ACNOA - ANOCA

ANOCA Newsletter

MONTHLY REVIEW OF AFRICAN OLYMPISM

MAY 2026

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

IHF COMMISSIONS NEW HEADQUARTERS IN BASEL

ANOCA PRESIDENT INVITED AS GUEST OF HONOUR

NIGERIA OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

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OLYMPIC AND SPORTING AFRICA IN MOTION!



Obituary

NOC Cameroon (CNOSC)

PRESIDENT HAMAD KALKABA MALBOUM PASSES ON



IHF Commissions New Headquarters in Basel

ANOCA PRESIDENT INVITED AS GUEST OF HONOUR







A new chapter in the history of handball opened on Thursday, 7 May, in Basel, Switzerland, as the International Handball Federation officially opened the doors of its brand-new headquarters in a ceremony that brought together some of the most prominent figures in world sport. The event was graced by the Honorary IOC President Dr Thomas BACH, and ANOCA President Mustapha BERRAF, IOC member, who took active part in the ceremony as guest of honour.

The highly colourful commissioning ceremony was also attended by IHF President, Dr Hassan MOUSTAPHA, and Egypt's Minister of Youth and Sports, Gohar NABIL. The presence of all these dignitaries testified to the relevance of the occasion for the broader global sporting community.

Representatives of member Federation, dignitaries, partners and staff gathered to witness a milestone that crowned years of effort and a long-term vision.

The ribbon-cutting, followed by the IHF Anthem, marked the formal inauguration of a building that will serve as the central hub for IHF's global operations, a place where strategy is shaped and the future of handball is written.

CONTINUED GROWTH TO ATTAIN HIGHER HEIGHTS

"***This is a proud day for our sport and for our federation. This house is a symbol of everything we stand for - our unwavering commitment to growing handball in every corner of the world***,"



said the IHF President, Dr Hassan MOUSTAFA.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Thomas BACH, Honorary IOC President, expressed the hope that IHF will grow to reach even greater heights: "***Standing here today in this magnificent new headquarters, I can only offer my warmest congratulations. I even notice the wonderful gardens outside, with all the flowers in full bloom, and I hope that is a beautiful symbol for what lies ahead. Just as those flowers are blossoming in such vivid, colourful splendour, so too may the IHF continue to blossom, to grow and to reach even greater heights in service of this wonderful sport of handball***," he stated.

Spanning six floors and a total area of 4,869 square metres, the new IHF House has been purpose-built to meet both current and future needs. Its 3,089 square metres of office and social spaces will serve as the operational heart of the federation, supporting coordination between the IHF Office and its 211 Member Federations across the globe. The building also features 281 square metres of storage and 1,499 square metres of secondary usable areas, including parking.

Located in a prime location in the heart of Basel, just a short walk from the city's historic old town, the building boasts outstanding connectivity.

A REAL HOME FOR THE ENTIRE HANDBALL FAMILY

Beyond its operational function, the new headquarters has been envisioned as a living, breathing home for the entire handball family. The building will also serve as an educational hub, hosting international coaching courses, development programmes, commission meetings and IHF forums, allowing for centralisation of expertise and knowledge-sharing for Member Federations and handball professionals at every level.



In the future, the building will also house a handball museum and a library, a space dedicated to celebrating the sport's rich heritage and inspiring the next generation of players, coaches and fans.

Signed in May 2025, following a negotiation process that extended over nearly a year, the purchase agreement for the new headquarters reflects the federation's determination to secure the most strategic and beneficial outcome for handball in the long term.

On the sidelines, and as part of sports diplomacy, President BERRAF's agenda featured many







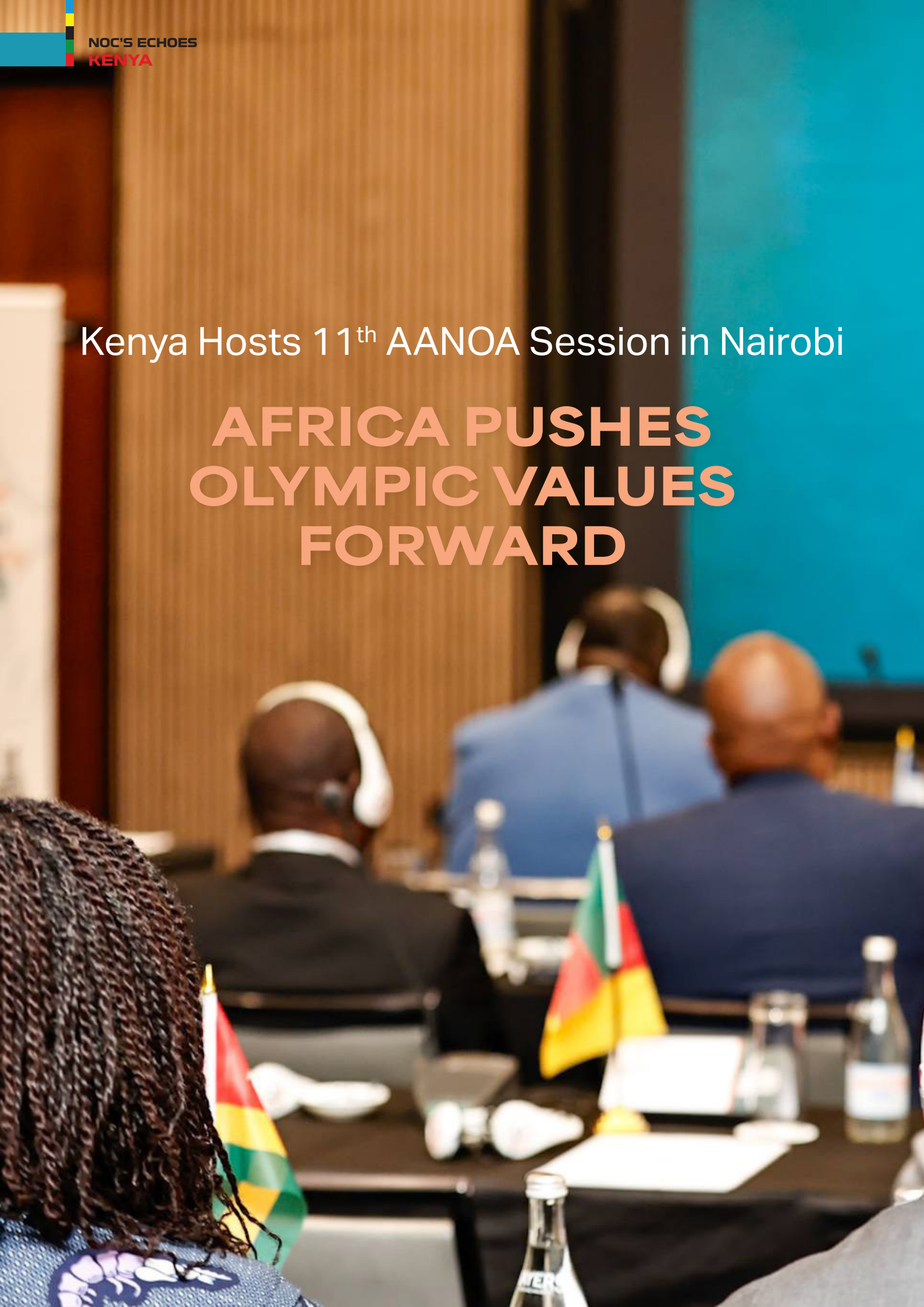
high-level meetings, notably an audience granted to Egypt's Minister of Youth and Sports, Gohar NABIL, with whom he had a working session. Discussions between these two prominent figures took place in a convivial atmosphere, focusing on the progress of preparations for the African Youth Games Cairo 2027.

In a near-perfect harmony, the two men, both former athletes, were in complete agreement on all the issues discussed, while planning to meet in June in Cairo to continue talks.

Their meeting fully aligned with the strategic vision for sport in Africa, with the goal to achieve shared excellence in coordination and cooperation among African States and the Olympic Movement.

Kenya Hosts 11th AANOA Session in Nairobi

AFRICA PUSHES OLYMPIC VALUES FORWARD




11TH SESSION OF
AANOA



The Association of National Olympic Academies of Africa (AANOA) convened from 22 to 25 April 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya, to discuss ways of strengthening ties among African nations and promoting the core values of Olympism, namely excellence, friendship, and respect.

Organised in collaboration with NOC Kenya (NOC-K), the meeting also served as a platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing and the development of innovative approaches to Olympic education across the continent.

Welcoming participants on behalf of the host NOC, Randiek NASHON thanked them attending, noting that their participation demonstrates a shared commitment to strengthening the intellectual and educational foundations of the Olympic Movement.

Also speaking at the opening ceremony, the representative of the ANOCA President, Gilles Gilbert GRESENGUET, President of NOC Central Africa, on behalf of the Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, expressed his gratitude to the ANOCA President, highlighting his delight in addressing the participants.

EFFORTS TO FOSTER A UNITED AND FRATERNAL AFRICAN YOUTH

"***ANOCA President, Mr Mustapha BERRAF, graciously designated me, in my capacity as Chair of the ANOCA Culture and Education Commission, to represent him at the AANOA session opening this morning here on Kenyan soil. It is a great pleasure and an honour for me to speak on his behalf, at the 11th AANOA session...***," he said.

He went on to thank Kenyan authorities for their

hospitality, a true reflection of African solidarity: "***We wish, first and foremost, to commend Kenya for hosting this 11th AANOA session. With its rich sporting heritage, world-renowned athletics champions, and pioneering role in Pan-Africanism, Kenya has set the tone through the warm and fraternal welcome accorded us since we set foot here***," he further said.

Paying a heartfelt tribute on behalf of the ANOCA President to the former First Lady of Mali and AANOA 2nd Vice President, Mrs Aminata KEITA, Gilles Gilbert GRESENGUET underscored: "***...the ANOCA President insisted that we pay her a heartfelt tribute for the exceptional service she and her late husband have rendered to the cause of Olympism in Africa. Madam, please accept our deepest respect and gratitude. The memory of your illustrious husband lives on within the Olympic family, and his legacy will never be forgotten!***"

"*In this regard,*" ***he continued, "President BERRAF would have very much liked to be here in person but is unable to attend due to prior scheduling commitments.***



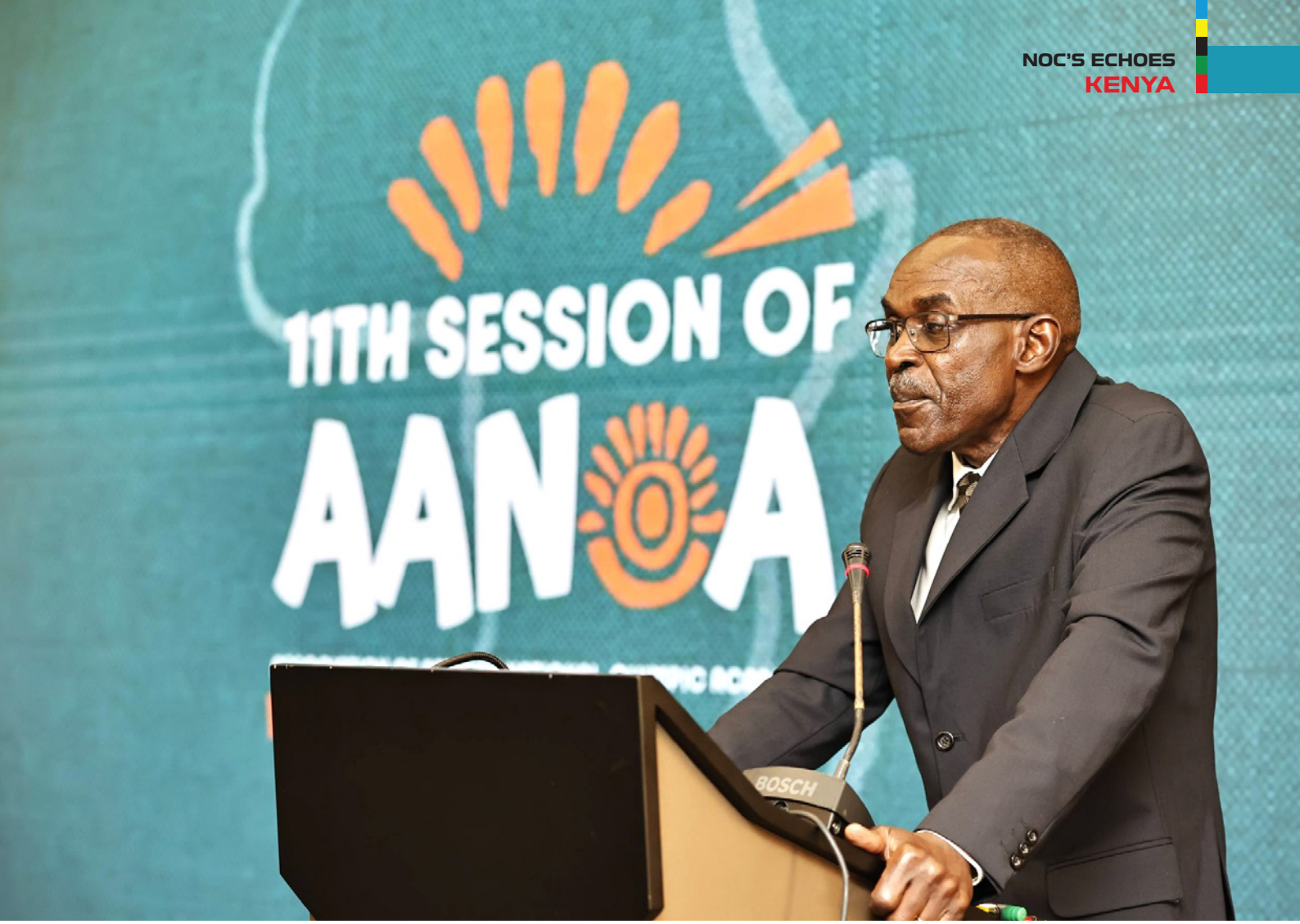


He has, therefore, asked me to convey his warmest greetings, and offer his congratulations and encouragement for your enduring efforts in the service of the Olympic movement in Africa, efforts he now hopes will also be directed towards training a united and fraternal African youth. Finally, he asked me to assure you of ANOCA's commitment to always stand with you."

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS AND EXPLORING NEW APPROACHES

Concluding his speech, the Chair of the ANOCA Culture and Education Commission said: "***...it is essential that NOCs, under the leadership of ANOCA, join forces with AANOA to achieve our shared goal of building a peaceful and better world. This mission has been entrusted to us within the Olympic Movement, and it is especially urgent in the present dispensation marked by all sorts of threats to security, social harmony and social cohesion***."

Expressing optimism about this 11th AANOA session and its implications for the future of Olympic education, Gilles Gilbert GRINSENGUET was emphatic: "***I have no doubt that African ingenuity will once again be fully used to ensure that we conclude with relevant decisions and recommendations. This will help chart a new course for Olympic education in Africa, with the support of our traditional partners, notably the IOC***," he concluded.



For four days, sports, education, and research officials from across the continent came together to share ideas, strengthen partnerships, and explore new approaches to promoting Olympic values through education, culture, and sport.

The forum brought together National Olympic Academies, educators, researchers and other leaders in Olympic education from across the continent with the aim of advancing Olympic education and strengthening cooperation in Africa.



At the close of the session, participants adopted and published a manifesto entitled "*Nairobi Declaration 2026*", which sets out the main decisions, recommendations and commitments made during the deliberations.



ADDRESS BY GILLES GILBERT GRENSENGUET, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ANOCA PRESIDENT AT THE 11TH AANOA SESSION IN NAIROBI, KENYA



The Minister of Sports here present,

Senior officials of the Kenyan Ministry of Sports,

The President of NOC Kenya,

The President of the Association of National Olympic Academies of Africa,

Executive Board Members of NOC Kenya,

AANOA Board Members,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ANOCA President, Mr Mustapha BERRAF, graciously designated me, in my capacity as Chair of the ANOCA Culture and Education Commission, to represent him at the AANOA session opening this morning here on Kenyan soil. It is a great pleasure and an honour for me to speak on his behalf, at this 11th AANOA session hosted by the National Olympic Academy (NOA) of Kenya, with the support of NOC-Kenya. This session brings together the entire African Olympic family around two Olympic Movement structures, namely the NOA and the NOC, to discuss the challenges and opportunities for advancing Olympic ideals and values across our continent. Beyond the sessions of the International Olympic Academy (IOA), which is well represented here in Nairobi, it is particularly encouraging to see the African National Olympic Academies convening in the same spirit as their counterparts on other continents. And AANOA is credited for this development. Established to address the need for a dedicated forum to discuss the Olympic philosophy at the African level, AANOA has since worked to establish a tradition of reflection and development of Olympic culture through dynamic partnerships with organisations promoting and disseminating Olympic education worldwide. It is with admiration that we acknowledge this tradition is now firmly established and is being perpetuated year after year, as evidenced by the convening of this 11th session.

We wish, first and foremost, to commend Kenya for hosting this 11th AANOA session. With its rich sporting heritage, world-renowned



athletics champions, and pioneering role in Pan-Africanism, Kenya has set the tone through the warm and fraternal welcome accorded us upon arrival. On behalf of ANOCA, which I am honoured to represent, and on my own behalf, I extend our sincere gratitude to the Kenyan authorities, who have spared no effort to give us a reception worthy of African solidarity and create pleasant conditions for a stay that lives up to this country's legendary hospitality. As already noted, it is indeed the Olympic family of Africa that is gathered here. In the same spirit of African solidarity, we will avail ourselves of this opportunity to advance the cause of the Olympic Movement on our continent. Naturally, we would also like to extend our thanks to our colleagues of NOC Kenya, whose effective coordination has been instrumental in organising this session.

For this 11th session, AANOA has chosen the theme: "*Africa and Olympic Education*." This timely and significant theme aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063, both of which address the future of education in Africa and the place and role of Olympic education within it. The theme therefore comes at the right time to explore avenues for concrete actions towards delivering high-

quality, multidimensional education for young athletes in particular, and African youth more broadly. In this regard, the forward-looking vision and analytical insight of AANOA command our admiration. We are confident that this Nairobi come together will brainstorm strategies and develop projects of real educational value for our continent.

This is also an opportunity to commend and congratulate the AANOA President for his tireless efforts to promote and advance the Olympic philosophy in line with the aspirations of African sports stakeholders. The AANOA Board is privileged to include a distinguished lady who works tirelessly and in the past hosted two AANOA sessions in her country, Mrs Aminata KEITA, former First Lady of Mali and 2nd Vice President of AANOA. In recognition of her invaluable contribution, the ANOCA President insisted that we pay her a heartfelt tribute for the exceptional service she and her late husband have rendered to the cause of Olympism in Africa. Madam, please accept our deepest respect and gratitude. The memory of your illustrious husband lives on within the Olympic family, and his legacy will never be forgotten!

Having recognised the value of this association from the outset, and committed to supporting its efforts to entrench and spread the Olympic culture across all African countries, ANOCA is in a strong position to assess the ground covered so far, evaluate the association's achievements and, above all, identify the challenges ahead. It is on this basis that ANOCA is always present at major AANOA activities and provides every possible form of support to help it achieve its objectives.

President BERRAF would have very much liked to be here in person but is unable to attend due to prior scheduling commitments. He has, therefore, asked me to convey his warmest greetings, and offer his congratulations and encouragement for your



enduring efforts in the service of the Olympic movement in Africa, efforts he now hopes will also be directed towards training a united and fraternal African youth. Finally, he asked me to assure you of ANOCA's commitment to always stand with you.

Permit me comment on President Mustapha BERRAF's powerful message by pointing out that NOAs are the intellectual arms of NOCs, whose mission is to promote Olympic values in their respective countries and help build a peaceful and better world, in accordance with the Olympic Charter. Before I became NOC President in my country, I was among the very first to participate in IOA sessions in Olympia. Following IOA directives to NOCs, I established our NOA, which was a founding member of AANOA and is today represented in its Executive Board. In a nutshell, both at home and abroad, we spare no effort in helping to build an Africa where Olympic values are promoted and deeply rooted. This commitment is all the more relevant because research shows that this continent is no stranger to the philosophy





underlying the various sports traditions that characterised societies in the past.

For this reason, it is essential that NOCs, under the leadership of ANOCA, join forces with AANOA to achieve our shared goal of building a peaceful and better world.

This mission has been entrusted to us within the Olympic Movement, and it is especially urgent in the present dispensation fraught with all sorts of threats to security, social harmony and social cohesion. There is already ample evidence that sport can bring about significant change in social relations and in the lives of our communities. Our traditions bear witness to this. Today, there are also IOC programmes designed to support NOCs in promoting and disseminating Olympic values, alongside the United Nations system, which buttresses IOC efforts to harness sport for peace and development.

Without exaggerating, it can be said that these are opportunities for our academies. They can now develop projects or programmes that can be supported by these organisations through strategic partnerships.



Furthermore, we must not lose sight of the fact that our contemporary world has made significant progress in several fields such as digital technology and communication, tools that can facilitate the work of our academies by reducing costs especially where resources are scarce.

All these avenues need to be explored to break our academies free from the vicious circle of underfunding, a real bottleneck to their operations As ANOCA Culture and Education Commission Chair, I have consistently advocated for increased grants to



AANOA, and campaigned for a dedicated budget line for NOAs within each NOC budget, following the example of IOC-recognised commissions such as the Athletes' Commission.

As such, their proclaimed autonomy will not remain a matter of mere intention. That advocacy continues, and I am confident that, one day, we will secure this basic requirement which our NOAs have been requesting, and which is well within the reach of our Movement.

We express our satisfaction and gratitude to the NOAs and AANOA which, notwithstanding the paucity of resources, have put in place sound management mechanisms to run their organisations well. I am inclined to think that all NOAs need to follow these examples in order to remain active, perform efficiently and to build credibility within our Movement. We would be remiss not to acknowledge the IOC, strongly represented here today, which, through Olympic Solidarity, is developing bold Olympic values education and training programmes.

Turning now to the deliberations of this 11th session, I have no doubt that African ingenuity will once again be fully used to ensure that we conclude with relevant decisions and recommendations.

This will help chart a new course for Olympic education in Africa, with the support of our traditional partners, notably the IOC. On that note, I wish every success to the deliberations of the 11th AANOA session. Thank you.

NAIROBI DECLARATION 2026

11th Session of the Association of National Olympic Academies of Africa (AANOA)

22-25 April 2026, Nairobi, Republic of Kenya

Meeting in its 11th session in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya, the Association of National Olympic Academies of Africa (AANOA),

RECALLING

The core values of Olympism, founded on excellence, respect, and friendship, as set out in the Olympic Charter;

REAFFIRMING

The key role of National Olympic Academies as strategic instruments for education, culture, and the furtherance of Olympic values, as well as the consolidation of social cohesion at national, continental and international levels;

ACKNOWLEDGING

The growing importance of sports diplomacy and soft power as tools for promoting the Olympic Movement and strengthening intercultural dialogue among nations;

EMPHASISING

The urgent need to strengthen the institutional, operational and financial capacities of National Olympic Academies of Africa, with a view to sustainably increasing their impact within society;

NOTING

The high-standard discussions, the substance of the contributions, the volume of work, and the strategic expectations expressed by participants during this Session,

HEREBY EXPRESSES ITS DEEP GRATITUDE TO:

1. The Government of the Republic of Kenya, for its support to AANOA and honouring the Association by chairing the official opening ceremony of the 11th Session;
2. ANOCA and President Mustapha BERRAF, for their constant and decisive institutional and financial support towards the development of the AAOA;

3. Mr Gilbert GRESENGUET, President of NOC Central Africa and Chair of the ANOCA Culture and Education Commission, representing President Mustapha BERRAF, for chairing and gracing the deliberations of the Session;
4. NOC Kenya (NOC-K) and President Shadrack MALUKI, for the exemplary hospitality extended to this Session in Nairobi, the outstanding quality of the organisational arrangements, working conditions, and hospitality extended to all participants, as well as for their continued support to ANOCA projects and the financial assistance provided;
5. NOC-K members, for their support and guidance during the deliberations of the Session;
6. The Kenyan National Olympic Academy, all the staff and volunteers, for their commitment, professionalism, and decisive contribution to the success of the Session;
7. African NOCs and their Presidents for their support to AANOA and for sending representatives from their respective NOAs to its Sessions, and this one in particular;
8. The IOC Olympic Studies Centre for its high-level scientific and academic contribution, through its Head, Ms Maria BOGNER;
9. The International Olympic Academy, for its invaluable contribution, through its President, Prof Dr Charilaos TSOLAKIS;
10. OS for its active participation and commitment, notably through Ms Eléanore GUZZI, Project Coordinator - IOC Olympic Values;
11. Professor Dr Marion KEIM, UNESCO Chair for "Sport, Development, Peace and Olympic Education', for her meaningful intellectual and strategic contributions to deliberations;
12. The Dakar 2026 Organising Committee, through Ms Fanta DIALLO, Dakar 2026 Youth Engagement Chair, for her constructive inputs to reflections on youth engagement and the social impact of major sports events;
13. Representatives of African NOAs for their outstanding performance and efforts made to ensure the success of the Session.

DECIDES AND RECOMMENDS AS FOLLOWS:

14. Request a substantial increase in ANOCA grants to AANOA, commensurate with the development of its projects, extent of its missions, obligations and strategic ambitions;

15. Appeal to OS to cover international travel expenses for delegates participating in AANOA events (one ticket per country), refundable to the relevant NOC to ensure equal, inclusive and representative participation of all African countries;

16. Urge all African NOAs to educate and encourage the scientific community and academia to join efforts with the Olympic family to foster and disseminate Olympic values and ideals and to promote Olympic education in their respective countries;

17. Strengthen AANOA cooperation and ties with ANOCA, ANOC and IOC structures and commissions;

18. Formalise meaningful and lasting partnerships with:

- **The IOC Olympic Studies Centre;**
- **The International Olympic Academy (IOA);**
- **Olympic Solidarity;**
- **UNESCO;**
- **The African Union; and**
- **The European Olympic Academies, in compliance with provisions of the Olympic Charter.**

19. Initiate the process to harmonise the legal instruments of African NOAs, in close collaboration with ANOCA, in order to secure their institutional recognition, stability and efficiency;

20. Strengthen and diversify the financial mechanism of African NOAs for increased strategic autonomy and capacity to take action for the benefit of their communities;

21. Encourage the creation and membership of NOAs in African countries that do not have any, with a view to promoting inclusion, strengthening the continental network and disseminating Olympic values;

22. Extend AANOA sessions to 2 (two) or 3 (three) days to ensure in-depth thematic discussions and enhanced quality deliberations;

SOLEMNLY AFFIRMS:

23. Its commitment to making African NOAs key players in education, sports diplomacy and the promotion of the Olympic spirit, under the leadership of ANOCA, in the service of youths, peace, social cohesion and sustainable development in Africa and across the globe;

DECIDES TO:

24. Forward this Declaration to all actors of the Olympic Movement for implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Adopted by acclamation at the close of the 11th AANOA Session in Nairobi, Republic of Kenya.





NOC Gabon

GENERAL SYLVAIN FLORIENT PANGOU-MBEMBO ELECTED PRESIDENT

A new President at the helm of NOC Gabon (CNOG).



General Sylvain Florient PANGOU-MBEMBO was elected on 2 May 2026 during the elective General Assembly held at the organisation's Headquarters in Akanda, north of Libreville. He defeated the outgoing President, Crésant PAMBO, and Marcel MBELE-LOUSSOU, the other contender.

Former President of the Gabonese Handball Federation (Fégahand), General Pangou-Mbembo convinced voters with his quadrennial programme, "***Together, let's build to modernise the Gabonese sports model.***"

This programme lays particular emphasis on sports promotion in Gabon, training athletes, upholding Olympic values, and implementing structural reforms aimed at placing the athlete at the heart of CNOG's activities.

Furthermore, the newly-elected President intends to:

- **Give CNOG a befitting status;**
- **Organise an event to reward the best Gabonese athletes;**
- **Create Olympic clubs within schools, businesses, and the armed forces to broaden the base of participants;**
- **Organise Youth Games in every province;**
- **Provide better support for athletes by establishing a commission for elite athletes and advocating for the State to create a multidisciplinary training centre;**
- **Initiate administrative procedures to create a Court of Sport in Gabon;**
- **Promote a gender-sensitive approach by encouraging federations to inclu**de at least 30% women on their executive committees.



COLLECTIVE VICTORY FOR A WINNING GABON

Elected for a four-year term, the new President expressed his satisfaction following an election victory, which he considers above all to be a collective success: "***Beyond my own person, this result is for all of us. The campaign is now behind us. We must work together. What unites us is our commitment and our love for sports development. It is thanks to our unity, our fraternity and our approach that we were able to achieve this result: Gabon remains the winner. It is therefore a collective victory,***" he said.

In his congratulatory message to the President-elect, ANOCA President Mustapha BERRAF, together with his EXCO, expressed satisfaction with this resounding election victory, highlighted the immense pride of the Olympic and Sports Movement in Gabon in particular and across Africa in general, with the new President's quadrennial programme. The programme "***focuses on sports promotion in Gabon, training athletes, upholding Olympic values, and implementing structural reforms aimed at placing the athlete at the heart of NOC Gabon's activities***."

In conclusion, Honourable Mustapha BERRAF reaffirmed his support for the newly-elected President's actions, while also assuring him: "***You can count on ANOCA in implementing your action plan, which is fully in line with Olympic values. The young people of Gabon stand to benefit significantly from it.***"

ANOCA PRESIDENT'S CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE TO THE NEW PRESIDENT OF NOC GABON

To

Mr Sylvain Florient PANGOU MBEMBO, President of NOC Gabon

Subject: Congratulations on your election

Mr President, Dear Brother,

It is with great pleasure that we received news of your election as President of NOC Gabon.

On behalf of the ANOCA Executive Committee and on my own behalf, I extend to you our warmest congratulations.

NOC Gabon, and indeed the African Olympic Movement, welcome your quadrennial programme. Its focus on sport promotion in Gabon, athlete development, upholding Olympic values, and implementing structural reforms to place the athlete at the heart of NOC Gabon's activities is both timely and inspiring.

You can count on ANOCA's support in implementing your action plan, which aligns closely with Olympic ideals. I am confident that young people in Gabon will benefit greatly from your leadership.

May Almighty God guide and strengthen you as you embark on this daunting mission!

Fraternally,

Mustapha Berraf

ANOCA President
IOC Member



Nigeria Olympic Committee

UNVEILING OF OLYMPAFRICA CENTRE AND LAYING OF FOUNDATION STONE FOR OLYMPIC RESIDENCE ESTATE PROJECT



The Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) recently marked a major turning point for sport in the country with the official opening, on 29 April 2026, of the Olympafrica Centre, and the laying of the foundation stone for the long-awaited Olympic residence estate project in Amuwo Odofin, Lagos State.

"***It is with immense pride that we celebrate the opening of the Olympafrica Centre in Amuwo Odofin, Lagos, Nigeria, a space dedicated to young people, sport and Olympic values,***" said the NOC President, Engr Habu Ahmed Gumel.

The dual event, organised by Shehu Dikko, Chairman of the National Sports Commission (NSC), represents the achievement of decades of planning on a 6.7-hectare plot allocated to the NOC by the Lagos State Government in 1990.

Although the Centre has served the local community informally for years, its official inauguration marks a renewed commitment to structured sport development.

The Centre is designed to give young Nigerians access to sports training and education, while equipping them with essential life skills.

The event brought together a cross-section of dignitaries, including sports administrators, traditional leaders, athletes and schoolchildren, to witness what has been described as a transformative investment for the future of Nigerian sport.



NURTURING BUDDING TALENTS AND SUSTAINING NIGERIA'S SPORTS FUTURE

Speaking at the event, the NOC President, Engr. Habu Ahmed Gumel, the main initiator and driving force of the project, described the facility as a cornerstone for nurturing young talent and sustaining Nigeria's sports future: "***This facility is designed to engage children and young athletes at a local level. Early talent scouting and structured training are essential to maintain Nigeria's competitiveness in international sport. Grassroots development remains vital to ensuring the country's continued sport success. The athletes we are training today will take over from the current generation at national and international levels***," he said.

The main benefits of the project lie in grassroots sports development, particularly talent identification, and the successful integration of a residence estate within a sports environment.

According to Olympafrica Director General, Alassane Thierno Diack, the Olympafrica Centre provides a well-structured platform for budding talent identification and mentoring.

Indeed, the Centre will groom future champions, while promoting community engagement and healthy lifestyles. The Olympafrica Centre is part of a broader international effort to use sports as a tool for social change across Africa. The Nigeria Olympic Committee says the programmes



will begin immediately with hundreds of young participants expected to benefit.

MATCHING THE EXPECTATIONS OF NIGERIAN YOUTH

"***I am happy to say that we are fortunate that this time around, with the support of the Olympafrica Foundation, ANOCA (the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa) was able to get funding to do some development on this land for grassroots development, for the children to be playing so that we can be able to develop sports at the grassroots level, because grassroots development is very very important. They are the people that will be trained so that they will grow and take over from the older ones at international and national levels. The Centre will enable our young boys and girls, young athletes to train in a very conducive environment. It is just for kids from young age to the age of 16. It is exclusively for them, and I believe in this facility we will be able to catch them young, and for us to be able to have athletes in all games, tennis, volleyball, athletics, football to be able to represent Nigeria in the future***", the NOC President who doubles as ANOCA Treasurer General, Engr Habu Ahmed Gumel, further said.

Commending the achievement of the project, another sports stakeholder expressed her enthusiasm:

"***I'm excited about this project because it's a mixed blend of lifestyle and infrastructure. So, as you can see the football pitch is already set, the volleyball pitch even as it is, in the current state, we still have children coming in on daily basis to practice after school hours. So, it's just very important to put the facility into judicious use by putting the necessary infrastructure and also to use the other side of the land for the real estate part which would include two, three bedroom and four-bedroom maisonette***."

The newly constructed Olympafrica Centre occupies 40% of the site, while the remaining 60% has been set aside for the Olympic Estate, a residential development designed to complement the sports facilities.

LEVERAGING OPPORTUNITIES OFFERED BY THE OLYMPAFRICA CENTRE

The facilities inaugurated at the Centre include a refurbished cultural building, a multi-purpose sports ground, a covered spectator stand, dressing rooms, amenities, a security post and a borehole with suspended storage tanks. Ongoing works include the reconstruction of a football

pitch and an eight-lane athletics track.

In addition, the complex features an indoor hall for combat and weight-bearing sports like karate, taekwondo, wrestling and weightlifting, as well as outdoor courts for basketball, volleyball and tennis.

Speaking to Nigeria Olympic Committee officials, Olympafrica Director General, Alasanne Diack, expressed his desire to ensure that the opportunities offered by the Centre are fully maximised: "***This Centre is designed for the younger generation, and they must make good use of it. Nigeria has immense potential and must do more. This Centre is expected to mark a major turning point***," he said.

Focusing resolutely on the future, the NOC President expressed optimism regarding the long-term impact of the project, unveiling a bold vision for its growth: "***Over the next ten years, this Centre will become a leading sports facility for the country. The athletes trained here will represent Nigeria at the Olympic Games, the Commonwealth Games, the African Games and the World Championships,***" he said.





In conclusion, he expressed gratitude to the Lagos State Government, the International Olympic Committee, the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa and the Olympafrica Foundation for their contribution to the success of the project.

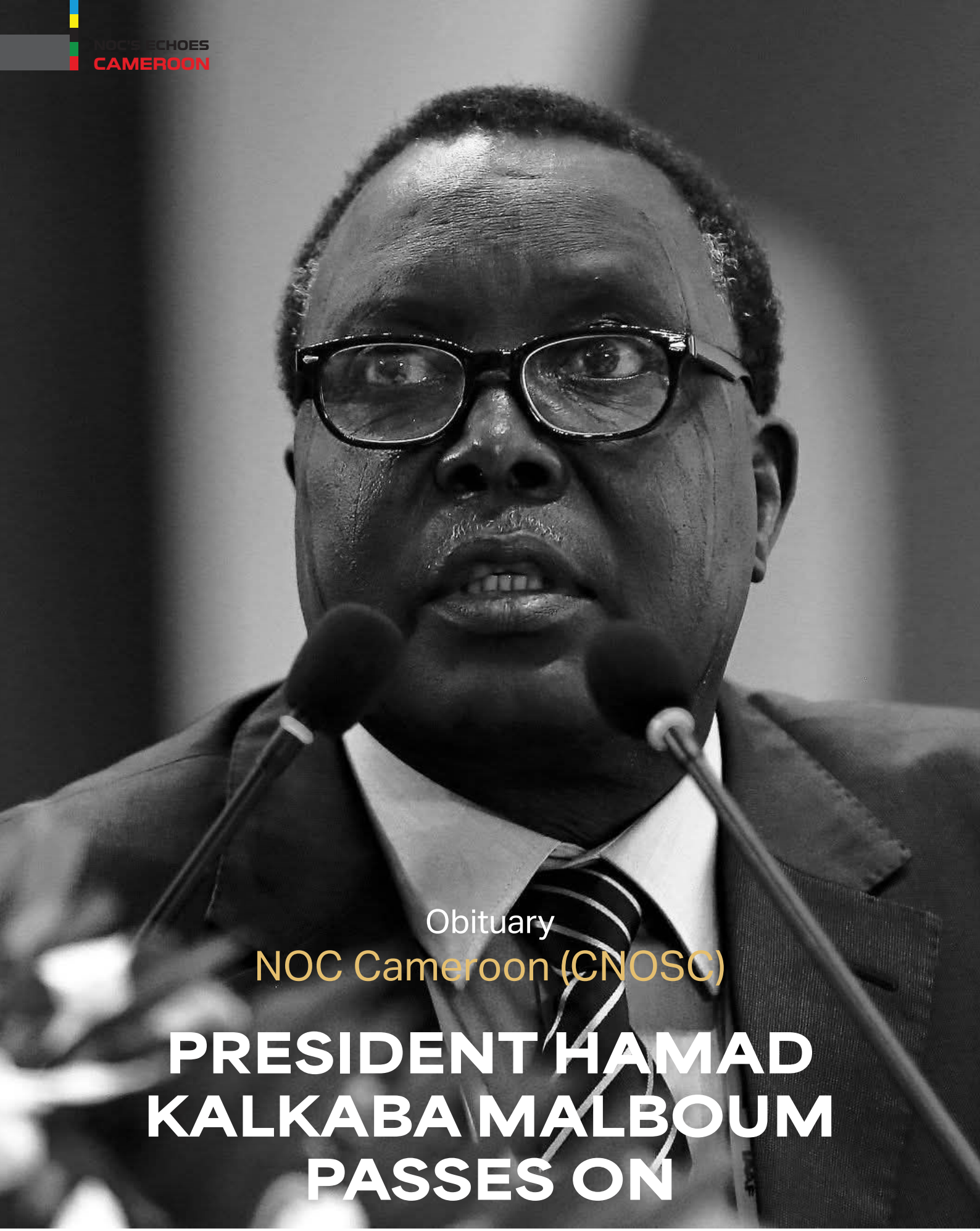
For the former President of the Nigerian Athletics Federation (AFN), Mr Dan





Ngerem, who made a brief surprise appearance at this historic event, the most striking aspect is that the NOC succeeded in retaining the land allocation even after 35 years.

It should be recalled that the Olympafrica Foundation is headed by the ANOCA President, Honourable Mustapha Berraf.



Obituary

NOC Cameroon (CNOSC)

PRESIDENT HAMAD KALKABA MALBOUM PASSES ON



According to a CNOSC release, the NOC President, Colonel Hamad KALKABA MALBOUM, President of the Confederation of African Athletics (CAA) and the pioneer President of the Association of African Olympic Sports Confederations (CASOL), passed away on Wednesday, 13 May 2026 in Yaounde at the age of 75.

An astute sports manager, Colonel Hamad KALKABA MALBOUM devoted most of his life to sports promotion and development, both in Cameroon and internationally. His commitment, leadership, and vision greatly impacted the global Olympic and Sports Movement. His passing is therefore a great loss for Cameroon, Africa and the world at large, as well as for the entire Olympic and Sports Movement.

Former sprinter and long jumper, retired senior military officer, and a musician by passion, Hamad KALKABA MALBOUM dedicated more than half a century of his life to sports development in Cameroon and across Africa.

EXEMPLARY COMMITMENT TO OLYMPIC IDEALS

President Kalkaba, who was at the helm of CNOSC since 1998, President of the Confederation of African Athletics since 2003, IOC member, and ANOCA Development Commission Chair, was also elected pioneer President of the Association of African Olympic Sports Confederations (CASOL) in 2024.

Africa has therefore lost a leading figure in sports governance, who leaves behind a legacy of exceptional dedication to sport and Olympic ideals. For decades, he worked tirelessly to give Africa a stronger voice within major world governing sports bodies.

As tributes pour in, mourners pay their last respects to this iconic sports manager with solemnity and emotion. Cameroon has lost a pioneer; Africa has lost one of the pillars of the Sports Movement.

In his condolence message addressed to CNOSC on behalf of ANOCA, the Honourable Mustapha BERRAF pays a heartfelt tribute to a visionary leader and a tireless builder of sport, whose legacy is etched in the institutions he strengthened, the athletes he nurtured, and the values he upheld throughout his life of service. "***His departure is a great loss to Olympism, and he leaves a void that will be difficult to fill. Please accept our heartfelt condolences, and rest assured that ANOCA stands in solidarity with you in this moment of grief. May you find strength in the memory of a life lived in the service of sport, and in the knowledge that his works will never be forgotten***," wrote the ANOCA President.



CONDOLENCE MESSAGE



To:

The National Olympic and Sports Committee of Cameroon

Subject: Our heartfelt condolences

It is with deep shock and consternation that we received the sad news of the passing of a towering figure in African sports governance, our brother and friend, Ahmad Kalkaba MALBOUM.

President of NOC Cameroon, President of the Confederation of Africain Athletics, President of the Association of African Olympic Sports Confederations (CASOL) and Chairman of the ANOCA Development Commission, he served our continent with distinction, integrity, and an unwavering commitment to Olympic ideals.

In these sad circumstances, the ANOCA Executive Committee joins the entire African Olympic and Sports Movement in expressing our sincere condolences to the NOC of Cameroon, and our deepest sympathy to the biological family of this great builder.

President Kalkaba will be remembered as a visionary leader and a tireless builder of sport. His legacy is etched in the institutions he strengthened, the athletes he nurtured, and the values he upheld throughout his life of service. His departure is a great loss to Olympism, and he leaves a void that will be difficult to fill.

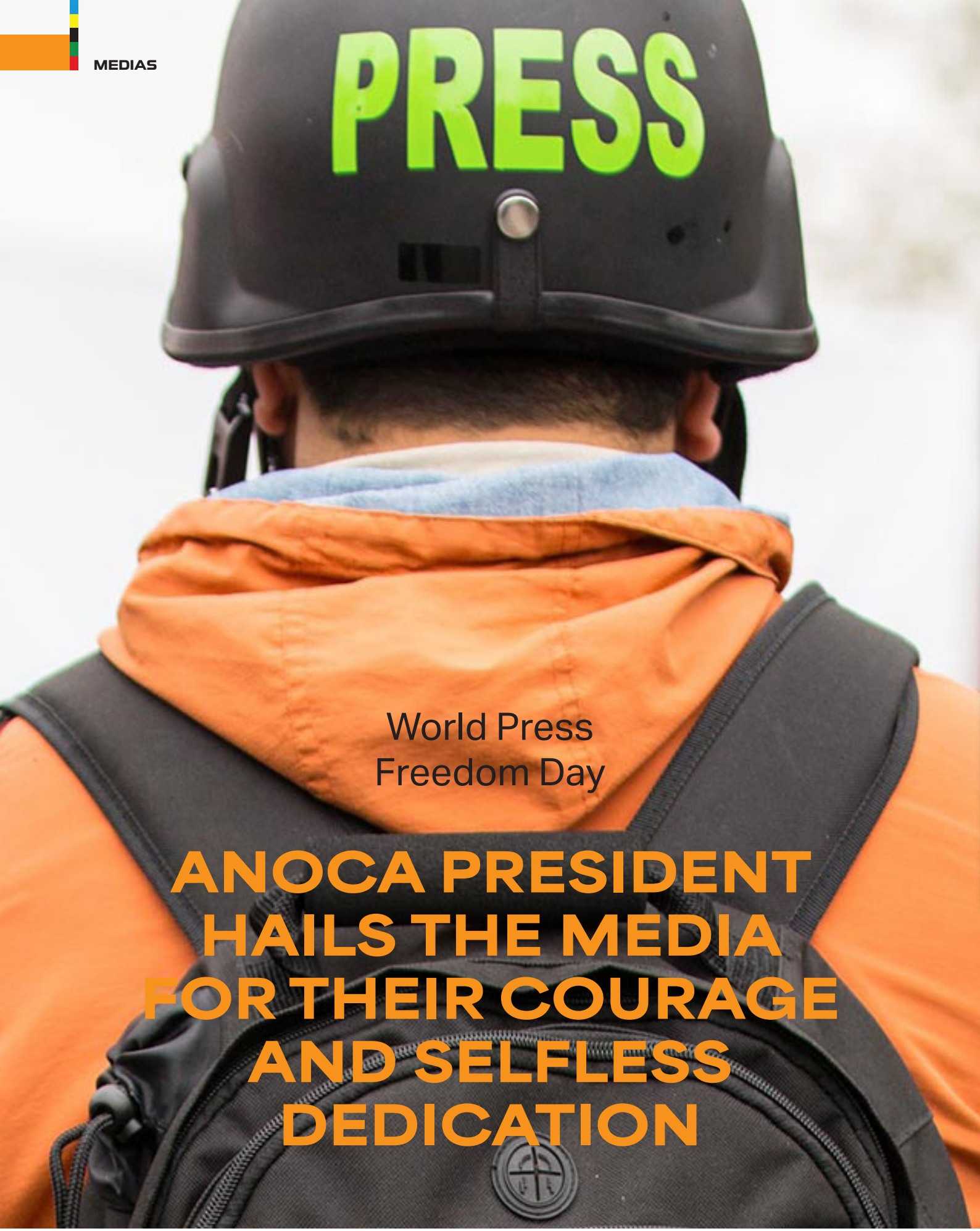
Please accept our heartfelt condolences. Rest assured that ANOCA stands in solidarity with you in this moment of grief. May you find strength in the memory of a life lived in the service of sport, and in the knowledge that his works will never be forgotten.

May Almighty God grant him eternal rest and give his family the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

Yours in Olympism,

Mustapha Berraf

ANOCA President
IOC Member



World Press Freedom Day

ANOCA PRESIDENT HAILS THE MEDIA FOR THEIR COURAGE AND SELFLESS DEDICATION



As part of the celebrations marking World Press Freedom Day on 3 May 2026, and in keeping with tradition, ANOCA President, the Honourable Mustapha Berraf, paid a heartfelt tribute to the men and women, journalists and media professionals "***who demonstrate courage and self-sacrifice day in, day out, to report the facts, tell the truth and keep Africa and the world at large informed***."

In his message, the ANOCA President lauded media professionals and especially the sports press, for their professionalism, thanks to which ANOCA "***...is able to inform the continent and the entire world about the beauty of Olympic and sports values, report on many sports competitions, and bear witness to the conduct of athletes and the passion of African sports fans***."

Paying tribute to the International Sports Press Association (AIPS) and all African journalists, the ANOCA President urged African NOCs "***to champion advocacy for the rights of journalists while guiding them in the discharge of their duties, to prevent conflicts within the press. We should, in our own way, endeavour to protect journalists***," he said.

In tune with the theme of the 2026 edition, which advocates for a peaceful future, the ANOCA President emphasised that sport calls for peace, builds peace and inspires peace. The African sports press must embrace this for, together, "***we will build a peaceful Africa and a better world through the sports press,***" he concluded.





THE FULL TEXT OF THE ANOCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY 2026: ANOCA HAILS THE AFRICAN SPORTS PRESS



Ladies and Gentlemen of the Press,

Dear friends of the African and global sports press,

On this day, 3 May 2026, World Press Freedom Day, we pay tribute to all of you – men and women, journalists and media professionals – who demonstrate courage and self-sacrifice day in, day out, to report the facts, tell the truth and keep Africa and the world at large informed.

Thanks to your professionalism, which has been evident for many years, the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) is able to inform the continent and the entire world about the beauty of Olympic and sports values, report on many sports competitions, and bear witness to the conduct of athletes and the passion of African sports fans. Sport conveys a unique energy, and the press recounts its emotions with accuracy and respect.



For this, we say THANK YOU and stand with you to promote press freedom in general, and freedom of the sports press in particular, in the best possible way, under the most enabling conditions.

Press freedom is founded on democracy and justice.

We commend AIPS, the International Sports Press Association, and all African journalists. We urge all African NOCs to champion advocacy for the rights of journalists while guiding them in the discharge of their duties, to prevent conflicts within the press. We should, in our own way, endeavour to protect journalists.

The theme for this year's edition, '***Shaping a Future in Peace***', reminds us that sport calls for peace, builds peace and inspires peace. The African sports press must embrace this.

Olympic solidarity calls for greater love, unity and peace. This day is therefore special for you, but also for us. Together, we will build a peaceful Africa and a better world through the sports press.

Long live press freedom!

Long live the African sports press!



ANOCA
JEUX AFRICAINS
AFRICAN GAMES
ACNOA

UNITY
SOLIDARITY
FRATERNITY

ANOCA