review
the YOG
Youth Olympic Games
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DAKAR 2026
YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES
31 OCTOBER
13 NOVEMBER
2026

PRESS RELEASE

YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES DAKAR 2026

A FIRST, AND A MASTERSTROKE FOR AFRICA!





Dakar 2026 marks a historic milestone for the African Olympic and Sports Movement. From 31 October to 13 November 2026, Senegal rose to the challenge of delivering a flawless edition of the 4th Youth Olympic Games – a major first for Africa. A performance that exceeded all expectations, leaving a lasting legacy and, above all, setting a new benchmark for the organisation of major global sports events on African soil. Dakar 2026 delivered a resoundingly positive outcome for Africa, both on the field of play and in terms of organisation.

INCREDIBLE STATISTICS

The event brought together 2,700 young athletes from around the world, representing 206 delegations, alongside 983 journalists, 982 federation representatives, 1,233 technical officials and thousands of supporters. A total of 24,462 accreditations were issued, including 6,096 volunteers mobilised to assist delegations, support teams and ensure the smooth running of activities throughout the Games.



Across 151 events, 450 medals were awarded for performances worthy of elite sport. Africa claimed 73 medals, well above the 56 won in Buenos Aires at the 3rd Youth Olympic Games.

Egypt stood out as the leading African nation with six gold medals, three of which were won by Ali Zain alone in butterfly. Five African nations featured in the world's top 10, with 18 African countries appearing on the medal table, topped by China.

INFRASTRUCTURE TO SUPPORT OLYMPIC AND SPORTS PERFORMANCE

Dakar 2026 provided state-of-the-art facilities for the young athletes. The venues in Dakar, Diamniadio and Saly offered exceptional comfort and were tailored to the requirements of each discipline.

The competitions were enhanced by the enthusiasm in the stands and the warm welcome from the Senegalese public, delighted and proud to celebrate the world's sporting youth.



DAKAR 2026, CELEBRATING AFRICAN SOLIDARITY

The opening and closing ceremonies of the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 were a true global spectacle. Diversity, fraternity and unity were celebrated on both occasions in deeply moving ceremonies for young people united by sport.

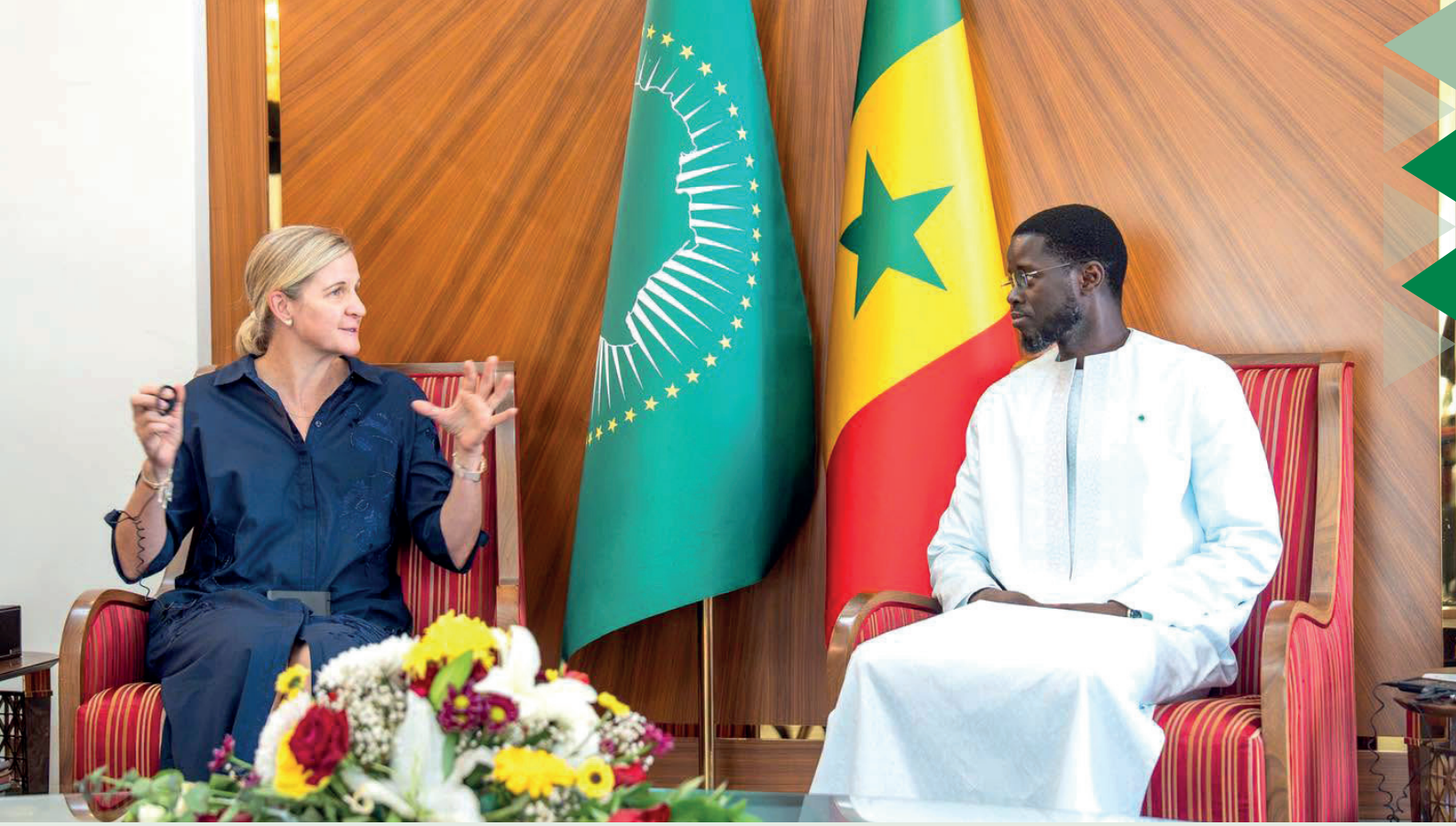
The artistic performances and dances transformed both events into a true celebration. Athletes, coaches, officials and delegations came together in an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie, sharing memorable moments around the Olympic flame and the cultural warmth of Senegalese Teranga.

From Youssou Ndour to Dip Doundou Guiss, Omar Pene and Mia Guisse, as well as traditional Senegalese groups, these events left nothing but precious memories, enriching experiences and new lessons for the future of sport. The spirit of African solidarity was on full display, with nations united in celebrating youth, sport and shared Olympic values.

THE IOC HAILS DAKAR 2026

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) paid tribute to the Senegalese authorities and the Dakar 2026 Organising Committee for their contribution to the success of the first Youth Olympic Games ever held on African soil.





IOC President Kirsty Coventry awarded the Olympic Order in Gold to the Prime Minister of Senegal, Ahmadou Al Aminou Lô, and to the President of the Dakar 2026 Organising Committee, Mamadou Diagna Ndiaye. Three other leaders received the Olympic Order in Silver, while the mayors of the three host cities of the YOG were honoured for their contribution to the Games.

Speaking at the Olympic Orders Ceremony, Kirsty Coventry said:

"***You have shown the world what Senegal and Africa are capable of, and when people come together behind a shared dream, how strong that can make us. You have every reason to be so proud … You believed in these Games from the very beginning, and you brought people together, you opened doors; you never stopped championing our vision and your vision.***"

At the closing ceremony, she made a statement that will go down in the history of the Games, noting that Senegal and Africa have shown the world what they are capable of, and must now choose to take that forward.

ANOCA PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE PARTICIPANTS

The President of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa, the Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, could not contain his satisfaction:



"Senegal has set the bar very high. Africa has taken an extraordinary leap forward. We have achieved a historic success at Dakar 2026. ANOCA is proud of the participation of all the athletes, coaches, volunteers, supporters, NOCs, and national and international sports federations, who made Dakar 2026 a memorable success. My deepest gratitude goes to the Head of State of Senegal and his entire government, to the Games Organising Committee for the quality of the organisation, and to the Senegalese people for their legendary hospitality. We are deeply honoured. This is proof of our maturity, our unity and our solidarity. The African Olympic and Sports Movement has demonstrated its ability to deliver on its promises, and Senegal has brought our shared ideals to the fore."





MUSTAPHA BERRAF THANKS THE IOC:

"To the IOC President, Kirsty Coventry, you have been such a valuable asset to Africa, so supportive of young African athletes and a staunch ally of Senegal. This has helped make Dakar 2026 a global success. We are deeply grateful to you. The IOC has never ceased to support Africa, your own continent. Dakar 2026 is a striking reminder of this fruitful collaboration. We say THANK YOU. It was a first for our continent, a masterstroke that inspires us to organise the Olympic Games in Africa in the years to come."

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2026




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TUNISIA
SAYAHI
ESPAÑA
VAZQUEZ
KENYA
KIPKECH
ABDO
UGANDA


DAKAR 2026
AFRICA WELCOMES. DAKAR CELEBRATES.



Thank you

DAKAR