ACNOA - ANOCA

ANOCA NEWSLETTER

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INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE

ANOCA HONOURS CAPE VERDEAN HEAD OF STATE IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN SPORT

NOC CAPE VERDE NOW HAS A NEW, MODERN AND SUSTAINABLE HEADQUARTERS

SAL

HOSTS ANOC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL





Cape Verde

SAL HOSTS ANOC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

ANOCA President hails historic moment for the continental Olympic Movement.



For the second time in its history, ANOC chose Africa to host its Executive Council meeting, which took place on 16 April 2026 in Sal, Cape Verde. This exchange forum aimed to inform on the organisation's activities and programmes and discuss priority issues for the coming year.

Addressing the gathering, ANOCA President and ANOC Vice President, Mustapha BERRAF, reaffirmed Africa's commitment to writing the finest pages of Olympic history. He expressed his immense pride and deep joy for the choice of Africa, commending it as a historic moment. "***For the second time in its history, the ANOC Executive Council has chosen Africa as the host continent. After Togo, which had the honour of inaugurating this continental event, it is now Cape Verde's turn to be the torchbearer with dignity and elegance***."

The ANOCA President went on to highlight Africa's special place and prominent role within the Olympic Movement. He noted that Africa's true strength lies in its traditions and in a promising Olympic future,



thanks to its NOCs and, above all, the creativity of its dynamic youths: "***Africa is not just a continent with a sporting tradition. It is a continent with an Olympic future. With its 54 NOCs, its youths, the youngest population in the world, and its unmatched creativity and energy, Africa is ready to take its rightful place in the global Olympic Movement.***"

President BERRAF said hosting this historic event in Africa is both an honour and a responsibility, a call for greater commitment and unwavering resolve to rise to more challenges: "***Hosting this Executive Council meeting on our continent is an act of recognition that we embrace with gratitude. But it is also, for us, a call to accountability. A call to demonstrate that our institutions are up to the task, that our structures are solid, and that our commitment is unwavering,***" he stated.

Africa is not just a continent with a sporting tradition. It is a continent with an Olympic future. With its 54 NOCs, its youths, the youngest population in the world, and its unmatched creativity and energy, Africa is ready to take its rightful place in the global Olympic Movement.

Describing 2026 as an exceptional year for Olympic Africa, the ANOCA President said it is "***a year that will go down as a milestone in our shared history***." It is twice an Olympic year, thanks to a major event: the Youth Olympic Games, which Africa is hosting for the first time in the history of the Olympic Movement.

"***The Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026, the first to be held on the African continent,***

are more than just a sports event. They are a testament to the confidence placed in Africa by the International Olympic Movement. They are a living symbol that our continent is capable of hosting, organising and shining at the highest level. Dakar 2026 is Africa telling the world: we are ready, we are here, and we have champions to offer humanity."

The year 2026 will mark ANOCA's 45th anniversary. "***Our Association has come a long way: 45 years serving African sport, 45 years of commitment to our athletes, 45 years of building a united and forward-looking Olympic Africa.***"

To conclude, the ANOCA President honoured the ANOC President, to whom he awarded the "***Order of African Olympic and Sports Merit***" (GOLD), in recognition of his outstanding contribution during his tenure: "***I wish, on my own behalf and on behalf of all the Members of our Honourable Assembly, to award our highest distinction to Dr Robin MITCHELL, in recognition of all his efforts to restore our organisation's prestige and enable it to regain its stability and sustainability***," he said.





ANOCA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the ANOC Executive Council Meeting - Cape Verde.

The President of ANOC,

Your Excellencies, Vice-Presidents of ANOC,

The Secretary General,

Your Excellencies, ANOC Executive Council members,

Director James MACLEOD, my dear friend,

Distinguished guests,

Dear friends,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is with immense pride and deep joy that I take the floor on this historic day, on the Atlantic shores of Cape Verde, land of resilience, culture and openness to the world.

This is truly a historic moment: for just the second time in its history, the ANOC Executive Council has chosen Africa to host its session. Following the footsteps of Togo, which had the honour of inaugurating this continental event, it is now Cape Verde's turn to be the torchbearer with dignity and elegance.

And I say this with conviction: It is not a coincidence. It is a strong signal.



AFRICA, CONTINENT OF OLYMPIC FUTURE

Africa is not just a continent with a sports history. It is a continent with an Olympic future. With its 54 NOCs, its youths, the youngest population in the world, and its unmatched creativity and energy, Africa is ready to take its rightful place in the global Olympic Movement.

Hosting this Executive Council meeting on our continent is an act of recognition that we embrace with gratitude. But it is also, for us, a call to accountability. A call to demonstrate that our institutions are up to the task, that our structures are solid, and that our commitment is unwavering.

ANOCA is resolutely committed to this vision. We work tirelessly every day so that every African athlete, wherever they may be, can benefit from high-quality coaching, decent facilities, and a real opportunity to shine on the global Olympic stage.

DOUBLE HISTORIC YEAR FOR OLYMPIC AFRICA

Mr President, we would like to use this platform to tell you that 2026 is an exceptional year for



Olympic Africa. A year that will go down as a milestone in our shared history.

This year, for the first time in the history of the Olympic Movement, Africa is hosting the Youth Olympic Games. The YOG Dakar 2026, the first to be held on the African continent, are more than just a sports event. They are a testament to the confidence placed in Africa by the International Olympic Movement. They are a living symbol that our continent is capable of hosting, organising and shining at the highest level. Dakar 2026 is Africa telling the world: we are ready, we are here, and we have champions to offer humanity.

In addition to this deep pride, 2026 marks ANOCA's 45th anniversary. Founded on 28 June 1981 in Lome, our Association has come a long way: 45 years serving African sport, 45 years of commitment to our athletes, 45 years of building a united and forward-looking Olympic Africa. We celebrate this anniversary with profound





gratitude to our founding fathers, and with renewed determination for decades to come.

We want to build bridges with you to bridge continents, disciplines, and generations, bridges based on our shared values: Olympic excellence, respect, friendship and solidarity.

GRATITUDE AND CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the people of Cape Verde, the government and the NOC, for the generous hospitality and warm welcome accorded us. In this island where the sea sings and the wind carries tales of encounters among peoples, we feel the very spirit of Olympism vibrating: fraternity among nations, the celebration of human endeavour, and faith in a better world through sport.

May deliberations of this Executive Council be fruitful. May decisions taken here echo for a long time across all our continents. And may Africa, through its active presence and strong voice, continue to write with you the finest pages of global Olympic history.

On this blessed day, at this very happy gathering on the African continent, I wish, on my own behalf and on behalf of all the Members of our Honourable Assembly, to award our highest distinction: “the Order of African Olympic and Sports Merit” in GOLD to Dr Robin MITCHELL, in recognition of all his efforts to restore our World Assembly to its former glory and enable it to regain its stability and sustainability.

With our heartfelt gratitude.

Thank you for your kind attention!

Hon. Mustapha Berraf

ANOCA President
IOC Member
ANOC Vice President
President of the OlympAfrica International Foundation



ANOC Executive Council

HONOURABLE MUSTAPHA BERRAF PRESENTS OUTSTANDING REPORT ON ANOCA ACTIVITIES



In a paper presented to his counterparts during the ANOC Executive Council meeting on 16 April 2026 in Praia, Cape Verde, the ANOCA President gave an outstanding report on the activities of the continental Association, laying emphasis on key achievements of the last twelve months and prospects for forthcoming sports events. The high point of his presentation was the YOG Dakar 2026 and the Olympic Games Los Angeles 2028.

The Honourable Mustapha BERRAF gave a comprehensive progress report of work undertaken by African NOCs.

For him, the ANOCA Athletes' Support Programme in preparation for Dakar 2026 and LA 2028 remains a top priority in the 2025-2028 quadrennial.

The Athletes' Support Programme for LA28 will be launched in May 2026 on the REPLAY app. Support will be granted to 55 athletes who do not receive OS scholarships.

These athletes are ranked among the top ten globally in their respective disciplines, notably in 8 key disciplines (gymnastics has been included in this



category). Each athlete receives a monthly grant of US$ 1,000.

Dakar 2026, meanwhile, targets medallists of the Fourth African Youth Games aged under 17 as of December 2025. Forty athletes will receive support and scholarships for the Dakar 2026 gold medallists will be renewed for LA28.

NOC HEADQUARTERS CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

Regarding the NOC headquarters construction project, President BERRAF highlighted that the project was launched during the last quadrennial and remains one of ANOCA's strategic priorities for the current quadrennial. The project's primary goal is to provide NOCs with suitable and worthy premises, enabling them to function efficiently and autonomously.

It gives priority to NOCs that do not yet have headquarters. ANOCA is providing a US $100,000 support grant for new construction projects.

ANOCA has also recognised the need for some NOCs to renovate their current headquarters and has allocated US $50,000 to this effect.



More than 30 applications have been received since the launch of the project. However, a major obstacle is that NOCs wishing to have their own headquarters do not hold title deeds.

Presenting project achievements, President BERRAF gave a detailed positive assessment:

- **18 NOCs have submitted applications for new projects.**
- **7 NOCs have completed their headquarters (Chad, Cape Verde, Eswatini, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Togo, and Somalia).**
- **2 NOCs received funding in 2025 (Botswana and Zambia).**
- **1 new project has been approved for 2026 (São Tome and Príncipe).**
- **5 NOCs have applied for funding for renovation works to date.**
- **2 NOCs have completed renovation works (Cameroon and Mozambique).**

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE OLYMPAFRICA PROJECT

As part of the OlympAfrica Project, the mandate includes, among others:

- **Building basic infrastructure for children, clubs and schools;**
- **Generating interest in sport among children from the age of 5;**
- **Organising regular competitions for children;**
- **Organising talent identification programmes;**
- **Designing talent development programmes for children from the age of 12 by creating OlympAfrica clubs;**



- **Granting scholarships to gifted schoolchildren;**
- **Creating educational opportunities for children.**

Thirty-six OlympAfrica centres are now operational, while six are currently under construction.

SIGNING OF SEVERAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS

To foster good ties and partnerships, ANOCA signed memoranda of understanding with various sports and non-sports organisations:

- **Memorandum of understanding between ANOCA and the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs;**
- **Memorandum of Understanding between ANOCA and the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA);**
- **Memorandum of Understanding between ANOCA and World Aquatics**
- **Memorandum of Understanding between ANOCA and the International School Sport Federation (ISF).**



ORGANISATION OF FUTURE GAMES

In particular, ANOCA Games, which include:

- **The Second African School Games in 2027 in Abuja, Nigeria**
- **The Third African Beach Games in 2027 in Riaba, Equatorial Guinea.**
- **The Fourteenth African Games in 2027 in Cairo, Egypt.**
- **The Fifth African Youth Games in 2029 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.**

For Games organised by the IOC, there are two priorities: providing support for Senegal - Dakar 2026 and coordinating and facilitating preparations for the Summer Olympic Games - LA 2028.



Sports diplomacy

ANOCA HONOURS CAPE VERDEAN HEAD OF STATE IN RECOGNITION OF HIS SUPPORT FOR AFRICAN SPORT



On the sidelines of the ANOC Executive Council meeting on the island of Sal, ANOCA honoured the Cape Verdean Head of State, H.E. José Maria NEVES, on 14 April 2026. The Association awarded him the African Recognition and Solidarity Trophy, the highest distinction it awards a Head of State, in recognition of his role as an African leader and his unswerving support for sport in Cape Verde, both at an institutional level and in the daily lives of Cape Verdean athletes.

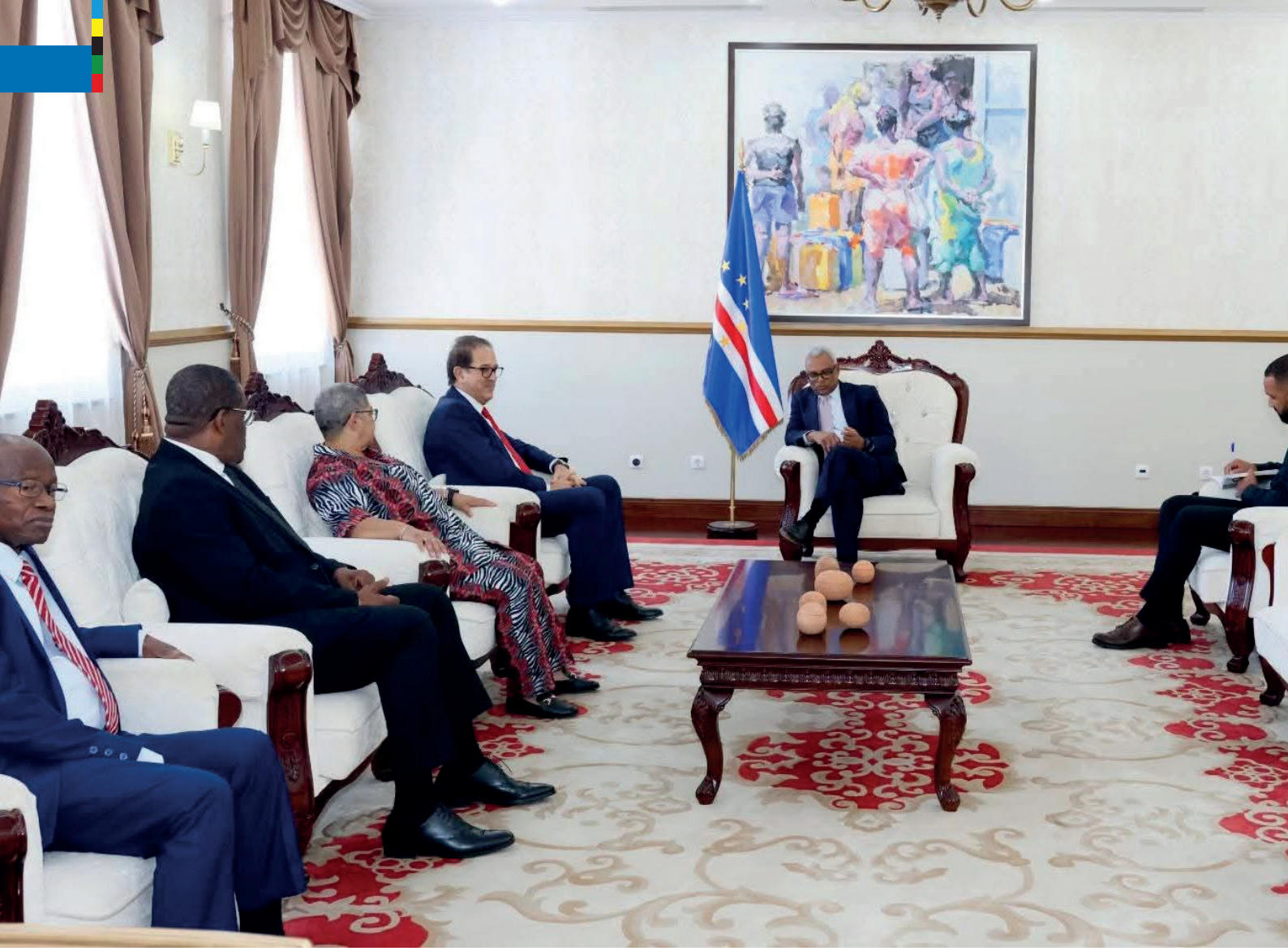
This great distinction attests to the quality of high-level relations between ANOCA and Cape Verdean authorities, and marks the deep-rooted presence of the Olympic Movement in the political and social life of the archipelago. The trophy was awarded during an official audience granted by the Cape Verdean Head of State.

President BERRAF led the Association's delegation in person, accompanied by the NOC President, Filomena FORTES, ANOCA First Vice President, João Costa ALEGRE, ANOCA General Treasurer, Habu Ahmed GUMEL, and ANOCA Secretary General, Ahmed Abou Elgasim HASHIM.

This high-level meeting illustrates ANOCA's growing institutional influence on the continental and international stage.

AUDIENCE WITH THE HEAD OF STATE

The ceremony took place against an exceptional backdrop, in conjunction with the commissioning of the new headquarters of NOC Cape Verde in Praia and the ANOC Executive



Council meeting on the island of Sal on 16 April 2026, a notable first. This was the second time that this body was meeting on the African continent.

At the presentation of the recognition award, ANOCA President Mustapha BERRAF delivered a message of gratitude and encouragement, emphasising the importance of the involvement of African Heads of State in promoting sport as a driver of human, social and economic development.

"***Cape Verde is a shining example for Africa. Its President's commitment to sport and Olympic values deserves to be celebrated and shared across the continent***," said the ANOCA President.

Beyond the award, the meeting afforded an opportunity for an in-depth discussion between the two dignitaries. Mustapha BERRAF expressed his satisfaction with Cape Verde's commitment to the African Olympic Movement, praising the momentum generated by NOC Cape Verde, under the leadership of Mrs Filomena FORTES.

DIPLOMACY IN THE SERVICE OF SPORT

The Head of State of Cape Verde, H.E. José Maria NEVES, in turn expressed his country's gratitude to the IOC and ANOCA, whose programmes and investments have contributed significantly to sport development in the archipelago and, more broadly, across Africa. He reaffirmed Cape Verde's commitment to fully embracing the continent's



ambitions championed by ANOCA.

"***The IOC and ANOCA have made a significant contribution to sport development in our country and across our continent. Cape Verde is proud to be an active partner in this shared endeavour,***" said President José Maria NEVES with satisfaction.

The combination of these events gives Cape Verde a prominent place in the African Olympic landscape. Hosting, simultaneously, the commissioning of an exemplary NOC headquarters, a session of the ANOC Executive Council and a visit by a high-ranking ANOCA delegation to the presidency. This is testament to a country playing its full part in shaping the continent's sporting future.

ANOCA, through its President, was pleased with this Cape Verde week and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting all African NOCs in their institutional development, in close collaboration with national authorities, in the run-up to the YOG Dakar 2026.



Cape Verde

NOC CAPE VERDE NOW HAS A NEW, MODERN AND SUSTAINABLE HEADQUARTERS



The architectural gem, which received funding from the IOC and ANOCA, was officially commissioned on 14 April 2026 in the presence of the ANOCA EXCO.

The building and commissioning of the new headquarters of NOC Cape Verde on 14 April 2026 is part of the ANOCA NOC headquarters construction project. The initiative is championed by President BERRAF and the ANOCA EXCO, and aims to provide NOCs with modern and functional facilities, improving their governance with a greater impact on sport development in Africa.

The new headquarters of NOC Cape Verde, located in the Achada Grande Trás neighbourhood, is a modern and sustainable facility. Its commissioning marks a new chapter for the national Olympic movement and strengthens support for sport development in the country.

The ceremony was attended by First Vice President João Costa ALEGRE, representing the ANOCA President, the Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, Secretary General Ahmed Abou Elgasim HASHIM and Treasurer General Habu Ahmed GUMEL, the project coordinator, who hailed it as "***...a truly remarkable milestone, not only for Cape Verde, but for the entire African Olympic Movement***." He emphasised sustainable development and innovation during the ceremony noting that it was one of ANOCA's flagship programmes whose objective is clear: "***...to ensure that every National Olympic Committee in Africa has access to and ultimately owns a functional headquarters that enhances governance, efficiency, and service delivery to athletes and stakeholders***."

This modern and sustainable facility is a new

milestone for Olympism in Cape Verde sport and strengthens support for sport development in the country.

IOC/ANOCA FUNDING

Built with about 80% recycled materials and local materials, the project saved construction costs by more than 30%, while promoting environmentally-friendly solutions such as water reuse and the use of renewable energy, particularly solar power.

At the opening ceremony, attended by national and international partners, the President of NOC Cape Verde, Filomena FORTES, noted that the work was not yet fully complete, with the exterior still to be finished, but assured those present that the new headquarters was a dream come true.

"***The building incorporates water-saving solutions, renewable energy and recycled materials. It's a dream come true. The headquarters is a multifunctional space dedicated to training and community integration, particularly for young people. Today, we are not just unveiling a headquarters; we are unveiling a vision***," she said proudly.



"***This also marks the start of a new chapter for NOC Cape Verde, a chapter that promises more victories, more successes and the continuation of this unwavering commitment to always do more and do better for sport in Cape Verde***," She added:

The construction of this new headquarters received initial funding of US$200,000 from the IOC and ANOCA, as well as valuable contributions from several institutions and partners who supported the project and helped bring it to fruition,



notably Praia City Council and institutional partners.

SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS OF ANOCA PROJECTS

The building also uses solar energy to generate electricity and features a water-recovery system that reduces water consumption by about 70%. Air conditioning is provided through passive design, ensuring natural heating and cooling, which reduces the building's energy requirements by about 80%.

The ANOCA Treasurer General and Honorary IOC Member, Engr Habu GUMEL, welcomed the progress of the project to provide new headquarters for all African NOCs and the significant progress of ANOCA's projects.



SPEECH BY ENGR HABU AHMED GUMEL, TREASURER GENERAL OF THE ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES OF AFRICA

ON THE OCCASION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE HEADQUARTERS OF THE CAPE VERDE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE - PRAIA



Your Excellencies,

The Minister of Sports of Cape Verde,

President Mustapha Berraf,

Filomena Fortes, President of the Cape Verde Olympic Committee,

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Olympic Family,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today marks a truly remarkable milestone, not only for Cape Verde, but for the entire African Olympic Movement. We gather here to inaugurate this modern, environmentally sustainable headquarters of the Cape Verde Olympic Committee, a symbol of progress, vision, and responsibility toward future generations.

This achievement stands as a testament to what can be accomplished through commitment, strategic investment, and strong institutional support. It also reflects the growing importance of sustainability within sport, an area that ANOCA continues to champion across the continent.

Allow me, at this juncture, to pay special tribute to the President of ANOCA, Mustapha Berraf, whose visionary leadership has made initiatives such as the NOC Headquarters Project a reality. Under his stewardship, ANOCA has placed the development of NOC infrastructure at the heart of its priorities.

Indeed, the NOC Headquarters Project remains one of ANOCA's flagship programmes. Its objective is clear: to ensure that every National Olympic Committee in Africa has access to and ultimately owns a functional headquarters that enhances governance, efficiency, and service delivery to athletes and stakeholders.

I am pleased to share that:

- **18 NOCs have applied for new headquarters projects, demonstrating strong continental engagement.**
- **7 NOCs have successfully**



completed their headquarters, including Cape Verde, which we proudly celebrate today, alongside Chad, Eswatini, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Togo, and Somalia.

At the same time, progress continues across other member nations:

- **3 NOCs, Angola, Malawi, and Nigeria have accessed full funding and are currently under construction;**
- **2 NOCs, Tanzania and Congo Brazzaville have reached 75% funding;**
- **While 3 NOCs, Benin, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone have received initial funding but are yet to commence their projects, but negotiations are ongoing for commencement of the projects.**

Looking forward, São Tomé and Príncipe has submitted a new application for 2026 and Botswana and Zambia benefited from newly funded projects in 2025.

In addition, renovation efforts are also underway:

- **5 NOCs have applied for renovation support;**
- **Cameroon and Mozambique have successfully completed their upgrades;**
- **The Gambia is progressing toward completion, while Egypt and Zimbabwe await fundin**g consideration.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

The facility we inaugurate today is not just a building; it is a model. A model of sustainability, efficiency, and forward-thinking design. It reflects our shared responsibility to integrate environmental consciousness into sports development.



ANOCA will continue to support all NOCs in their journey toward owning and maintaining quality headquarters. For those who are yet to complete their projects, we will continue to encourage, guide, and support them to achieve these important milestones.

Today, Cape Verde has set a benchmark, one that inspires others to follow. We therefore congratulate the President and the entire members of the Cape Verde Olympic Committee for the excellent work.

In closing, I once again extend our profound appreciation to President Mustapha Berraf and the entire ANOCA leadership for their unwavering commitment to the advancement of sport in Africa.

Let us continue, together, to build strong institutions, empower our athletes, and promote sustainable development across our continent.

I thank you for your kind attention.



ANOCA
JEUX AFRICAINS
AFRICAN GAMES
ACNOA

UNITY
SOLIDARITY
FRATERNITY

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