



ZONE 7 GAMES

ANOCA FOSTERS OLYMPIC VALUES IN SEYCHELLES

▶ ANOCA ZONE VI
ORGANISES SAFE AND
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OF UNDERSTANDING WITH
OLYMPAFRICA FOUNDATION



ZONE 7 GAMES

**SEYCHELLES: SUCCESSFUL
DISPLAY OF OLYMPIC VALUES
FOSTERED BY ANOCA**

ONE 7 GAMES

5-11 MARCH 2024



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The ANOCA Zone 7 Games were a well-attended event held from 6 to 11 May, 2024, a competition that testified to ANOCA's commitment to the furtherance of the values of Olympism, through various themes, including *"qualities of body, will and mind, team spirit, fair play, joy of effort, practice of respect and pursuit of excellence"* - a combination of ingredients that spiced up athletes' participation in these Zone 7 Games.

While opening the Games, Antonio GOPAL, President of the Seychelles Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (SOCGA) said:

"We are gathered here today to celebrate the unifying power of sport. Sport transcends barriers of history, origin, religion and economic status, uniting us in the same spirit... It is with great satisfaction that we finally celebrate this moment. Financial resources were in no way an obstacle to the holding of these Games. Today, we stand united, celebrating together thanks to the efforts and diligence of all those involved in preparing this event; my warmest thanks go to the Organising Committee. We wish our athletes an exciting and convivial competition. Share your cultures and experience great moments in a spirit of unity. We can only triumph together - in solidarity.



ANOCA ZONE 7 GAMES

SEYCHELLES 6-11 MAY 2024



To our sports visitors, I urge you to enjoy the splendid beaches of our islands once the competitions are over. I declare these Games officially open."

For the first time, the Games schedule featured four sports disciplines, unlike in the past when both Mauritius and Seychelles organised competitions in a single sports discipline for ANOCA Zone 7 countries.

The four sports included: swimming, basketball (3x3), beach volleyball and table tennis. SOCGA worked hard to create an enabling environment for an elite competition, as was seen during this competition. Zone 7 is made up of the National Olympic Committees of Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros, Djibouti and Seychelles.

"Initially, we wanted to have swimming, table tennis, and athletics since last year, but that was delayed as we waited for the track and field facilities to be renovated. Since that has not happened, we decided to replace athletics with 3x3 basketball and beach volleyball," explained SOCGA Secretary General Alain Alcindor.

The Games were reserved for -18 athletes. In all, each delegation had 32 delegates, including the NOC Presidents who, while in Seychelles, also attended the ANOCA Zone 7 meeting.



The ANOCA Zone 7 Games 2024 ended on Friday, 10 May 2024. After four days of competition, Team Seychelles finished third overall on 24 points with its young swimmers leading the way, garnering 27 medals - 7 gold, 5 silver and 15 bronze.

ZONE 7 GAMES

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Team Madagascar topped the overall rankings with 40 medals, followed by Mauritius in second place with 32 medals. The Big Island aced it in table tennis and 3×3 basketball. Followed by Seychelles, Comoros and Djibouti tailing the charts.

“We were so warmly welcomed in the Seychelles in this first edition of the ANOCA Games. The Games are based on a rotation system, and it was Madagascar’s turn to host Zone 7 and organise the tournament. We are now waiting for the official



decision to be taken after the zonal meeting, and if Madagascar is designated to host the next games, the Big Island will also decide on the disciplines for the event,” said Jean Claude RELAHA, Head of the Malagasy delegation.

Madagascar was finally chosen to host the next Zone 7 Games.

SOCGA President Antonio GOPAL in his closing remarks:

“Dear athletes, officials, members of the organising committee, partners and fans of the ANOCA Zone 7 Games, on behalf of the Seychelles Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association, I would like to express my profound gratitude to each and



every one of you for making these games memorable. Let me begin by extending my warmest thanks to the athletes who competed with passion, determination and fair play throughout this competition. Your outstanding performances have inspired us and won the admiration of an entire nation.

Many thanks to the officials and volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that these games took place in the best possible conditions. Your dedication and professionalism ensured the success of this major sports event. I would also like to express my gratitude to

the members of the Organising Committee for their hard work in making these games a reality. Their unwavering commitment was the driving force behind the success of this edition of the ANOCA Zone 7 Games. Finally, a special thank you to our invaluable partners, who supported these games in a significant way, especially ANOCA, which has contributed greatly to this event, and to the general public, for their support throughout the competitions. Together, we lived moments of intense competition, friendship and solidarity that will remain etched on our memories for years to come. Thank you all for your contribution to the success of the ANOCA Zone 7 Games. May the Olympic spirit continue to shine in our hearts and unite us beyond borders!"

He also received a congratulatory message from the ANOCA President, Honourable Mustapha BERRAF:

"Following your country's hosting of the ANOCA Zone 7 Games, I wish to congratulate you on the successful organisation of these historic Games. I would also like to voice the satisfaction of all ANOCA Executive Committee members and the African Olympic Movement as a whole. I am delighted to note that all the Zone 7 countries invited to this competition made a great show of



professionalism. We say THANK YOU to the athletes for demonstrating their immense talent through top-notch performances. We would



also like to thank the Seychelles authorities, for making it possible to organise these Games, and for their commitment to African sport. It was

a source of pride for the whole of Africa and for all of Africa and the entire African Olympic and Sports Movement.”

Opening Address ANOCA Zone 7 Games

- Ministers here present,
- Excellencies,
- Presidents and Secretaries General of Zone 7,
- NOC Members,
- Representatives of the Diplomatic Corps;
- Dear Partners;
- Distinguished Guests;
- Athletes and Officials;
- Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of ANOCA and the Seychelles Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association (SOCGA), we welcome you to the Opening Ceremony of the ANOCA Zone 7 Games.

We are gathered here today to celebrate the unifying power of sport. Sport transcends barriers of history, origin, religion and economic status, uniting us in the same spirit.

To members of Zone 7 from the Comoros Islands, Djibouti, Mauritius, Madagascar and Seychelles, I would like to express my deep gratitude for your presence at this symbolic event. You are all welcome to Seychelles, the land of hospitality.

I remember the days when we faced difficulties to bring the zone together. After many attempts, we have finally succeeded.

It is with great satisfaction that we are at long last celebrating this moment. Financial resources were in no way an obstacle to the holding of these Games. Today, we stand united, celebrating together thanks to the efforts of all those who worked so hard to prepare for this event.

I wish to sincerely thank the Organising Committee of this event.

We wish our athletes an exciting and convivial competition. Share your cultures and experience great moments in a spirit of unity. Together, we will triumph, but we must always stand united. To our sports visitors, I urge you to visit and enjoy the splendid beaches of our islands once the competitions are over.

I officially declare open the ANOCA Zone 7 Games.

Thank you for your kind attention!

Closing Remarks

“Dear athletes, officials, members of the organising committee, partners and fans of the ANOCA Zone 7 Games, on behalf of the Seychelles Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association, I would like to express my profound gratitude to each and every one of you for making these games memorable.

Let me begin by extending my warmest thanks to the athletes who competed with passion, determination and fair play throughout this competition. Your outstanding performances have inspired us and won the admiration of an entire nation.

Many thanks to the officials and volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that these games took place in the best possible conditions.

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Their unwavering commitment was the driving force behind the success of this edition of the ANOCA Zone 7 Games.

Finally, a special thank you to our invaluable partners, who have supported these games in a significant way, especially ANOCA, which contributed greatly to this event, and to the general public, for their support throughout the competitions.

Together, we lived moments of intense competition, friendship and solidarity that will remain etched on our memories for years to come. Thank you all for your contribution to the success of the ANOCA Zone 7 Games.

May the Olympic spirit continue to shine in our hearts and unite us beyond borders!”

Long live sport, long live solidarity, long live friendship!»

Thank you.



ANOCA ZONE VI ORGANISES SAFE AND INCLUSIVE SPORT SEMINAR



Ten Southern African countries participated in deliberations of the high-level regional seminar organised by ANOCA Zone VI, bringing together Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zimbabwe and host country Zambia.

The seminar afforded a wonderful opportunity for learning and sharing best practices among these countries, working together to implement the critical safeguarding agenda across the Southern African Region. It was indeed a firm commitment by states to take appropriate measures through the signing of a joint agreement to chart the way forward.

Sessions featured Safeguarding at Games and competitions and the IOC's safeguarding approach at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, including safeguarding measures set at country level, with country representatives sharing their challenges and successes. This was, for instance, the case for both Zambia and South Africa.

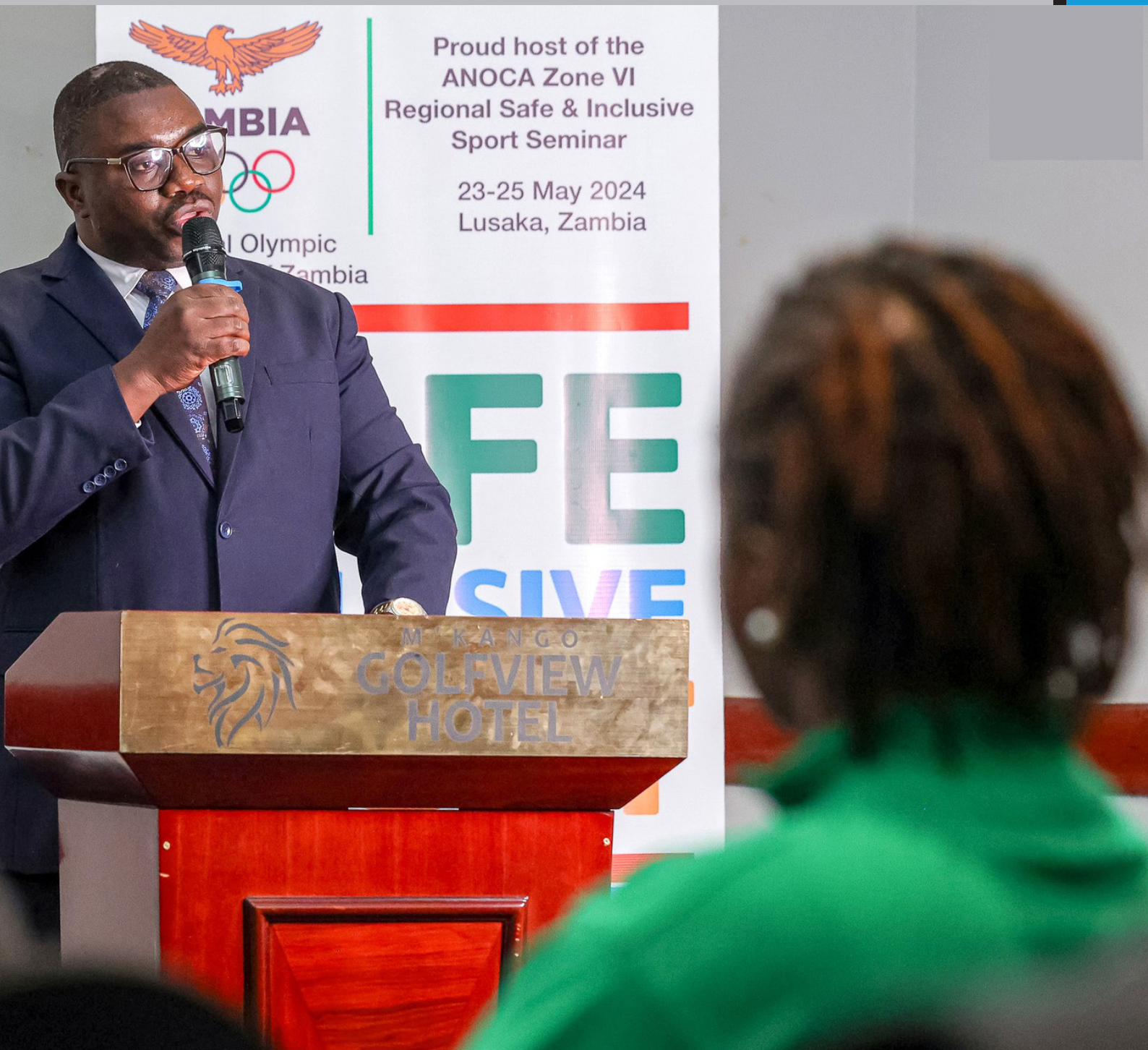
The four-day seminar discussed topics, including an overview of safeguarding in sport, participants' rights, integrity in sport, expectations for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, human rights and law enforcement in interpersonal violence at country level and in sport, as well as the fight against doping, clean sport, and the role of safeguarding officers in each country.

ANOCA Zone VI President Alfred FOLOKO welcomed dignitaries present at the opening ceremony, including Dr Decius CHIPANDE, Head of the African Union Sports Council (AUSC), who was accompanied by AUSC Region 5 CEO Stanley MUTOYA, TAFISA Vice President for Africa Keenese Neoyame KATISENGE, Africa Zone VI RADO Chairman, Dr Nicholas MUNYONGA, and Botswana National Sports Commission CEO, Tuelo D. SERUFHO. Also in attendance were ANOCA Zone VI Secretary General, Joan SMIT, Drug Enforcement Commission Director of Educational



Services, Gilbert SINYANI, and NOCZ CEO, Boniface KAMBIKAMBI.

While opening the seminar, Dr Decius CHIPANDE underscored that the safe and inclusive sports agenda is central to the development of sport on the continent to ensure that there is an



equitable and a fair environment in all facets of life, including sport.

He hailed the collaboration and commendable work being done by ANOCA Zone VI, as well as the success of the region, evidenced by the quality of seminar participants

from across the region, with unquestionable expertise in safe and inclusive sport. He further expressed the hope that the work being done in Zone VI could be extended to other regions, citing the collaboration between the Olympic Movement of Southern Africa and AUSC Region 5.

FIBA SIGNS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH OLYMPAFRICA FOUNDATION



FIBA has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Olympafrica Foundation, opening a gateway to sport and Olympism for thousands of children across the African continent.

Both parties will work together across Africa to promote:

- Sport and sport education in general, with strong emphasis on basketball and especially 3 x 3;
- Social, economic and personal development through sport, especially for younger participants;





- The values and ideals of the Olympic Movement;
- Peace through common sports interests, activities and cooperation.

The MOU will be supported by FIBA’s Regional Office in Africa, which will donate basketball equipment to Olympafrica centres hosting the programme. FIBA’s support also includes coaching, officiating and training.

Olympafrica already has wide experience in establishing sports and sports education centres. The programme will initially be

implemented in 20 centres, with Olympafrica actively promoting basketball locally by organising development programmes, events and competitions. Under the MOU, Olympafrica will also ensure that a minimum of one thousand children under the age of sixteen participate in each of the centres.

FIBA Africa President Anibal MANAVE said:

“This Memorandum of Understanding confirms again how important basketball can be to communities and the positive way it can bring people together and help them off the court as well”.

He then added: “We are very happy to have signed this partnership with Olympafrica, and we are excited to launch the programme and see the benefits it produces for the kids who take part.”

FIBA Secretary General Andreas ZAGKLIS , for his part said:

“The fact that existing centres, run by the Olympafrica Foundation, have a track record of success means we are highly confident basketball can now be used even more actively as a lever to secure positive outcomes for young people in Africa.”

Olympafrica President Moustapha BERRAF, who doubles as ANOCA President, said:

“This agreement is coming at the right time, and it is greatly appreciated. It will help reinforce the already strong attraction that Olympafrica kids have for basketball. 3 x 3 Basketball will definitely be one of the most practised sports in our network; it is henceforth imperative to boost our Olympafrica centres with such partnerships. What has been done so far is exemplary and effective, but it must be constantly reinforced, because it is an ongoing process that will provide our Olympafrica centres with tangible and intangible

infrastructure designed to bring more opportunities to Africa’s youth. The need for mentoring is a reality, and this is why these centres have been set up and spread across Africa. Basketball, like many other sports, is a catalyst for promoting Olympic values among youth, who are the Olympic and sporting future of Africa and the world. Our goal is healthy minds in healthy bodies. Olympafrica builds character, discipline, hard work, respect for opponents and the pursuit of excellence, which Africa’s youth need to emerge through sport.”

Olympafrica Executive Director Alassane Thierno DIACK, also said:

“Olympafrica is very keen to increase access to 3x3 basketball for young girls and boys who regularly use our centres. Lots of our youth are interested in basketball, so we are very pleased that this MOU will do just that - help us use basketball to reach out to more young people and foster their social and personal development.”

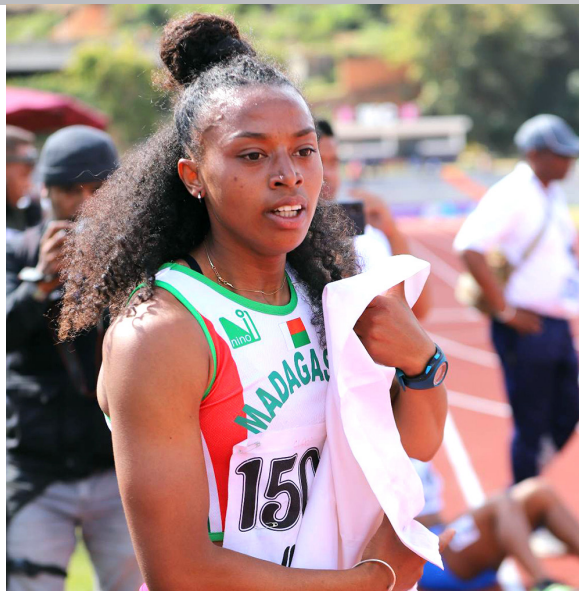
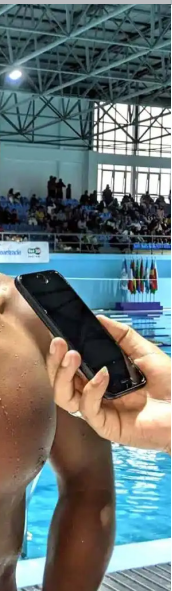
Founded in 1988, the Olympafrica Foundation aims to foster the Olympic spirit by offering a wide range of sports and social activities for the benefit of African communities, focusing particularly on youths.



MADAGASCAR: 7 ATHLETES TO COMPETE AT THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

During the closing ceremony of the Advanced Sports Management Course in Ivandry, NOC Madagascar Secretary General, Jean

Alex Harinelina RANDRIAMANARIVO announced that out of the seven Malagasy athletes to compete at the Games, three qualified directly and four by invitation, noting that:



“These athletes had to compete in six to ten qualifying rounds to be ranked higher and qualify.”

Weightlifter Rosina RANDAFIARISON was the first to qualify in the -49kg category. The African champion in Egypt and runner-up at the world championships in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, in September 2023, obtained the requisite points to qualify for the world championships in Phuket, Thailand, at the beginning of April.

The second to grab her spot for the Olympics was Judoka Laura Aina Rasoanaivo RAZAFY in the -70 kg category. Ranked world No. 2 juniors -70 kg, she recently won a bronze medal at the African Championship in Egypt. Prior to participating in the World Table Tennis Championships, RAKOTOARIMANANA, for his part, won his qualification in Kigali, Rwanda, as two-time African champion and East African champion. He became the first table tennis star in the history of Madagascar to qualify for the Olympic Games. Two swimmers, Harivony Jonathan RAHARVEL and Idealy TENDRINAVALONA, are holders of World Aquatics' Wild Cards.

Athletics qualifiers are still open, so the two representatives for this sport are still to be confirmed. Female athlete Sidonie FIADANANTSOA from the Dakar centre in Senegal, a gold medallist at the recent African Games, is very close to qualifying, just like sprinter Claudine NOMENJANAHARY. Male athletes include Rija Gardiner VATOMANGA and Patrice REMANDRO.

In 2021 in Tokyo, Madagascar was represented by 6 athletes at the Olympics, thus fewer than this year, 2024.



PARIS 2024, NEW EQUIPMENT SUPPLIER FOR IVORIAN ATHLETES

Following an agreement signed between NOC Côte d'Ivoire (CNO-CIV) and the equipment supplier, NUBA, on 21 May 2024 at CNO-CIV headquarters in Cocody 2 Plateaux

les Vallons, Abidjan, NUBA, an American outfit, managed by Yves MEKONGO and Yannick Formbor NONO, both Africans, will dress up Ivorian athletes and their delegation at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.



NUBA Managing Director Yannick Formbor NONO asserted that:

“Beyond the competition, it’s about promoting quality. We’re going to offer good quality clothing to the



delegation going to the Games and also to Ivorians who will be able to buy our branded clothing in Côte d’Ivoire during the Games.”

Representing CNO-CIV President, Dr Joseph N’GOAN, CNO-CIV 1st Vice-President, Dr Allah KOUAME, noted that:

“This ‘win-win’ partnership is relevant in many respects. While NUBA will supply equipment to the delegation to the Games, CNO-CIV will be the showcase through athletes’ performances.”

Adama DOUMBIA, Technical Adviser at the Ministry of Sports and Living Conditions stated:

“We applaud the Committee and its partner for this partnership that aligns with the vision of the Ministry of Sports.”

This partnership could continue even beyond the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.



NOC DJIBOUTI COMMITS TO COUNTRY'S SUCCESS AT THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES



The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games triggered strong reactions from officials of the Djibouti National Olympic and Sports Committee (CNOSD). To avoid new setbacks for Djiboutian athletes and with the approach adopted for the Paris 2024 Olympic Games, NOC Djibouti chose a day to brainstorm and discuss the state of national sports at the People's Palace. The event brought together leaders of all sports

federations, athletes, representatives from the State Secretariat for Sports, parents, sports enthusiasts, and former leaders. It aimed at identifying, correcting, and improving preparation conditions for the country's elite athletes, for a befitting participation in major international competitions and in the hope of sending a large delegation to the Olympic Games.

A strategic plan for athletes' preparation and well-being was developed to make relevant decisions and develop appropriate strategies to support the best athletes in their pursuit of outstanding performances. In its new management approach, CNOSD sought to place elite sports at the heart of its actions. The implementation of this strategic plan helped identify ways and means to achieve planned activities. According to CNOSD President, Mrs Aicha GARAD ALI,

«This strategic plan revolves around respect for others, excellence, fair play, teamwork, equality, and good governance.»

Workshop recommendations and the strategic plan were submitted to the highest authority of the country, and a special grant was awarded to support and assist athletes in preparation for upcoming competitions in the short-term, Paris 2024 in the medium-term, and the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics in the

long-term. The grant will be devoted to their preparation, participation and all the needs associated with their high-level status.

According to CNOSD Vice-President, Mrs Fardouza MOUSSA,

“It was all about starting anew by providing national sport with the means to achieve its ambitions.”

Based on meeting recommendations, service passports were issued to national team athletes and their coaching staff to facilitate their travel abroad for training and competitions and visa applications, as well as to grant them special status as flag bearers of the nation. A significant budget of 100 million francs, managed by CNOSD and audited annually, was made available for the preparation and participation of elite athletes in competitions. As a result, the best athletes from four national federations were selected to receive scholarships to prepare under optimal conditions at excellence centres. Djiboutian athletes were placed in excellence centres in Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Algeria, France, Hungary, and Tokyo to train under the best conditions and to receive better technical support, including the services of a physiotherapist, a healthy and balanced diet, and participation in competitions chosen by their federations. A tripartite performance-





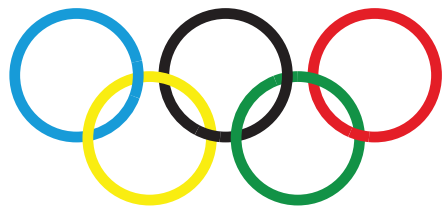
based contract was signed by athletes, who committed to improving their performances. They also began receiving monthly scholarships called «*LOG scholarships*» thanks to the grant awarded by His Excellency, the President of the Republic, in addition to Olympic Solidarity grants.

As incentive for athletes, CNOSD established criteria for awarding excellence prize money to medallists for the Olympic Games, world championships, the African Games and championships, the Youth Olympic Games, etc. To get an idea of these very attractive incentives, at the Olympic Games, a gold medallist is entitled to DF 5,000,000, while silver and bronze medallists are awarded DF 3,000,000 and DF 2,500,000, respectively.

Once these favourable conditions were met, national athletes were able to participate in regional and international competitions, earning their first medals. In 2023 alone, several medals were won. This entire framework has been strengthened by the joint efforts of CNOSD, the State Secretariat for Sports, and all other stakeholders, as well as the direct involvement of the Head of State, His Excellency Ismail Omar Guelleh, who stated his willingness to redefine the national and international sports policy by responding positively to the request of the Sports Movement and putting in place a grants programme.



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