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A beaming Zuma kept crowds in stitches with his animated gestures and not so veiled swipes at opposition parties which, he said, had no policies and a narrow understanding of what democracy was about.

"When you look at them [opposition parties] there is no politicking or debate. Everything they go to court for. Their understanding of democracy is court cases, nothing else."

The ANC had the Freedom Charter while opposition parties would label the ruling party's leaders as corrupt, Zuma said.

"We need to take the Freedom Charter

to the people," he said.

Zuma praised Jordaan for being a committed ANC member, saying he was the right man to turn the metro around. "The mayor is brand new from the box. He is a comrade of the ANC and does not have his own comrades. We want you to work with this man," he said, pointing at Jordaan.

Zuma repeated his controversial remarks that had he been a dictator he would take every youth and lock them on Robben Island where they would be





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educated instead of abusing drugs.

"I would send every child to school by force. Education is their right, not using wonga. The doors of education are still opening. It is only when we are all educated that we can be the creators of jobs."

While Zuma was addressing the meeting there was an apparently drunk man who continuously shouted "Nkandla".

An unidentified man initially told him that "we are more than you here so be careful", but the man shouted "Nkandla" again, prompting the other man to walk over to him and slap him in front of Zuma and everyone else before leaving.

After the meeting, ANC national spokesman Zizi Kodwa said: "He was just a drunk

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Third-time lucky as PE's comrade Sandile strikes gold

Vuyokazi Nkanjeni

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CHUFFED Sandile Ngunuza became the first Port Elizabeth athlete to win a Comrades Marathon gold medal in the professional era when he raced to ninth place in Pietermaritzburg on Sunday.

Smiling from ear-to-ear when he arrived back in the Bay yesterday, the 32-year-old Ngunuza said striking gold meant the world to him.

The Soweto-on-Sea resident finished this year's 87km "up" run in a time of five hours and 57 minutes. He earned R18 000 for his effort plus incentives from his home club, Nedbank Running Club in Port Elizabeth.

"Last year I didn't finish the race due to cramps. This year my goal was to finish under six hours and break my 2013 time of 6:01 and also better my 14th placing.

"This year's position was just a bonus to me. Winning a gold medal means everything to me. I have done the Two Oceans and the World Champs, but the Comrades, it's the only thing I have been trying for three years now," Ngunuza said.

The Peddie-born runner said the only priority on his mind



GOLDEN MOMENT: Sandile Ngunuza shows off his ninth place tag which earned him a gold medal at the Comrades Marathon Picture: BRIAN WITBOOI

when he crossed the line was his children.

"I wished my children were there to witness my achievement because they are the ones who assist and motivate me."

Ngunuza started running in 1992 at Mzomncane Primary School in Peddie and never looked back.

He joined Nedbank Running Club in 2008 with the aim of pursuing a professional career, in the sport.

Ngunuza, who works at Bathroom Bizarre, said: "I am definitely coming back next year. Hopefully, I can also improve my time."

His manager, Irene van Eden, said the club was extremely proud of his achievement.

"He is the first Nedbank PE Comrades gold medallist and I think he is the first Eastern Cape runner to win a gold medal in the Two Oceans Ultra and Comrades Marathon.

"We are very proud of Sandile. We have helped and coached him for a number of years. He and his family are very close to our hearts. He is very disciplined and respected by all the club members," she said.

Comrades race commentator Alec Riddle said the gold medal was very special for the Eastern Cape

"So many PE runners have aspired to get a gold medal, including myself years ago, but we all fell short.

"It was a phenomenal performance from Sandile to be able to make the top 10. It's amazing because you are competing against professionals and internationals," Riddle said.

The last PE Comrades gold medallist was Michael Mpotoane in 2001. But he was from Mpumalanga and trained and ran with the Port Elizabeth-based club, MaxAfrica.

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