



**FOCUSED:** Josphat Kiprop winning the men's race.

## ABC Bank Baringo race winners turn focus on x-country

BY MUIGAI KIGURU

**WINNERS** of the 2014 ABC Baringo Half Marathon held over the weekend have set their focus on making Team Kenya to the 2015 World Cross Country Championships in China.

Africa junior bronze medallist Josphat Kiprop won the men's edition in a time of 1:01:24 while Cynthia Limo beat Commonwealth 10,000m champion Lydia Chepkirui to win the women's edition in 1:10:06.

The 20-year-old, who trains in Iten, now feels he can go for glory in China but will first have to get through the national trials hurdle to make the cut.

"It was quite a challenge negotiating the hills and valleys but I had prepared well," said Kiprop, who took the lead after 7km.

"I was here last year and finished fifth.

"I, however, worked on my mistakes and it was all smooth sailing this time round," added Kiprop.

He trains alongside former world marathon record holder Wilson Kipsang.

"I brought bronze medal from the Africa Junior

championships in Mauritius and now I am focused on the cross country."

Mark Kibiwott finished second in 1.02.09 with Ezra Kiprotich third in 1.02.23.

Limo, who also trains in Iten, said he will equally be chasing a place in the women's cross country team to the World Championships.

"I have been doing half marathons and cross country, both at home and abroad but I have never made it to the national team," said Limo.

"I am working hard and praying that come next year, I will manage to make the cross country team."

The 25-year-old ruled the race from about 10km. "It's such a happy feeling to have won this race," said Limo after pocketing Sh300,000.

"We were in a leading group of three until one athlete dropped. I then decided to take the initiative after about 10km and it went well."

Commonwealth champion Chepkurui was second in 1.11:59 while was third after clocking Mercy Cherutich 1.12:05.