

at **PARIS** 2024 The Games Newsletter



NEWSLETTER ON AFRICA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE OLYMPIC GAMES



IOC PRESIDENT BACH

**“LET US COME TOGETHER TO
CELEBRATE AND ENJOY TOGETHER
SPECTACULAR OLYMPIC GAMES
PARIS 2024”**

**Museveni, First Lady
Flag off Team Uganda
for Summer Olympic
Games Paris 2024**

• Paris 2024

**Olympic Village
opens officially**

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“Let us come together to celebrate and enjoy together spectacular Olympic Games Paris 2024”

Ahead of the Olympic Games Paris 2024, IOC President Thomas Bach wrote an Op Ed for three nationwide publications in France. It was published in L'Equipe, Le Parisien and Ouest France last weekend.

The excitement gripping this nation is palpable. As this unique festival of sport draws closer, we all are feeling that France and the French people are ready to welcome the world's best athletes with the hospitality and passion for sport for which they are famous all around the world. Already millions of people have greeted the Olympic flame on its journey around France with a huge wave of enthusiasm. All of us are looking forward to an unforgettable celebration of Olympic sport and French culture in the coming weeks.

The stage is set for Olympic Games that will be younger, more inclusive, more urban and more sustainable. They will be the first Olympic Games that are fully aligned with the IOC Olympic Agenda reforms from start to finish. These will be Olympic Games where everyone can play their

part, not just as spectators, but as participants. Almost nine million tickets have already been sold – six million of them for under 50 Euros. Fans can enjoy events like road cycling, triathlon or the marathon, which are open to all. The public can take part in events, such as the “*Marathon Pour Tous*”, when 40,000 people will run the same route just hours before the Olympic athletes. Millions of French children are already taking part in daily exercises as part of their school curriculum. And there will be another milestone for inclusion: for the first time in history, we will have Olympic Games with full gender parity, because the IOC has allocated exactly 50 per cent of places to female athletes and to male athletes. For all of these reasons, the Paris 2024 slogan “*Games wide open*” is a perfect reflection of our Olympic Agenda reforms.



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Billions of people from all around the world are looking forward to Paris 2024. At a time when the world is torn apart by so much conflict and division, people everywhere are fed up with all the hate, wars, aggression and fake news. Against this geopolitical backdrop, we are happy that our many efforts over the last years allow us to bring together athletes from the territories of all 206 National Olympic Committees and the IOC Refugee Olympic Team in a peaceful competition.

This means that even if their countries are in conflict or even at war, their athletes will compete while respecting the same rules. They will be living peacefully together under one roof in the Olympic Village. The 10,500 best athletes of the world will send this inspiring message of unity,

hope and peace from France to the world. With openness, respect, inclusion and true solidarity, everyone will feel welcome and at home at these Olympic Games Paris 2024. Over half of the entire world's population will follow these Olympic Games and be inspired by this message.

The stage is set: the athletes are ready, all of France is ready, the Olympic Movement is ready. Let us come together to celebrate and to enjoy together spectacular Olympic Games Paris 2024. These Olympic Games will be about sport – and about more than sport. To our French Olympic friends, I say: Allez les Bleus!

Thomas Bach
IOC President



Museveni, First Lady Flag off Team Uganda for Summer Olympic Games Paris 2024

President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni and the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Maama Janet Museveni recently flagged off Team Uganda ahead of the Summer Olympic Games Paris 2024 in France.

This was during a ceremony at State House, Entebbe, where President Museveni revealed his satisfaction with the fact that many young people are taking up sport, noting that sports has a lot of benefits, including fitness, character formation, entertainment, employment and creation of publicity. President Museveni also underscored the importance of discipline, without which athletes cannot achieve their dreams.

“Strictly good living is very important to be able to reach your potential. Of course, the sports period is very short, and you need to use that time well,” he insisted.

He then went on to disclose how the government is enhancing the sports sector by investing in it.

“We have done a few things like peace in the country, these children from Kapchorwa are able to run because Karamojongs no longer disturb them,” President Museveni said.

“Then going to school; we need to have education totally free. We have been fighting for this but some people want to bring back the charges, but we really want to make it free because that is how some children come up [through the education system] and then we identify them.”

The President also availed himself of the opportunity to encourage the athletes to enlist in the army, police and prisons services to help preserve their skills.

“I always encourage our young people to join the army, police and the prisons because when you are there, you have got a small salary, some accommodation and time to train.”

Also speaking on the occasion, Maama Janet congratulated the athletes on the lifetime achievement of representing Uganda in the greatest gathering of athletes in the world.

“I challenge you to take on this role of being ambassadors of your country with such humility because someone else could have taken your place on this team – but God chose that this be your season to glorify Him with your body through sports. If you clothe yourself with the humility that

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such a service requires, you shall be able to resist the pride that comes with such an opportunity. And we all know what pride can do to us – it simply brings us down,” she said.

The First Lady then turned to the President, who she thanked for his total commitment to sport development in the country.

“You have been there and available when we call upon you to flag off our various sports teams. You have championed the improvement of our sportsmen and sports women. You have been true to your word that as our revenues improve as a country, we shall see more investments in Sports – and indeed we are seeing all this come to pass,” Maama Janet underscored.



She also revealed that the government of Uganda has funded the development of the world class National High Altitude Training Centre at Teryet in Kapchorwa – whose first phase is now complete.

“And of course, the world class stadium being developed in Hoima City as well as the Akii-Bua Olympic Stadium in Lira City are designed to be fully established with facilities for not only football but all athletics disciplines.

Mr President, we are grateful that these facilities, once complete, shall facilitate a total transformation in the development of young sportsmen and women in our country right from the grassroots way beyond AFCON 2027.”

Also present at the ceremony was the Ambassador of France to Uganda, H.E Xavier Sticker, who assured President Museveni that France, the host country, will ensure that the games are a success.



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Also speaking on the occasion, Uganda Olympic Committee (UOC) President, Dr Donald Rukare, informed that Team Uganda will be represented in Paris by 25 athletes, just like in Tokyo 2021.

Also in attendance were the Minister of State for Sports, Peter Ogwang, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Education and Sports, Ms. Ketty Lamaro, the Chairperson of the National Council of Sports, Mr Ambrose Tashobya, among others.



Paris 2024

Olympic Village opens officially

Paris 2024 has kicked off, with the high point being the official opening of the Olympic Village in north Paris this Thursday, 19 July 2024 at 8 a.m. According to the organisers, hundreds of athletes are expected to move in today, barely eight days to the kick-off of the Olympic Games. The 52-hectare Olympic Village, straddling Saint-Denis, Saint-Ouen and Île Saint-Denis, is designed to accommodate up to 14,500 people, including 9,000 athletes, at height of the Games.

“We’re ready,” assured Augustin Tran Van Chau, Deputy Director of the Village.

The first delegations, expected later today, will usher in a wave of other arrivals. This is a symbolic moment as we welcome the first residents into the Olympic Village. “*This is a special moment, it is from this day that the Village will truly come to life,*” said André-Pierre Goubert, Deputy Head of the French delegation. The Olympic Village has been busy for the past week with the heads of each delegation and their teams preparing for the arrival of their respective countries. “*It is true that there have been a few arrivals since last week, but the Village will really start to fill up as from Thursday,*” he added.

4,000 employees, 1,500 volunteers

The Deputy Head of the French delegation reassured everyone and expressed his deep satisfaction: “The big nations will arrive on the opening day (...) namely: England, the United States, New Zealand, Brazil, Switzerland.” And with just a few hours to go before this symbolic moment, the Organising Committee has been hard at work, ensuring that everything is ready. “*It will be a real hive of activity,*” commented an official of the French Olympic Movement. *After all, it won’t just be the athletes and their staff who will be there.*”

“We will host 4,000 employees in the village: Paris 2024 and contracted employees. Of course, there are many of them to run the Village, handling mainly cleaning and catering. We also have 1,500 volunteers whose main duty is to



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assist delegations daily,” explained Laurent Michaud, Village Director.

A vibrant hub

In addition to accommodation, the Olympic Village will offer a wide range of services to meet the needs of athletes and their entourage: restaurants, shops, a bank, a post office, hairdressing and beauty salons, a multi-faith worship centre, etc. And from Thursday onwards, several hundreds of people are expected, before a gradual build-up in the village. The Organising Committee is expecting around 8,000 residents in the first week, a figure that should double as the opening ceremony approaches on 26 July to reach more than 14,000 people at the peak of the Games.



Uganda Olympic Committee drives climate change action, launches “Race to Zero” Carbon emissions initiative

In its unbending resolve to address climate change, the Uganda Olympic Committee (UOC), officially launched the “Race to zero” carbon emissions initiative on Thursday, 18 July 2024, which move was capped by the signing of two Memorandums of Understanding relating to the UNFCCC sports for climate action and the IUCN sports for nature framework. The signing ceremony took place at the UOC headquarters in Lugogo, Kampala.

One of the agreements is on the UNFCCC sports for climate action and the other on the IUCN sports for nature framework.

The UOC delegation was led by OUC President, Dr Donald Rukare, who was accompanied by Richard McBond Assimwe (UOC Sustainability through sports commission Chair), Kenneth Opedun (Secretary, UOC Sustainability through sports commission) and other dignitaries.

Prominent among the guests were Moses Egaru (country representative, International Union for Conservation of Nature Uganda), Juliet K. Mubi (public relations officer, National Forestry Authority), Makerere University environmental experts and Tree O representative.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Rukare voiced his delight, noting that: *“The Uganda Olympic Committee (UOC) has 33 members. All the members are very intentional in issues to embrace climate change effects. Today, we are signing two important declarations; sports for nature framework and sport climate change action. These we believe will quicken up the race to zero emissions of carbon by the state deadline of 2040. We thank all the partners IUCN Uganda, National Forestry Authority (NFA), Makerere University and Tree O, among others.”*

For his part, the country representative of International Union for Conservation of Nature Uganda, Moses Egaru, said he was delighted to partner with UOC.

“We are excited to be here with a partner as Uganda Olympic Committee (UOC). This is a very momentous occasion” he remarked.



“We are signing for nature through sports. This is the transformative nature for sports and our environment which keeps changing. We yearn for the best environment where the people can live in a healthy way,” he noted.

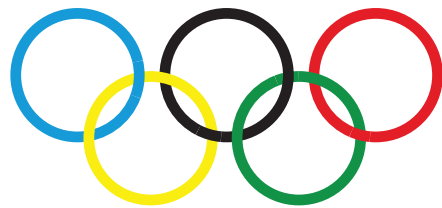
Also speaking on the occasion, Juliet K. Mubi, the PRO of National Forestry Authority underscored the vital need to integrate climate action into sports, given the global reach and appeal of sports.

“It is important to integrate forest conservation into sports by protecting the existing forests as well as restoring the degraded forests. National Forestry Authority is already working with UOC under the forest reserves restoration of four areas with each having 100 hectares of indigenous tree species. There is need to plant, maintain and look after the trees. Sports creates awareness across the globe. We shall also continue to do awareness in schools; working with media and Uganda Olympic Committee to restore forest cover up to 24 percent like in 1990. Currently, we are now at 13 percent as we race against time to restore a green economy in Uganda by 2040,” she insisted.

Suffice it to note that the Uganda Olympic Committee has such partnerships with other organisations. Among active partners working to address environmental issues are Olympic solidarity, Sports For Nature, UN Environment Programme, NFA and Makerere University.



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