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INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES OF AFRICA

AFRICA MAKES A COMEBACK TO THE WINTER OLYMPICS





After the 4th African Youth Games held under the sunny skies of Luanda, Africa has taken the heat to another Olympic stage, the Italian Alps. Like in Pyeongchang in 2018, eight African nations and thirteen athletes will, from 6 to 22 February 2026, participate in the Milan-Cortina Winter Olympics, marking a strong comeback for the continent in winter sports after the 2022 edition, in which only five countries and six athletes participated.

ANOCA and President Mustapha BERRAF commend this strong comeback, for a historic participation, with African athletes competing in four disciplines this year: alpine skiing, cross-country skiing, freestyle skiing and skeleton.

HISTORIC AFRICAN DELEGATION

The 2026 edition of the Winter Games marks some history-making debuts for African sport. Benin, represented by Nathan Tchibozo in alpine skiing, and Guinea-Bissau, represented by Winston Tang also in alpine skiing, are making their first ever appearances at the Winter Olympics.



South Africa has a record delegation of five athletes, the largest contingent ever to the Winter Games. Kenya, Eritrea, Nigeria, Morocco and Madagascar complete the list.

HISTORY- MAKING PIONEERS

Mialitiana Clerc (Madagascar), etches her name in history as the first woman from Africa to compete in three straight Winter Olympics. Meanwhile, Morocco, Africa's pioneer in winter sports thanks to its resorts in the Atlas Mountains, brings fire to the slopes with Pietro Tranchina (alpine skiing) and Abderrahim Kemmissa (cross-country skiing).

These athletes evidence the fact that Africa's Olympic dreams know no bounds, and thus transcend climatic or geographical barriers. The athletes are rewriting the rules with their presence, showing guts and grit alongside traditional winter sports giants, a testament to the determination and courage, the hallmarks of African sport.



DECISIVE INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

The participation of the thirteen athletes would not have been possible without the rock-solid commitment of ANOCA and their respective NOCs. Despite the crazily tough logistical and financial challenges that winter sports pose for African nations, ANOCA and these NOCs made the strategic decision to support their representatives on the global Olympic stage.

ANOCA President, Mustapha BERRAF, highly commends this investment by NOCs, which demonstrates their forward-looking vision for continental Olympic development: no sport or athlete should be left behind in the quest for excellence.

CONNECTION WITH LUANDA 2025

Same passion for sport, different landscapes, one goal. African athletes are crushing it, be it on the sunny tracks of Luanda or the snow-capped peaks of Milan-Cortina, backed by their institutions and guided by Olympic values.



For ANOCA, the presence of eight African countries and thirteen athletes at Milan-Cortina 2026 is a powerful symbol: that of a continent that fully embraces Olympic universality and refuses to limit its ambition only to traditional disciplines. Celebrating this universality, ANOCA President, Mustapha BERRAF nails it: "***from the sands of Luanda to the snow-capped Alps, Africa is present, Africa is proud, Africa is ambitious.***"

ANOCA

JEUX AFRICAINS

AFRICAN GAMES

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