



# ANOCA NEWSLETTER



MONTHLY REVIEW OF AFRICAN OLYMPIC

APR 2020



# STOP COVID-19

#WashHands #StayHome  
#SocialDistancing  
#StayActive

*«Building a better world through Sport»*



# For a worthy and committed sporting Africa ... in confinement!

Dear readers,

Since the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which causes COVID-19, more than 180 countries have had to deal with the adverse consequences of this pandemic, which has exposed the vulnerability of our systems. Since the first symptoms were noticed in an inhabitant of the city of Wuhan, China, the coronavirus has travelled to become an epizootic disease across all the continents of planet Earth.

Without venturing into a game of figures, it must nevertheless be said that this pandemic has cornered the entire world, and Africa in particular, in a dark, sorrowful tunnel; we are caught up in uncertainty, doubt and perplexity. It has brought to a standstill several sectors of activity, especially huge human gatherings. Despite this, sporting Africa has remained determined, worthy. In spite of the Covid-19 calamity that has led to the postponement of several continental and world sports events such as the Tokyo Olympic Games, the mental construction, the philosophy of Olympism holds sway. With dignity, African sports organisations, led by ANOCA,

have reviewed their action plans and even their programmes. It is from this perspective that we, African sports administrators, have welcomed the wise decision of our friend, IOC President Thomas Bach, and the Japanese authorities to postpone the Games in the best interest of the athletes, fans, volunteers...

This great friend of Africa, who took the helm of the IOC on 10 September 2013 during the 125th Congress of this organisation, has always strongly advocated for the promotion of Olympic values among young people. His decision has helped us deal with uncertainty. I commend the African athletes who, already prepared, welcomed this decision. They have displayed their nobility and courage. At a time when we are grappling with this health crisis, it is more than important for us, in confinement, to remind ourselves that Tokyo 2020, postponed to 2021, is just around the corner. We must take this opportunity to review our athletes' preparation plans. Our athletes should no longer participate just for the sake of it, but should do so in order to win many medals that will enable Africa to assert itself as a continent of sport, which it truly is. You cannot succeed in a prestigious and universal event like the Olympic Games without a multidimensional and rigorously coordinated preparation. It behoves Africa to assert itself in the concert of continents as a land of sport and a vector of Olympic values. Tokyo 2020 is tomorrow! Now is time to prepare!

We must therefore, in synergy, tone up the vitality of African Olympism. There are many challenges to rise to. During this confinement period, I urge leaders, athletes, coaches...all stakeholders to make of Olympic ideals life instruments. We should understand that Olympism is neither an organisation nor a system, it is a mental construction, a philosophy, in a nutshell, a state of mind that highlights a certain number of values. These values are defined both individually and globally, because basically, the African Olympic and Sports Movement is not at the service of its leaders, but at the service of the continent's youth. Let's harness all our experience and expertise to take decisions that will be most beneficial to African athletes, NOCs and more globally to our Olympic Movement, of which they are key players. These are difficult times, but I am sure we will overcome with dignity.



**MUSTHAPHA BERRAF**  
IOC MEMBER  
PRESIDENT OF ANOCA



## POSTPONEMENT OF THE GAMES...

# Thomas Bach hails involvement of IOC partners and Japanese authorities



In a statement issued following the postponement of the Tokyo Olympic Games (23 July-8 August 2021) and the Paralympic Games (24 August-5 September 2021), the IOC President, calm and upbeat, hailed the involvement of IOC partners and Japanese authorities in the consultations leading up to this decision. «I want to thank the International Federations for their unanimous support and the Continental Associations of National Olympic Committees for their great involvement in the consultation process over the last few days. I would also like to thank the IOC Athletes' Commission with which we have

been in constant touch.» he said.

He further observed that the 2020 Olympic Games, which will finally hold in 2021, could play a major role in spreading joy and conviviality after this global health crisis. ***“With this announcement, I am confident that, working together [...] we can address this unprecedented challenge. Humankind currently finds itself in a dark tunnel. The Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games can be the light at the end of this tunnel,”*** the IOC President declared.



POSTPONEMENT OF THE TOKYO GAMES

## Mustapha Berraf: a shrewd skipper in command



*Following the IOC's decision to postpone the Tokyo Olympic Games as a result of the health crisis triggered by Covid-19, ANOCA President, Mustapha Berraf, as a transparent and shrewd manager, wrote to his colleagues, members of the ANOCA General Assembly in order to (re)define the vision and action plan of his institution ahead of the event, now scheduled for 2021. Here with the letter in its entirety.*



## Honourable members of the ANOCA General Assembly, dear colleagues and friends,

Our entire community gladly and warmly welcomed the responsible decision taken by the IOC and its leader, Thomas Bach, to postpone the Olympic Games until 2021, based on latest developments on the international Olympic and sports scene.

The pandemic that is currently ravaging the world and Africa in particular warrants us to strengthen the ancestral bonds that unite us and the international solidarity between our African NOCs and those of the world at large in all areas and in particular those dealing with the future of our athletes.

In this light, and in these extremely difficult times, we have an even greater duty to brainstorm solutions that will enable our athletes and their coaches to continue various training programmes while protecting them from this terrible disease that affects us all in one way or another. In addition to assurances from the IOC, where key plans are being figured out for the benefit of our sports communities under the guidance of eminent specialists, we have a duty to rise to the occasion.

That is why I have formally requested our Executive Bureau to release from our 2020/21 budget additional funds that will be used to support life-saving actions in favour of future African representatives at the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo. This will require sacrifices and constant availability as recommended by President Thomas Bach. It will thus be appropriate and wise to cut down our expenditure and implement a strategy of partnership with other continents and governments as set out in the Olympic Charter.

Dear colleagues and friends, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our executive committee is working in these difficult times to seek solutions and chart a way forward that will enable us all to participate in preserving our unity and fraternity. I would thus be grateful if you forward to us all suggestions and proposals that you may deem necessary to be implemented in the general interest. I also wish to request that you to bring to our attention any difficulties encountered by African athletes and their supervisors, whatever and wherever they may be, so that we can act promptly and responsibly.

Our permanent and transparent relationship with the NOC Relations Department and its various sub-departments, as well as with all IOC officials, gives us glimpses of hope, but should not make us lose sight of the fact that the world will experience turmoil after this tragedy. That is why, on behalf of the Executive Committee, I appeal for unity and the mobilisation of all to overcome the hurdles of this extremely difficult period by fostering mutual assistance and solidarity. For our part, we assure them of our constant availability and unfailing support.

We hope that this pandemic will be eradicated as soon as possible and we keep imploring the Almighty God for protection.

**Fraternally,**

**Mustapha BERRAF**  
**ANOCA President**  
**IOC Member**





IOC EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTION

# The African Olympic family congratulates Nawal El Moutawakel



Elected member of the IOC Executive Board at the end of the 134th Session held from 24 to 26 June 2019, Nawal El Moutawakel (Morocco) officially took office in January 2020.

The former 400 m hurdles Olympic champion (Los Angeles 1984) has thus made a comeback after a first stint between 2008 and 2016, thus further consolidating her position as a major figure of the Olympic Movement. She has a wealth of experience in the corridors of Olympic power. She successively sat on several Commissions over the last few years, including Women and Sport (1995-2010 and 2014-2015), Marketing (2000-2010), International Relations (2008-2015), Radio and Television (2014-2015), etc. She has even chaired three Commissions

directly relating to the Games, namely the Evaluation Commissions of the Bidding Cities for the 2012 and 2016 Olympic Games, and the Rio 2016 Coordination Commission (2010-2016).

Nawal El Moutawakel is therefore returning to the IOC Executive Board, where she had even previously served as vice-president. Reacting to the election, President Berraf had this to say: ***«The entire African Olympic family congratulates Nawal El Moutawakel. She does the whole continent proud. With Kirsty Coventry, another Olympic champion, Africa now has two women in this prestigious Olympic institution. Her track record as a sportswoman and Olympic Movement official is her major asset as she buckles down to the task.»***



## TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES

# IOC and Tokyo 2020 agree on a new framework



Following the postponement of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the International Olympic Committee and the Organising Committee of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games met on 16 April 2020 and agreed on a new framework to govern preparations for the two major events. The framework focuses on planning and a new roadmap, as well as resources and priorities that will be set accordingly. The IOC release states that «The key elements of the planning for 2021 should replicate the existing Games Delivery Plan for 2020.»

Based on Olympic Agenda 2020, the IOC, the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and all Olympic and Paralympic Movement stakeholders, in conjunction with Japanese partners, including the Tokyo 2020 Organising

Committee, will explore all opportunities to optimise and streamline the scope and service levels at the Games, and reduce the costs caused by the postponement.

Pertaining to the implementation timeline, the IOC has noted that the details of planning for Tokyo 2020 in 2021 are being examined this April with a view to drawing up a new roadmap.

The IOC was represented at the 16 April meeting held by teleconference by the Chair of the Coordination Commission, John Coates, and the Executive Director for the Games, Christophe Dubi, while Tokyo 2020 was represented by Mori Yoshiro and the Director General, Muto Toshiro.





POSTPONEMENT OF THE OLYMPIC GAMES

# THOUGH IN CLOSE CONFINEMENT AFRICAN ATHLETES REMAIN UPBEAT

*On 24 March 2020, in the midst of the Covid-19 crisis, the International Olympic Committee and the Japanese authorities decided to postpone the Tokyo Olympic Games to 2021. Several African athletes in the midst of preparations for this world event expressed their views on this decision taken by the supreme governing body of the Olympic Movement.*

**Marie-Josée Ta Lou (Côte d'Ivoire, 100 and 200 metres) confined in Abidjan**



*« I have been training since the Rio Games to get to this competition but I am not really bothered because it concerns my health and that of everyone. It's better to be precautious than to hope to make the Olympics and have deaths troubling our conscience. I'm suffering*

*from tendonitis and needed to rest, so now I'm not doing anything. My legs are actually still itching to run but otherwise I've always been a stay-at-home person so it doesn't bother me at all. I watch TV, read, pray or cook. I know I still have steam and I can run fast.».*

**Hugues Fabrice Zango (Burkina Faso, triple jump),**







## confined in Bethune

« It's a good decision, though with a twinge of sadness in my heart, because we've been waiting for the Games for four years. The epidemic is progressing and could become a disaster. We have to stay at home. There should be more discipline. All specific preparation is completely disrupted and we can no longer progress. The stadiums are closed. At best, I can leap around in the courtyard, but on tarmac it would be dangerous. Since the outbreak of the virus, I've ordered a lot of mock-ups. I'm trying to do electronics to while away the time. I'm conducting my experiments at home while hoping to get back to the lab. It requires much mental strength. But relaxing too much would undermine all the progress made. ».



## Franck Elemba (Congo, shot put) confined in Rabat

« It's impossible to throw the shot put in the flat, because it weighs 7 kg 260. It's very dangerous, we're going to avoid breaking everything! ».

## Odile Ahouanwanou (Benin, heptathlon) confined in Rouen



« We were stressed, we had a lot of pressure. I live less than 2 km from the stadium, I miss it a lot. For me, that's my home! I'm in a four-storey building, so I'm doing staircase sessions. When you're used to ten training sessions a week and you go down to two... There's not much you can do but to keep in shape.».

## Chad le Clos (Republic of South Africa, Swimming)

« Good decision by the International Olympic



Committee. We'll get back together for Tokyo2021 when the time comes. Stay healthy and safe for the next few weeks.. ».



THE 26TH COMMEMORATION OF THE GENOCIDE AGAINST TUTSI

# Commemoration the genocide against the Tutsis

*During the commemoration, from 7 to 13 April 2020, of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis, the Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee marked the event with the following Declaration published here in its entirety.*



**RWANDA**



ACNOA - ANOCA

**Dear Rwandans sportsmen and women,**

**Dear Olympic and Commonwealth Games Federation family,**

The world is going through a very difficult and challenging time. All of us are struggling to stop the spread of Covid-19, but unfortunately some people are dying day after day in many countries. Rwanda is one of the countries affected by Covid-19 and has implemented a lockdown to

protect the citizens and reduce the spread of this pandemic.

During this global challenging time of Covid-19 pandemic, from April 7th to July 3rd,

2020, Rwandans will be commemorating the Genocide against Tutsi for the 26th time. During the week from 7th to 13th April 2020, all Rwandans and friends of Rwanda will carry out from home activities related to paying tribute to more than 1 million





Tutsi including sportsmen and women who perished during the Genocide that was meticulously prepared and perpetrated by the government of that time between April 7th and July 3rd in 1994.

At different occasions, our Olympic and Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) family have demonstrated its support to all of us and especially to the survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi.

We particularly remember the sense of humanity of the whole CGF family at the occasion of the 24th Commemoration of the Genocide against Tutsi. During the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Australia, a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the Genocide against Tutsi was observed and some of you participated in the commemoration organized by the Rwandan community living in Brisbane, Australia.

The African Sports and Olympic family participated at the 25th Genocide commemoration and was represented by the President of the Association of the National Olympic Committee of Africa (ANOCA), Mr. Mustapha Berraf, the Secretary General Eng. Ahmed About Elgasim, Presidents of National Olympic Committees of the ANOCA Zone 5 and more than 300 young players coming for the Zone 5 games.

The Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee and the Rwandan sports and

Olympic family will always be very grateful.

The 26th Commemoration of the Genocide against Tutsi which starts on this 7th April

2020 will be another very hard period for all of us especially the survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi. It is going to happen at a moment we are all locked at home due to Covid-19.

It is a time Rwandans and survivors need much more support from you. A special thought of our Olympic values of friendship, respect and excellence and our CGF values of humanity, equality and destiny would be enough to stop the revisionism and the denial of the Genocide against Tutsi. It would support their usual resilience and would demonstrate to them that life is going on.

Together **WE REMEMBER, UNITE, RENEW**

**« Building a peaceful and a better world through sport and Olympic ideals »**

**Done at Kigali, April 7th, 2020.**

**Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee &**

**Rwanda Commonwealth Games Association.**

