



ROAD TO PARIS 2024



PRESIDENT WILLIAM RUTO DECLARES STRONG SUPPORT AS KENYAN

► THE HEAD OF STATE,
JOÃO LOURENÇO HANDS
NATIONAL FLAG TO
PARIS 2024 DELEGATION

► PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
TOGETHER, WE
CAN RISE TO ANY
CHALLENGE



**Together, we
can rise to
any challenge**

Dear brothers and sisters,

We are barely a few days away from the start of the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad, and our General Assembly scheduled for

31 July 2024 in Paris. Whenever I am addressing you, I always feel the same pleasure, the same emotion, because the family that we are must remain an unshakeable foundation, committed to providing young African athletes with all the resources they need to succeed and compete; and together, we must portray a positive image of African sport.

Our next General Assembly should be an important moment for us all, a very special one. It should afford an ideal opportunity to brainstorm issues that are at the heart of our everyday concerns such as, the conditions under which our athletes train for international competitions, career transition for sportsmen and women, the status of elite athletes, gender parity, funding of sport in Africa, wider dissemination of the values of Olympism, among others. Together, we must work as one and stand unrelenting



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in the face of these challenges. Together, we must build an outstanding African Olympic Movement, based on consultation, dialogue and fraternity, and which responds to the aspirations of our gallant predecessors.

Yes, our unity and dynamism warrant that we place the aspirations of young people and elite athletes at the heart of our policies and concerted efforts, for they are at the very core of our existence as the supreme governing body of the African Olympic and Sports Movement. They are focal to our projects, ambitions and the challenges we must overcome together.

Let's take action to dissipate the uncertainty observed among young people by implementing projects and programmes that will put a smile on their faces. To help address the desolation of retired elite athletes, let's build systems that will ensure they have a stable and dignified status so that, after their sports careers, they can continue to be highly esteemed by their fans, and remain role models for the many young people who aspire to pursue a career in elite sport. Against some existing cases of inequality between men and women, let's take full responsibility to ensure gender parity, both in positions of responsibility in sports management structures and in sports practice. Let's stay committed to these goals, which will serve as a binding force for our organisation in future. This is what will make African Olympism stronger, more attractive and more influential. This is what will ensure that present and future generations develop great passion and affection for African Olympism.

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With our 54 member NOCs and our tens of millions of athletes, we form a unique community. We can, thanks to our vitality, ingenuity and maturity, make an effective



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contribution to building the bright future our continent aspires to for sport. We should certainly be satisfied with and proud of this. Since I took office at the helm of ANOCA, we have developed many projects and programmes, which have enabled us to cope with the vicissitudes from within and without, and to make our association a worthy and respectable institution. We must continue to work together in this direction. We owe this success to you all, ANOCA members, to whom we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

Let us work together towards progress, building on the strength of our diversity and our differences. The next General Assembly should be a brainstorming session, during which our sole aspiration should be to build a more united, more vibrant and stronger African Olympic and Sports Movement both in terms of its history and assets. I urge you to work for an ANOCA that forges ahead against all odds, rising to multiple challenges along the way, in a bid to secure a better future for young Africans, the core target of all our activities.

Dear brothers and sisters, our deliberations in Paris will feature a number of issues, including the forthcoming African Beach Games and the ANOCA Games in the senior and youth categories. We will also be signing cooperation agreements with partners. These are all areas that will definitely boost youth development activities in Africa.

I also avail myself of this opportunity to thank the IOC President, Dr Thomas Bach, a great friend of Africa, who spares no effort to promote the development of sport and Olympism on our continent.

In the usual harmonious and fraternal atmosphere, we will strive to build and find ways and means to secure a future of progress and modernity for our athletes, most of whom are currently excelling across the world with outstanding performances.

Together we shall make it, together we shall succeed.

Honourable Mustapha Berraf

IOC member
ANOCA President
Holder of the African Olympic Order
Holder of the ANOC Olympic Order
Holder of the IOC Olympic Order.



OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES PARIS 2024

PRESIDENT WILLIAM RUTO DECLARES STRONG SUPPORT AS KENYAN ATHLETES OFFICIALLY FLAGGED OFF

A send-off ceremony for the Kenyan delegation to the Paris Games was held at the State House in Nairobi on 5 July 2024, presided at by the Head of State, William Ruto. He handed the national flag to Team Kenya, led by Vincent Onyala (Olympic Games) and Asiya Mohammed Sururu (Paralympic Games).

In his message on the occasion, the President stated that the Games will not be a walk in the park because, in his opinion, rivals have also prepared well to win medals, noting that: "Every nation has prepared its athletes and will be presenting the finest of them all." He, however, added that he is confident that Kenya will put on a good show and confirm the country's status as a world sports



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superpower. *“You are our gallant warriors to this sporting challenge and rest assured that the entire country is behind you in every step of this noble assignment as you unleash your fullest potential at the global showpiece,”* the President said.

He further informed that the government did not spare any effort in supporting the athletes’ qualification pathways in line with the regime’s promise to support the identification, nurturing and promotion of talents under the “Talanta Hela” initiative.

“We will continue to work with you until you come back wif the harvest of medals and experience from Paris when we shall monetize these with handsome rewards in place,” the President further said.

President Ruto also officially unveiled Team Kenya Ceremonial Kits designed by Rosemary Runyenje and Georgia Fernandez.

Kenya will be represented by 90 athletes at the Olympics and 11 at the Paralympics.

Also present at the event were Cabinet Secretary for Sports, Ababu Namwamba, NOC-K President, Paul Tergat, and Paralympics (KNPC) President, Ronald Milare.





ANGOLA

THE HEAD OF STATE, JOÃO LOURENÇO HANDS NATIONAL FLAG TO PARIS 2024 DELEGATION

Angola, like several other African countries, will be taking part in the 33rd Summer Olympic Games of the modern era from 26 July to 11 August. A special send-off ceremony was organised for this purpose on 4 July 2024, presided at by the President of the Republic, João Lourenço.

It was a farewell ceremony to wish good luck to Olympic and Paralympic athletes ahead of the Paris 2024 Games. A main feature of the event, which took place in the State House, was the handing of the flag to the delegation that will represent Angola at this major multi-sports event. The Head of State also interacted with the athletes and



wished them total success at the Games. The Angolan delegation to the Paris 2024 Olympics is made up of athletes from the following disciplines: handball, sailing, rowing, canoeing, athletics, swimming and judo.

At the Paralympic Games, the country will be represented in athletics.

Apart from the President of the Republic, a number of other dignitaries took part in the event, including the First Lady, Ana Dias Lourenço, members of NOC Angola, members of sports federations and associations, and Olympic and Paralympic athletes who will be taking part in the Games.



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LUSAKA ORGANISES GRAND SEND-OFF EVENT

Paris 2024 will kick off officially on 26 July. Many African countries are currently mobilising massively, including Zambia, where a send-off event was presided at by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Arts, Kangwa Chileshe, on behalf of Minister Elvis Nkandu. The event was organised by NOC Zambia (NOCZ), in partnership with Zambian Breweries, and the Alliance Française Lusaka.

During this well-attended event, Team Zambia's Chef de Mission for Paris 2024, Rodrick Ndhlovu, officially presented the team that will represent the country in Paris.

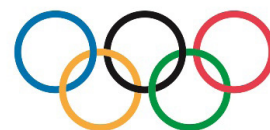
The event featured several speeches, all stressing Team Zambia's success chances and wishing the Country's athletes every success. It was an interactive come together where athletes met with the public.



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ZAMBIA



Also present were the French ambassador to Zambia, H.E. Thomas Rossignol, members of NOCZ Board, led by President Alfred Foloko, Zambian Breweries Country Director, Thais Cavinatto and her team, officials of several national sports federations and a delegation of the National Sports Council of Zambia, led by Secretary General Sombwa Musunsa.



ABUJA, NIGERIA

SPORTS MINISTER URGES TEAM NIGERIA TO FLY HIGH AT OLYMPICS

At an official ceremony to hand over the flag and bid farewell to Nigerian athletes due to take part in the forthcoming Paris 2024 Olympic and Paralympic Games, Nigeria's Minister for Sports Development, Senator John Owan Enoh, called on the members of Team Nigeria to be of good conduct and worthy ambassadors of Nigeria. He also urged Nigerian athletes to compete and win medals at the Games in France.

Speaking on the occasion, and while stressing the importance of hard work and dedication, Senator Enoh urged the athletes to aim for the podium throughout the Games.

He announced that President Bola Ahmed Tinubu fully approved the budget for the Games, demonstrating his unwavering commitment to excellence in sports. He therefore tasked members of Team Nigeria to ensure they do President and the entire country proud in Paris.



We have no excuse whatsoever,” the Minister insisted. “The President has approved the entire budget for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, so it is up to us to try to reciprocate the goodwill of the President and give him reasons to continue to do more. It is not the first time he has done this. In December, he did the same for our male and female football teams by paying backlogs of salaries. He has done the same for our contingent going to the Olympics and Paralympics.

“We have no excuse whatsoever,» the Minister insisted. «The President has approved the entire budget for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, so it is up to us to try to reciprocate the goodwill of the President and give him reasons to continue to do more. It is not the first time he has done this. In December, he did the same for our male and female football teams by paying backlogs of salaries. He has done the same for our contingent going to the Olympics and Paralympics.”

The Honourable Minister also highlighted the importance of training camps abroad for different sports, which helped prepare the athletes and made them physically, technically, and tactically ready for the Games.

“Given the effort of both the Government and the Ministry, as well as well-meaning agencies, it is important that the athletes involved in this national call of duty regard themselves as performing an ambassadorial function, as ambassadors of Nigeria. We expect discipline, honesty, commitment, and responsibility to perform creditably well for podium placements.”

“Our expectations are high, and given my interactions with our athletes, I have no doubt that these expectations will be met,” he added.

The event was attended by the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Sports Development, Atinuke Watti, the NOC President, Engr. Abu Gumel, the President of the Paralympic Committee of Nigeria, Sunday Odebode, the Chargé D’affaires at the French Embassy in Nigeria, sports federation presidents, among others.

Team Nigeria’s kits to be used in Paris were also unveiled on the occasion.

OLYMPIC GAMES – ETHIOPIA

ONCE UPON A TIME
ABEBE BIKILA

Thanks to his victory at the 1960 Olympic Games in Rome, the legendary barefoot runner, Ethiopia's Bikila, paved the way for Olympic glory for Black Africa.

Emerging first from the depths of the night on the torch-lit Appian Way, Abebe Bikila changed the face of sports. He was Black Africa's first Olympic champion, the first of a long line.

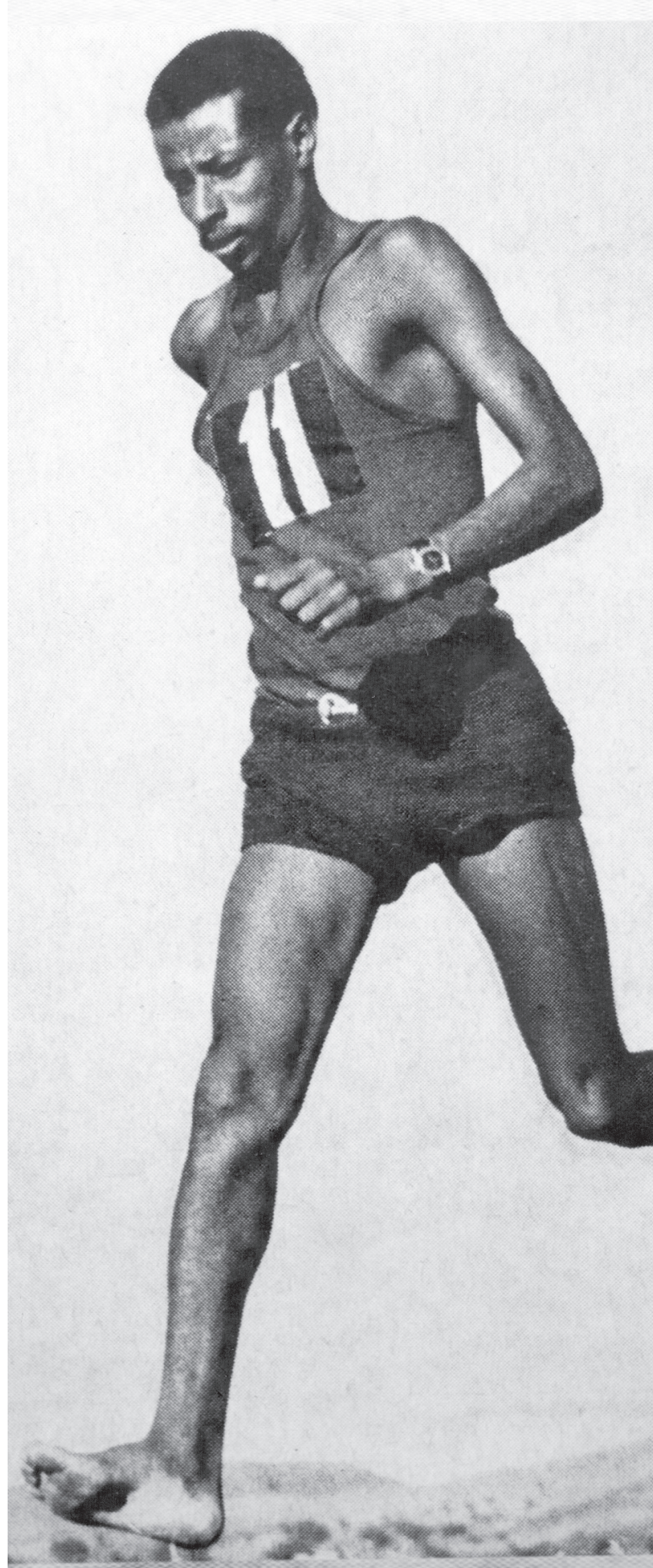
BAREFOOT, HE BECAME OLYMPIC CHAMPION

In Rome, Bikila was unknown and no one took his timing references seriously. However, the race quickly came down to a tussle between him and the Moroccan Rhadi Ben Abdesselam. Two kilometres from the finish line, at the foot of the Obelisk of Axum, looted by Mussolini's soldiers during the occupation of Ethiopia a quarter of a century earlier, Bikila launched a decisive move. Barefoot, his physique barely marked by effort, solo, he crossed the Arch of Constantine, from where the Duce had launched the assault on his country, setting a new world record (2 hours 15 minutes 16 seconds).

MEMBER OF THE IMPERIAL GUARD, HE RECEIVED A HERO'S WELCOME IN ADDIS ABABA

The frail Ethiopian dazzled with his grace, his incredible ease, a gift that was perfected by the hours spent, as a child, wandering on the rolling hills around Jato village, 130 kilometres north of Addis Ababa, in search of pasture for the family herd.

Born in 1932, he in the early 1950s enlisted into the Imperial Guard, the elite corps responsible for protecting Emperor Haile Selassie. Noticing his talent as a runner, the Swedish coach Onni Niskanen, encouraged



him to try the marathon. Thus originated the legend of “*the man capable of running from sunrise to sunset*”.

After the Olympic Games, and upon his return to Ethiopia, he received a hero’s welcome and the Negus generously rewarded him for his feat.

REPEAT PERFORMANCE IN TOKYO

Unfortunately, a few months later, a coup attempt involving the Imperial Gguard was foiled. Bikila, even though he did not participate, was briefly detained and only escaped the worst thanks to his fame. During the rest of the Olympiad, he was rather discreet, winning all his races or almost all, but without any particular flair. Before the Tokyo 1964 Olympics, he appeared less invincible because he suffered from appendicitis just 40 days before the marathon. Wearing shoes this time, he started cautiously. But after a few kilometres, he took the lead. No one succeeded in catching up with him. He won in 2 hours 12 minutes 11 seconds and became the first back-to-back winner of the Olympic marathon. Hindered by a leg injury sustained the previous year, he had to drop out after 17 kilometres in the marathon at the Mexico 1968 Olympics. Another Ethiopian, Mamo Wolde, succeeded him on the podium.

THE ACCIDENT THAT RUINED EVERYTHING

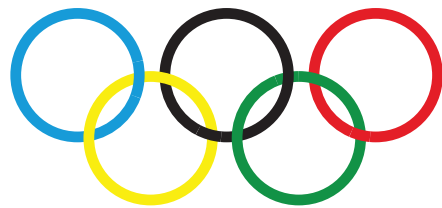
Married and father of four children, Bikila was involved in a road accident a year later, while driving a car gifted him by the emperor. He was paralyzed and never stood on his legs again. Yet, his fighting spirit lived on and he participated in wheelchair sports events for the disabled, including the archery tournament at the Stoke Mandeville Games in England, the forerunners of the Paralympic



Games. Sadly enough, on 25 October 1973, he succumbed to a brain haemorrhage at 41. Ethiopia mourned its greatest athlete and a State funeral was held for him, attended by the Emperor.



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