50km returns to the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality for its second edition on 6 March. The event, which is by invitation only, saw two new world records and numerous age group bests at last year's edition and came into the new year setting more records. The event has been given an elite label by World Athletics who are the governing body of the sport. This label puts the event on the world stage and with it, elevates the Nedbank Runified Breaking Barriers 50km to the same caliber of many big city international marathons.

The event will be broadcast live on race day via Supersport. Stay tuned as we bring you more news the closer we get to race day.