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PRESS RELEASE

ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEES OF AFRICA

INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



SETTING UP THE" FIT FOR THE FUTURE OLYMPIAN GRANT": ANOCA CONGRATULATES THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



"*ANOCA warmly congratulates IOC on the announcement of an initiative unprecedented in the history of the Olympic Movement: the setting up of the 'Fit for the Future Olympian Grant', a universal grant designed to recognise the journey of every Olympian, irrespective of their sports results*."

Statement by the ANOC President, the Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, following the announcement of this unprecedented initiative to support athletes and promote the full development of the Olympic and Sports Movement in Africa and the world at large.

A FIRST IN OLYMPIC HISTORY

For the first time in history, every athlete at the Olympic Games will be eligible for a new USD 10,000 grant. The grant has been set up to support the sporting career or the career transition of Olympians. A fund of USD 140 million per Olympiad has been set aside, as announced during the 146th IOC Session in Lausanne.



Announcing the gant, the Chair of the IOC Athletes' Commission, Mr Pau GASOL, emphasised that this grant will be available to every Olympian. Not just medal winners. Not just athletes from certain countries. "***Because every Olympian has made sacrifices to reach the Olympic stage***." He said.

RECOGNISING THE JOURNEY, BEYOND THE MEDALS

This initiative reflects the IOC's strong commitment to recognising the sacrifices made by every Olympian, regardless of their sporting results. This is not a performance allowance, but rather a recognition of the commitment, perseverance and unique journey it takes to become an Olympian.

About 14,000 athletes are expected to be eligible in each Olympic cycle, with the programme's total cost estimated at about USD 140 million over four years. The grant will be delivered through existing NOC structures, thereby ensuring efficient and localised delivery for all athletes worldwide, including those on the African continent.



It should be noted that this grant complements the existing support programmes and will not decrease the already existing support provided by the IOC to NOCs, International Sports Federations, Organising Committees for the Olympic Games or Olympic Solidarity.

A DECISION THAT HONOURS THE ENTIRE OLYMPIC FAMILY

This news means a great deal to ANOCA. It embodies a vision of sport that goes beyond performance and winning medals, fully embracing each athlete's personal journey: "***their years of sacrifice, their doubts, their perseverance and their commitment to the Olympic values,***" said Mustapha BERRAF, ANOCA President.

Many African athletes, who sometimes lack access to the same resources and facilities as their counterparts on other continents, will see this initiative as tangible recognition of their journeys, which are often fraught with obstacles. This grant also provides valuable support for the career transition of many African Olympians at a crucial stage in their lives after sport.



MESSAGE FROM THE ANOCA PRESIDENT

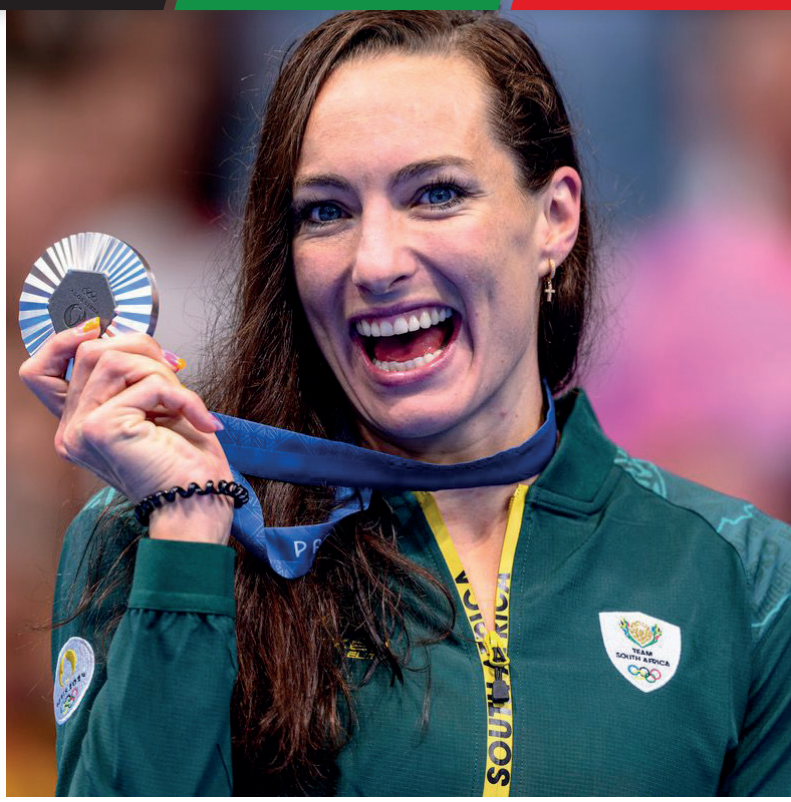
On this occasion, the Honourable Mustapha BERRAF, ANOCA President and IOC member, wished to extend his warmest congratulations to the IOC President in the following words:

"***On behalf of the entire African Olympic Movement, I would like to offer my most sincere congratulations to Ms Kirsty COVENTRY, IOC President, and to all the members of the Athletes' Commission, on this historic decision which honours every Olympian, every journey and every sacrifice***."

For far too long, only podium finishes have been celebrated, whilst behind every Olympic athlete lie years of hard work, sacrifice and total dedication to their sport. With the "Fit for the Future Olympian Grant", the IOC is sending a strong and fair message: every Olympian counts; every Olympian is part of our great Olympic family, whether they have stood on a podium or not.

This initiative offers immense hope for Africa. Our athletes, who often train in difficult conditions and with limited resources, will find in this grant the recognition they deserve and welcome support for their future, whether in sport or in their careers.





I commend President COVENTRY's visionary leadership, which once again demonstrates her ability to listen to athletes and turn their concerns into concrete action. This is exactly the direction our Olympic Movement must take: a direction centred on people, on the dignity of every athlete, and on recognising their unique contribution to the Olympic ideal.

On behalf of the 54 NOCs of Africa, I would like to reiterate our deep gratitude and our full and wholehearted support for this initiative, which I am convinced will mark a turning point in the history of support for Olympic athletes.'

ANOCA FULLY COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING ITS ATHLETES

ANOCA is committed to actively supporting the 54 African NOCs in implementing this new grant. Awareness-raising and information campaigns will be carried out among national federations and African athletes to ensure that every eligible Olympian can benefit fully from this grant.

The application process for the Milano Cortina 2026 Olympians is expected to open at the end of 2026, with the first payments to be made in 2027. ANOCA will ensure, in coordination with its member National Committees, that this deadline is widely publicised so that no eligible African athlete is left out.



A SHARED VISION OF SPORT AS A DRIVER OF HUMANITY

This initiative is part of the broader 'Fit for the Future' strategy championed by President Kirsty COVENTRY, which aims to strengthen the relevance and impact of the Olympic Movement for present and future generations. ANOCA, true to its own vision of sport as a vehicle for human and social development, can only welcome this alignment of objectives between the global institution and the aspirations of the African continent.

In the coming months, the Association will continue to work alongside the IOC and the entire Olympic family to ensure the success of this initiative for the benefit of all Olympians, whether they come from Cairo, Lagos, Nairobi, Dakar or any other part of the African continent.

ABOUT ANOCA

The ANOCA brings together the 54 NOCs of the African continent. Its mission is to promote Olympic values, support African athletes and strengthen the unity of the Olympic Movement on the continent, under the chairmanship of the Honourable Mustapha BERRAF.



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