



# ANOCA NEWSLETTER



MONTHLY REVIEW OF AFRICAN OLYMPISM

MAY 2020

# LET'S BRACE FOR POST COVID-19 CHALLENGES

ANOCA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE DISCUSSES  
IMPORTANT COVID-19 RESPONSE MEASURES



# STOP COVID-19

#WashHands #StayHome  
#SocialDistancing  
#StayActive

«*Building a better world through Sport*»



## Let's brace for post Covid-19 challenges

Since February 2020, Africa has been grappling with the Coronavirus pandemic, a situation that has led political leaders of the continent's States to impose a battery of restrictions ranging from confinement to simple containment measures to forestall the spread of the virus. The world of sport has been particularly hard hit. Both amateur and professional sports competitions have been grounded or have been merely cancelled. Championships have ended, matches postponed... Never, in the 21st century, has the sports movement been so affected, forcing sports stakeholders to suspend their favourite activity. In this month of May 2020, the time has come to begin easing these restrictions gradually in most African countries as in the rest of the world. I would, therefore, begin by thanking the IOC and Olympic Solidarity for all the measures taken in the interest of NOCs and athletes so that they can better cope with the post-coronavirus period, especially by increasing the budget allocated to their athletes' programmes.

The post-covid-19 period will certainly open up a new phase, a restart of social life and therefore of sports activities. It will not be a totally normal life, since the dark spectre of this pandemic will still haunt our minds; all stakeholders will thus have to be disciplined and responsible. At this time of unprecedented crisis, I am pleased to note that, without giving in to resignation, African sports administrators are, on the contrary, harnessing the resources necessary for collective resilience. The post-

Covid-19 period will be a time of revival of activities, including sports. There is need today, taking advantage of this respite, that stakeholders of the African Olympic Movement, while availing themselves of the opportunity of ICTs, should communicate and concert, map out appropriate strategies and recovery plans.

Technically, since the beginning of confinement, two months ago, athletes have, in theory, had to comply with the same rules as all citizens and train at home, with the shortcomings we are all aware of. They will need special programmes to relaunch their training in order to be competitive. We should not lose sight of upcoming major sporting challenges, especially Tokyo 2020 in 2021, the Olympic Games being a platform on which each nation, each continent, seeks to showcase itself with a large number of participants, an abundant medal haul and, above all, with the healthy and exemplary behaviour of its athletes.

Economically, the sports industry, which includes the related industrial production, the share of communities, household consumption and all media events: sponsorship, media rights, ticketing and merchandising, is hard hit. A great deal of resilience will be required. All sports stakeholders will have to review spending levels and readjust accordingly.

At managerial level, it will be necessary to organise consultations at continental, regional and/or national levels to calmly prepare for international meetings. These should bring together experts, administrators of sports organisations and government representatives. It should not be lost on us that, together, we stand stronger. Such meetings should help fine tune a collective strategy of coordinated and synergetic preparation for international competitions, especially the Olympic Games. This will require a strong ethical foundation because, on a daily basis, and this is our vision as supervisory bodies of young Africans, we have made it part of our operating policy that sport is not an end but a means of education, coming together and progress for all those who practise it. After COVID, sport will take its rightful place. We will have to be ready to take up its many challenges as a powerful lever for peace, nation building and as a catalyst for development, a vector of socialisation.



**MUSTHAPHA BERRAF**  
IOC MEMBER  
PRESIDENT OF ANOCA





## ANOC EXECUTIVE BOARD

# ANOCA applies for and receives significant financial assistance from ANOC to African NOCs



The Executive Council of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) met by videoconference on 18 May 2020, in a restricted session chaired Dr Robin Mitchell. Held in the midst global health crisis, the meeting afforded an opportunity for the ANOCA President, Mustapha Berraf, to deliver Olympic and Sporting Africa's message.

President Berraf began by thanking the participants for holding the meeting, which provided a platform to seek solutions to the health crisis. ***"I thank you for your availability and willingness to find a way out of the crisis we are all experiencing," he declared. The ANOCA steward also spoke for the African NOCs, soliciting ANOC's support. "My message will focus on a request made to me by the majority of my counterparts of African NOCs, who are requesting that you release special funds to enable them to continue their operations and maintain***

***their athletes and technical staff. The redistribution of a suitable amount with specifications that would lay down terms and conditions for the use of the funds would be very much appreciated by our NOCs who hereby express their gratitude to you in advance," said Mustapha Berraf, who also solicited ANOC's assistance "to the various Olympafrica Centres in Africa, 48 in number, and most of which are experiencing horrible situations, even crying out because of hunger."***

The ANOCA President's message also focused on preparations for the Dakar 2022 Games. President Mustapha Berraf appealed to his ANOC counterparts to support the organisation of this event, a first in Africa, which stands as a challenge to the Continent.

The appeal made by the ANOCA president throughout the meeting was heeded. The





ANOC Executive Council decided to allocate more than eleven million dollars to support continental associations and member NOCs currently affected by the coronavirus crisis. Africa, for its part, will benefit from an additional support in view of the many difficulties encountered by its NOCs.

This decision has been very well received by NOCs of the Continent as they look forward to the days ahead with a cool head, particularly with regard to their operations and preparation of athletes for major world events.

### CONSULTATION

## ANOCA Executive Committee discusses important Covid-19 response measures

The ANOCA Executive Committee held an extraordinary meeting by videoconference on 27 April 2020, to discuss important issues and particularly the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sports and measures to cope with its fallouts. The meeting was chaired by Mustapha Berraf, the Chief Executive of the institution and also concerned, in addition to the statutory members of this body, invited guests that included Commission Chairs, IOC members in Africa, senior officials of Olympic Solidarity and other dignitaries solicited for the occasion. The meeting dwelled particularly on the current situation of sport in Africa in the era of the Coronavirus. Participants also discussed the Youth Olympic Games billed for Dakar. On this specific item, a presentation was made on progress of preparations for this event. It should be noted that much ground has been covered and that the idea is to have Games with all the sites close to the Village. The collaboration between Dakar 2022 and ANOCA was strongly welcomed during this presentation.

At the end of this fruitful meeting, the ANOCA Secretary-General, Ahmed Abou Elgasim Hashim, read out the following major resolutions:

**1. The Executive Committee approves the extension of the «Tokyo 2020» preparation plan to 2021 and authorises the Tokyo 2020 Athletes' Preparation Commission to monitor its implementation, taking into account the observations of the Executive Committee.**

**2. The Executive Committee welcomes and expresses its pride in the efforts of the**

***Organising Committee of the Dakar 2022 Youth Olympic Games and gives its full support to ANOCA's «Dakar 2022 Action Plan» resolution and to the preparation of the Games to the highest standards.***

**3. The Executive Committee took note of the savings made during the period 2017 to 2019 and the new administrative measures to make further savings in 2020. It also approved the proposed budget readjustments and the use of the balance of the All Africa Games budget for the Athletes' Preparation Programme and other activities.**

**4. The Executive Committee applauds the efforts and wisdom of the IOC under the leadership of Dr Thomas Bach in managing the disaster and challenges due to the effects of corona epidemic on world sport. The Executive Committee supports all IOC guidelines and recommendations.**

**5. The Executive Committee calls on all ANOCA stakeholders and the African Olympic and Sports Movement to become actively involved in the fight against the Coronavirus pandemic and to support communities in overcoming the great challenges caused by the epidemic.**

**6. The Executive Committee decided that the next meeting will be held in January 2021 by videoconference in order to make further substantial savings in ANOCA.**



## COOPERATION

# ANOCA and the African Union in close ranks



ANOCA Secretary-General, Ahmed Abou Elgasim Hashim, recently had a major working session with the AU Commissioner for Social Affairs, H.E. Amira Elfadil Mohamed. The meeting took place at the AU headquarters in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, and mainly aimed at setting up a cooperation framework between both institutions, especially concerning African youth development through sport. The agenda also featured other equally salient items, including preparations for the

upcoming All Africa Games and a review of pending files. The meeting has given the two officials reason to look forward to future cooperation between both organisations with great optimism in the interest of youths of the continent.

Secretary-General Ahmed Abou Elgasim was accompanied on the occasion by the President of NOC Ethiopia, Dr. Ashebir Woldegiorgis Gayothipia.

## 127<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM DAY

# ANOCA in harmony with African Journalists

International Press Freedom Day is commemorated every year on 3 May. On this occasion, ANOCA, represented by President Mustapha Berraf, addressed this year's message of support to the entire African press family. ***"We join the global community to wish you a happy 127<sup>th</sup> International Press Freedom Day. Your contribution to the growth and vibrancy of the African Sport and Olympic Movement remains unequalled, and we thank you most heartily for that,"*** said the

ANOCA President. His correspondence further stated that ***"As concerns Sport and Olympism, the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa, ANOCA, has always maintained an exemplary relationship with the continent's sports press...your pens and microphones are for us sure pointers to a brighter future for African and world sport."***



TOKYO 2020

## ANOCA satisfied with Olympic Solidarity's increased support to NOCs



To enable National Olympic Committees to cope with the constraints due to the postponement of the Tokyo Olympic Games, Olympic Solidarity recently increased the budget allocated to the IOC programme for the participation of NOCs in this event from U.S. \$ 46.7 million to U.S. \$ 57 million. This thus represents an increase of U.S. \$ 25.3 million aimed at boosting NOC preparations and participation in Tokyo 2020. The decision will help them offset any possible extra costs in the build up to the Tokyo Games now rescheduled for 2021.

The IOC Subsidies for Participation in the Olympic Games programme is one of the many Olympic Solidarity programmes. It aims to assist NOC delegations to take part in the Olympic Games, promote universality and guarantee the participation of all 206 NOCs. The subsidies cover travel and accommodation costs incurred prior to the Games and, during the Games, contribute to the travel expenses of athletes, team officials and NOC officials, and cover the NOCs'

operational expenses relating to the Games. The decision to increase Olympic Solidarity's budget dedicated to the participation of NOCs in the Olympic Games follows from the confirmation of the additional budget of U.S. \$ 15 million needed to extend Olympic Solidarity programmes for athletes up to 2021, which concern 1,600 athletes from 185 NOCs. Programmes to be extended up to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games include: Olympic Scholarships for Tokyo 2020 Athletes; Team Sports Grants; and the Refugee Athlete Support Programme.

After this decision, for which Olympic Solidarity was applauded, President Berraf noted that **«Our institution is satisfied with this additional support from Olympic Solidarity. African NOCs will be able to prepare for the Tokyo Games with a cool head. The Coronavirus pandemic has negatively impacted the sports economy and this support is a breath of fresh air for our athletes taking part in this event.»**





## FIGHTING COVID-19

## NOC Mozambique on the frontlines



NOC Mozambique through its Olympafrica Centre in Boane, has taken full measure of the fight against the Coronavirus. It is with this in mind that since the pandemic spiked in the Country, the NOC undertook to sew some 2000 masks per day in its sewing unit. These are distributed to various people and institutions in Boane, in markets, cab stations, and in different communities. NOC Mozambique is working on this project in synergy with the Boane municipality, which supplies cotton fabrics. The campaign will run for 30 days.






**FIGHTING COVID-19**

## NOC Sao Tome and Principe on a social communication crusade



Faced with the ravages of the Coronavirus, NOC Sao Tome and Principe has decided to carry out several actions in the relentless fight against this pandemic, with which the entire planet has been grappling for several months now. This includes producing and broadcasting an audio-visual documentary aimed at raising public awareness in general and that of athletes in particular against this devastating virus. Led by the NOC President João Manuel Da Costa Alegre Alfonso, who is also the First Vice President of ANOCA, this action aims at changing behaviours, especially

by observing containment measures. It also aims at boosting the morale of athletes. The video appeals to people's collective conscience and advocates a healthy lifestyle.

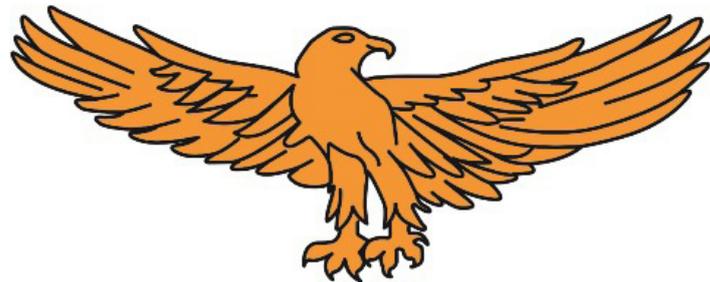
The documentary shows clearly, if need be, that NOC Sao Tome and Principe helps build self-confidence, promotes youth development and good health.

This action was welcomed both by the local population and African Olympic and Sports Movement officials.

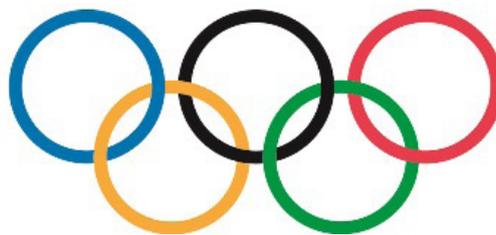


AGAINST COVID-19

# NOC Zambia at war



# ZAMBIA



In order to effectively combat the Coronavirus pandemic that is raging the world over and more specifically in Zambia, the local NOC (NOCZ) donated items comprising 400 face masks, 9 cartons of hand washing liquid soap, 100 bars of soap and hand sanitizers worth K10,000 to children of the Olympiafrica Centre through their coaches.

Speaking at the donation, NOCZ President, Alfred Foloko, began by commending the media men present, who were also commemorating International Press Freedom Day.

Mr. Foloko noted that NOCZ, through this donation, is contributing in its own way to the fight against the spread of Covid-19 in communities. ***"I stand here to inform everyone present here today that COVID-19 is real and the only measure we can take is to ensure that we abide by the guidelines that have been given by the Ministry of Health,"*** he said.

He then went on to urge all those present to

go out into the community as athletes, men and women, and make a difference. They were to be the spokespersons in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. In the same vein, Tinyiko Noombo, Acting Programme Officer at the Olympiafrica Centre said that coaches and young leaders were working to inform children about Covid-19 and how to protect themselves from the virus. ***"On behalf of the Coaches and Children of Olympiafrica Centre, I would like to say thank you to NOCZ and we hope that you continue supporting us as Olympiafrica as we forge ahead in the fight against Coronavirus,"*** she declared.

During this event, a demonstration session on handwashing techniques as recommended by the World Health Organization was made to the full view of all those present.

Also present at the donation ceremony were the President of the Zambia Taekwondo Federation and member of the National Olympic Academy, Likando Nangonde, and several NOC officials.





## MESSAGE

# FACED WITH THE RAVAGES OF COVID-19 THE IOC PRESIDENT WRITES TO STAKEHOLDERS OF THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT



*Sport and Olympism, like other areas, have been strongly affected by the coronavirus pandemic. It is with this in mind that IOC President Dr Thomas Bach addressed a message to the entire Olympic Movement entitled "Olympism and Coronavirus" to launch an in-depth debate on "the challenges we face and the potential of the opportunities before us". ANOCA stands by this insightful reflection; this edition of ANOCA Newsletter thus highlights some excerpts from this historical correspondence.*

## OLYMPISM AND CORONAVIRUS

*« With the COVID-19 pandemic, we are all living in great uncertainty. At this point in time, that uncertainty is far from over. We are all just beginning to understand the far-reaching consequences of the crisis caused by the worldwide spread of the coronavirus. One thing is certain, however, that this pandemic has and will affect all sectors of society,*

*including all of us in sport, significantly. »*

## CORONAVIRUS CRISIS MANAGEMENT

*« Now we have another unprecedented challenge ahead of us – organising the postponed Olympic Games. This is a first in our long Olympic history, and it is an immense task for the IOC, our Japanese partners and friends, and all the members of our Olympic*



community.

*This new situation will need all our solidarity, creativity, determination and flexibility. We shall all need to make sacrifices and compromises. Extraordinary circumstances call for extraordinary measures. This situation requires every one of us to do our part, and this applies to all of us, including the IOC.*

*For our part, we have made it clear that the IOC will continue to be responsible for its share of the operational burden and its share of the costs for these postponed Games, under the terms of the existing agreement for 2020 that we have with our Japanese partners and friends.*

»

## THE POST- CORONAVIRUS WORLD

*« At this moment, nobody knows what the realities of the post-coronavirus world will look like. What is clear, however, is that probably none of us will be able to sustain every single initiative or event that we were planning before this crisis hit. We will all need to take a close look at the scope of some of our activities and make the necessary adjustments to the new realities. In this context, the IOC administration is reviewing the IOC's budget and priorities. This review will shortly be presented to the IOC Executive Board for discussion and approval».*

## SOCIAL IMPACT

*« We can fairly assume that, in the post-coronavirus society, public health will play a much more important role. Sport and physical activity make a great contribution to health. While studies by the WHO had already demonstrated this with stunning results concerning non-communicable diseases, the coronavirus crisis teaches us how much a sound general health situation helps to overcome communicable diseases as well. ».*

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

*« Without any doubt, the current health crisis will lead to a long and deep economic crisis, whose effect on sport may differ from country to country. This will depend greatly on the importance governments will give to the enormous social capital represented by sport when it comes to the allocation of the financial assistance provided by them for economic recovery. Therefore, we should strongly request governments to appreciate and honour the immense contribution of sport to public health, its importance for inclusion, social life and culture, and its important role for their national economies. ».*

## POLITICAL IMPACT

*« In some parts of the world, we may see more nationalism, more protectionism and, as a result, more political confrontation. Here, our Olympic values of solidarity, peace, respect for each other and for the global rules of sport need to be emphasised. By living in and strengthening solidarity we can show that respectful international cooperation produces better and fairer results than isolationism. ».*

## THE WAY FORWARD

*« I hope that with these ideas I can contribute to a comprehensive discussion. Therefore, I propose a wide-ranging consultation among all of us under the guidance of the IOC Executive Board and the IOC Session, as we did for Olympic Agenda 2020. Already the Ancient Greeks, to whom we owe the Olympic Games, knew that with every crisis comes an opportunity. Let us take this opportunity in a way of unity and creativity to emerge from this crisis even stronger than before. The post-coronavirus world will need sport, and we are ready to contribute to shaping it with our Olympic values.».*





## IOC measures to support partners

The International Olympic Committee, on 14 May 2020, during one of its executive commission sessions, adopted a financial plan aimed at assisting partners during this period when the sport economy is facing tough times due to the coronavirus. Thus, the IOC expects to bear costs of up to U.S. \$ 800 million as its share of responsibility for the organisation of the Olympic Games «Tokyo 2020», the extension of its own activities and support to the Olympic movement as a whole. The amount shall be borne by the OIC itself, with a possible contribution from the Olympic Foundation.

The said budgetary package includes expenses for the organisation of the

postponed games totalling up to U.S. \$ 650 million for the IOC, as well as a financial package for the Olympic Movement to the tune of U.S. \$150 million mainly for International Federations, National Olympic Committees and Organisations recognised by IOC, to enable them sustain their sports, their activities and support to their athletes. As the leading body of the Olympic movement, the IOC plays a key role in assisting partners in this Covid-19 era. In the same vein, the Swiss Federal Council decided to support International Sports Federations with headquarters at Switzerland through a joint programme with the IOC.



## Mauritania ratifies UNESCO Convention



The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on 17 May 2020 announced that the Islamic Republic of Mauritania has become the 189th State to ratify the UNESCO International Convention against doping in sport (UNESCO Convention).

***“WADA is pleased to welcome Mauritania into the Clean Sport Community. In ratifying this convention, it joins 98% of world governments that have already pledged their support to the anti-doping movement,” declared the WADA President, Witold Banka. “We would particularly like to acknowledge the efforts that have been made by the Sports Minister of Mauritania to bring this to fruition. This is a positive step for sports in the country as it looks at further progressing its National Anti-***

***Doping Organization while remaining an important member of Africa’s Zone I Regional Anti-Doping Organisation. WADA remains committed to assisting and supporting Mauritania’s efforts to plan, develop and implement the necessary infrastructure for a sustainable and effective anti-doping programme,”*** he added.

Adopted on 19 October 2005, the Convention is the legal instrument by which governments formalise their commitment to the fight against doping in sport. It allows governments to align their domestic policies with the World Anti-Doping Code, and to thus harmonise the rules governing the fight against doping in sport and public legislation.





## FIGHT AGAINST THE CORONAVIRUS

## Coordinated action by Eliud Kipchoge and the Kenyan Ministry of Sports to Support Vulnerable Athletes



The marathoner, Eliud Kipchoge, has undertaken, in his own way, to address the Covid-19 pandemic and its ravages particularly amongst sportsmen and women. For several days, supported by the Kenyan Ministry of Sport, he distributed relief food to vulnerable athletes in many localities in his country. In the North Rift Region alone, some 59 athletes received donations from the Olympic marathon champion through his Eliud Kipchoge Foundation. The world marathon record holder was chosen by the Minister of Sport as ambassador for the relief project to motivate and lend a hand to athletes who lost huge income as a result of the cancellation of races while covid-19 ravages on. The food was donated by the Ministry and well-wishers, including the Hindu Council of Kenya. The packages

handed to every athlete contained, amongst others, corn and wheat flour, rice, cooking oil and pasta.

As he distributing food to athletes, Kipchoge urged others to assist the ministry by lending a hand to the most vulnerable athletes who, according to him, number more than 2,000: *“Up to 80 percent of athletes depend on races in Europe, Asia and other parts of the world and I would like to urge other corporates to come up and support them at this hard time,”* declared Kipchonge. *«They depend on races to put food on the table and this has become difficult for many because the entire season has been cancelled,”* he concluded.



ADMINISTRATOR'S OPINION

# Two questions to... Habib Sissoko, President of NOC Mali



*The coronavirus pandemic has, for several months now, been affecting most areas. Sport being one of the hardest hit, the president of NOC Mali (CNOSM) and also President of the African Judo Union, Habi Sissoko, expresses his views on the impact of this pandemic and awareness measures taken by CNOSM (culled from an interview granted to Essor)*

*World sport is at a standstill since March as a result of the coronavirus. As a former athlete and NOC President, what is your take on this situation?*

**Habib Sissoko** : First and foremost, sport has not stopped, only sporting activities have been suspended for the time being. It is true that Olympic Games have been postponed to 2021, but other sporting activities organised by International Federations may resume in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. This situation depends on no one, an unfortunate one for all of us. Many athletes had qualified for the Olympic Games and others had good chances to qualify. Suddenly, everything came to a halt. The situation has turned everything upside down, a hard one for athletes who made every effort to get to that level.

*What is CNOSM doing to raise awareness and fight against this pandemic? In concrete*

*terms, what actions has the National Olympic Movement initiated?*

**Habib Sissoko** : Since the Defence Council headed by the President of the Republic, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, announced containment measures against Covid-19, the NOC drew the attention of all the National Sports Associations, requesting them to suspend all activities till further notice. In collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Committee engaged in a huge awareness campaign marked by the distribution of health kits. We met with the federations and they all undertook to suspend their activities and to assist the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the National Olympic and Sports Committee in combating the coronavirus. We will stay mobilised in fighting this scourge and we applaud the efforts of the authorities since the outbreak of Covid-19 in our country.



## ATHLETE'S OPINION

## Marie Josee Talou backs decision to postpone the Games



Marie Josee Talou, 4th in the 100 and 200 metres in Rio 2016 was bent on winning at least a medal in Tokyo. Unfortunately, the Coronavirus pandemic has left her with no other option than to alter her training timetable, the Games having been postponed to 2021. Far from being disappointed, Talou believes that health is far more important than any Olympic medal *«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 precautionary than to hope to make the Olympics and have deaths troubling our conscience,*” she told RFI.

Marie Josee Talou holds the 200 m record in Côte d'Ivoire. She has pulled off some feats, including being ranked in the first two positions in 100 and 200 metres at the World Championships in 2017 in London, 3rd in the Diamond League in 2019, 3rd in the World Athletics Championships in Doha (2019).