

ANOCA

Newsletter

MONTHLY REVIEW OF AFRICAN OLYMPISM

SEPTEMBER 2026



YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES
DAKAR 2026

**THE OLYMPIC
FLAME
ILLUMINATES
AFRICA!**



LIT IN ATHENS

DAKAR 2026 YOUTH OLYMPIC FLAME BEGINS HISTORIC JOURNEY TO AFRICA



The Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic Flame was lit at the historic Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, Greece. It thus begins its historic journey to Dakar, Senegal, marking a major milestone ahead of the first ever Olympic event on African soil.

The lighting of the Youth Olympic Flame is one of the most symbolic moments of every edition of the Youth Olympic Games (YOG). This edition is particularly historic as it connects Greece - the cradle of the Olympic Games - to a new chapter in Olympic history, with the first ever YOG to be held in Africa.

Lit by the sun's rays, in keeping with Olympic tradition, the flame was officially handed over to Senegal before embarking on its journey to Dakar.

Oumy Diop, Dakar 2026 Ambassador and a Senegalese Olympian - also a beneficiary of an Olympic Solidarity grant - attended the ceremony. She represented the new generation of young Senegalese and African athletes who will be at the heart of the Youth Olympic Games.



Speaking on the importance of this historic milestone, IOC President, Kirsty Coventry, said:

“In just a few weeks, Senegal will welcome young athletes from around the world for the first Olympic event ever to take place on African soil. This is a proud moment for Senegal. It is a proud moment for Africa, and it opens an important new chapter for the Olympic Movement.”

FROM ATHENS TO DAKAR

After the lighting ceremony, the flame will head to Dakar, where it is expected to arrive on Saturday.

Throughout its journey, it will be kept in a special lantern, which will enable it to be transported safely, particularly by air, under the supervision of flame guards. This is to ensure that the flame carried by the torchbearers in Senegal is the same Youth Olympic flame that was lit in Athens.

A huge celebration in Dakar will welcome the flame before its journey across Senegal, bringing together young people, athletes, cultural dignitaries and communities around Olympic values.



WHAT DOES “PASS THE ENERGY” MEAN?

From 14 September to 30 October, the Youth Olympic Flame will travel across Senegal's 14 regions under the theme “***Pass the Energy***”.

This concept embodies the broader idea of passing on energy among people, communities and generations as the flame travels across the country.

Rooted in the Olympic values of excellence, respect and friendship, “Pass the Energy” will celebrate solidarity, community bonds, and the creative energy of Senegalese and African youths.

At every stage of the flame relay, communities will have the opportunity to contribute to this energy and keep the spirit of Dakar 2026 alive right up to the Games.

Hundreds of participants from various backgrounds are expected to take part in more than 30 events across the country.

JOURNEY TO HISTORIC GAMES

With the relay flame, Dakar 2026 will reach out directly to Senegalese communities, with sports, cultural and educational celebrations organised throughout the journey.



Schools and young people will play a key role, while local athletes, artists and community representatives will contribute to the various activities, reflecting each region's unique identity.

This event will reflect the motto of Dakar 2026: **“Africa Welcomes, Dakar Celebrates,”** with the ambition of making the Games an event by young people, for young people and with young people.

Dakar 2026 will bring together the world's best young athletes, by mobilising the young people of Senegal and Africa through sport, culture, education and volunteering.

The flame will return to Dakar at the end of its national tour, ahead of the opening ceremo-

ny on 31 October at the Abdoulaye Wade Stadium in Diamniadio, where the Youth Olympic cauldron will be lit.

After the opening ceremony, the cauldron will be installed at Corniche Ouest, which will host the Dakar 2026 festival venue as well as the cycling competitions. The flame will keep burning throughout the Games, until 13 November.

Dakar 2026 will bring together young athletes from across the globe from 31 October to 13 November 2026, for the first Olympic sports event on African soil.

The official ticketing website for the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 is now open. Book your tickets!



DAKAR 2026

FLAME HEADS TO AFRICA

From Athens to Dakar, lighting up the path for a historic moment.



The countdown is on! Lit in the historic Panathenaic Stadium in Athens, the Dakar 2026 Youth Olympic flame has taken off for Senegal, a highly symbolic milestone connecting the cradle of modern Olympic Games to Africa, barely a few weeks to the first ever Youth Olympic Games on African soil.

ONE FLAME, ONE SYMBOL, ONE HISTORY

Lit by the sun's rays, in keeping with Olympic tradition, the flame was formally handed over to Senegal before beginning its journey to Dakar.

Dakar 2026 Ambassador and Senegalese Olympian, Oumy DIOP, an Olympic Solidarity scholarship-holder, participated in the ceremony in Athens, re-

presenting the new generation of young Africans gearing up to live an extraordinary historic moment.

For IOC President, Kirsty COVENTRY, the event is a source of great pride, noting that it is a proud moment for Senegal and Africa, which will to open an important new chapter for the Olympic Movement.

“Pass the Energy” of Africa's youth

Upon arrival in Senegal, the flame will travel through all 14 regions of Senegal, from 14 September to 30 October, under the theme ‘Pass the Energy.’

With over 30 stops, the tour will encourage young people, athletes, schools, artists, vo-

lunteers, and local communities to join the celebration. This is expected to build a true connection between regions and generations, carrying energy, friendship, respect, and the Olympic spirit from city to city.

GAMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, BY YOUNG PEOPLE, AND WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

The Flame Tour will engage local communities, celebrating Senegal's cultural, sporting, and human diversity.

Furthermore, sport, culture, education, and volunteering will be at the centre of various events, with the goal to make young people key actors of this historic journey - an approach that fully aligns with the motto of Dakar 2026:

“Africa Welcomes, Dakar Celebrates”

Young people inspire.

See you in Dakar!

Following its tour in Senegal, the flame will return to Dakar for the YOG opening ceremony, slated for 31 October 2026, at the Abdoulaye Wade Stadium in Diamniadio.

It will then illuminate the main cauldron at the Corniche Ouest, where it will stay lit throughout the Games, until 13 November.



From 31 October to 13 November 2026, young athletes from around the world will converge on Senegal to write a new chapter of Olympic history.

From Athens to Dakar, the flame travels, energy is passed, and young people come together.

Dakar 2026: Africa welcomes its new Olympic future.

See you there!



IN THE GLOW OF THE OLYMPIC FLAME

DAKAR AND THE WHOLE OF SENEGAL ARE ABLAZE WITH LIGHT, BARELY A FEW WEEKS TO THE GAMES

12 September 2026 will go down in history as a landmark date for the city of Dakar, Senegal and Africa as a whole, as the Youth Olympic Games flame was officially received by President Bassirou Diomaye Faye.



The President of the Republic, Bassirou Diomaye Faye, received the Olympic Flame outside the State House in Dakar from Mamadou Diagna Ndiaye, President of NOC Senegal (CNOSS), in the presence of IOC President, Mrs Kirsty Coventry.

“For the first time in its history, the Olympic Flame is burning on African soil as the continent prepares to host the Youth Olympic Games,” said a Senegalese Government statement.

The Head of State chose to place Senegalese youth at the heart of the Flame welcoming ceremony, by inviting young people from various neighbourhoods of Dakar to take centre stage at this historic event.

Speaking on the occasion, the President of the Republic emphasised that:

“This flame belongs first and foremost to young people, for whom Senegal was chosen to host the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026.”

He went on to say that the success of the Games would ***“largely depend on the commitment, enthusiasm, and talent of Senegalese youths.”***

After Dakar, the Olympic Flame will tour the fourteen regions of Senegal.

It will be taken to young people across the country, enabling everyone to symbolically take part in this adventure and feel fully involved in this historic event.

“On 31 October 2026, Senegal will turn a new page in its sports history by hosting the Youth Olympic Games and showcasing to the world the dynamism, talent, and potential of its young people,” concluded the official Government statement.

YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES DAKAR 2026

CARRIED BY 100 EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN UPON ARRIVAL IN DAKAR, THE FLAME EMBARKS ON AN UNPRECEDENTED JOURNEY

Since being launched on a national tour, the Olympic Flame has sparked unwavering enthusiasm across Senegal, with young people across the country eagerly awaiting the Games.



More than just an Olympic symbol, the Flame brings cities and communities to life wherever it passes. The tour creates a real sense of popular enthusiasm, bringing young people and the entire population of Senegal together around this historic event.

Dakar 2026 promises to be a great celebration of youth, sport and the Olympic spirit in Africa. The Flame processes, as an entire continent prepares to write a new chapter in its Olympic history.

After a stop at the State House, the Olympic Flame was carried by a procession of 100 women, dressed in large, bright yellow and red gowns, for over a kilometre to the Place du Souvenir Africain in Dakar. It was a powerful blend of cultural heritage, women's sport and popular enthusiasm.

The emotion that had gripped the ceremony eventually gave way to celebration. Set to the rhythm of performances by Senegalese artists, the solemn Olympic ritual broke free from the pomp and splendour of state protocol to come alive in the heart of Dakar and its population.



According to Djirèye Clotilde COLY, Minister of Sports:

“Emotions were already running high in Athens, the Greek capital, during the torch-lighting ceremony. We commend the dedication and solemnity with which the Olympic tradition is upheld in Greece, and congratulate the YOG Organising Committee and the Ladies on their performance in Dakar.”

Kirsty COVENTRY, IOC President, underscored the significance of these Games, a first in Africa. She sees their staging

in Dakar as an opportunity to showcase the continent in a different light. ***“It will probably change many people’s perceptions of Africa,”*** she said.

She also hoped that the event will inspire young people in Africa and give them greater confidence in their abilities.

Prime Minister Al Aminou Lô recalled the years of preparation that had been devoted to the occasion and called on every citizen of Senegal to make the event a historic moment.



Abass FALL, the Mayor of Dakar, for his part, acknowledged the work that had been done and urged that the challenges of organisation, mobilisation, and coordination be addressed.

After Dakar, the flame will continue its journey through Senegal.

From 14 to 27 September, it will travel throughout the Dakar region. It will then move on to the other regions from 29 September to 24 October, before returning to the capital from 28 to 30 October.

It will pass through the country's 14 regions with 30 stops, and is expected to complete its journey on 30 October, the day before the cauldron is lit during the YOG opening ceremony on 31 October. The Games will continue until 13 November 2026.

As it travels across Senegal, the flame marks the countdown to an event that aims to write a new chapter in Olympic history for African youths.



IMPRESSIONS

“THIS FLAME SAYS THAT AFRICA IS NO LONGER MERELY WATCHING; THAT AFRICA IS NOW RECEIVING”

President Bassirou Diomaye FAYE delivered a historic speech on 12 September at the State House in Dakar to mark the arrival of the Olympic Flame. The full address.



“The IOC President, the Prime Minister, the President of NOC Senegal, the Minister of Sports. Thank you all.”

Dear members of the Government, youth of Senegal, this flame that we have just received has crossed the seas to arrive in over a 100 years. This is its first time on Senegalese soil and in Africa. The world has placed its trust in us. It has entrusted to us what no other African country has received in over a 100 years. That is why, from Johannesburg to Nairobi, from Dakar to Djibouti, all African youths are looking at you, looking at you with confidence and pride.

We must deserve the trust placed in us, and this flame that we received this morning says one thing that I have always understood: it says that Senegal is a country that keeps its promises, and that its young people are its greatest wealth. Thank you. Youth of Senegal, in a few weeks, more than 2,700 athletes will converge on Senegal.

They will come from 206 countries. What they will remember is what you are going to show. It is your energy; it is your hospitality. It is your Teranga. It is the image of a people standing tall, who trust their youth and who value them.



Make us proud, and make all of Africa proud. This flame says that Africa is no longer just watching; that Africa is receiving the image that others will remember, the one you will portray.

And I want that, upon leaving here, those we will have welcomed during this period remember that youth of Africa

are overflowing with energy, that they stand tall and determined, and that they are proud. I trust you, and I know that you will rise to this challenge. At the end of these Games, what will remain is what you will have learned, the skills you will have mastered, the processes you will understand better; but it is also the values of Olympism that you will have exalted.



But we will all be proud in the end to have demonstrated that, in solidarity, we were able to rise to the occasion and that we succeeded together for ourselves and for Africa. This flame will soon travel through the 14 regions of Senegal. Welcome it with open arms. Welcome it with energy. Welcome it with hope. Welcome it with pride. Welcome it, standing tall

and determined. I want those who carry it to meet, in every region of Senegal, youths standing tall, proud youths, youths ready to face their destiny, to take their destiny into their own hands and rise to challenges. Long live African youth, long live Senegalese youth. Thank you."

A woman wearing an orange headwrap, sunglasses, and a matching orange top with a beaded necklace is speaking at a podium. The podium features the Dakar 2026 logo and the text 'TOURNEE DE L'FLAMME'. The background is a large, colorful mural with abstract patterns in shades of blue, pink, and yellow.

**“I KNOW DAKAR IS
READY, SENEGAL
IS READY”**

Kirsty COVENTRY, IOC President, shared her impressions during the events in Dakar, which marked the reception of the Olympic flame. Her remarks.

“I really enjoyed today’s ceremony. The ceremony in Athens was truly beautiful and exciting, but this evening’s ceremony was even more emotional. That’s especially true because, watching this morning’s session with the President and again this evening with all the cultural elements and the celebrations, of course I was really moved, especially by the walk of the Linguères. It was truly a beautiful event to watch. Yes, I’m absolutely sure that Dakar is ready. The government is supporting us, and the team here in Dakar is doing a great job. Soon we will witness the arrival of athletes competing here at the various venues, but also those who will be staying in the Olympic Village. So I am really looking forward to welcoming you all at the Opening Ceremony, and I hope, of course, that we will all enjoy it together. I know Dakar is ready, Senegal is ready. I was present during the opening events in Dakar. And the energy was truly breathtaking. I can’t even begin to imagine what will happen tomorrow during the Olympic Games. As I’ve earlier said, I’m truly very proud that these first ever Olympic Games are held here, that these maiden Youth Olympic Games held in Africa are taking place during my term of office, given that I am African myself. As the Prime



Minister also said, we are a very young continent, and so it is really important for us to show the rest of the world the warmth that exists here in Africa. So, as an African, I know the warmth of Africa, but I try to imagine what those visiting for the first time will find and truly discover about this continent. Those visiting for the first time. It will probably change a lot of people’s perceptions of Africa.”



“DAKAR 2026 IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE”

Following is the speech delivered on the occasion by the Senegalese Prime Minister, AI AMINOUC LÔ.

“This flame carries with it a history, an ideal and a promise, that of the world’s youth united around the values of peace, respect, friendship, and excellence. Today, this flame is entering a new stage of its journey. It has arrived in Senegal, the first African country to host the Youth Olympic Games. Africa welcomes, Dakar celebrates and Senegal is preparing to witness a historic moment.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Africa is a beacon of vitality for an ageing world, with 60% of its population under the age of 25. In 2030, 42% of the world’s youth will come from Africa. The President of the Republic attaches great importance to the success of the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026. He has made this historic event a true national ambition, serving our young people and our country’s influence.



His commitment reflects a deep conviction. Young people are our greatest wealth, and sport is a powerful catalyst for confidence, excellence, and openness to the world. It is in this spirit that the Government has resolutely supported preparations for these Games and rallied all the nation's active forces. In a few weeks, precisely from 31 October to 13 November 2026, Senegal will welcome the world's sporting youth. Our country will be observed, discovered and heard. Dakar will become a hub for continents, cultures, and generations. This international dimension gives the Games a scope that goes far beyond a sports setting. Dakar 2026 is a wonderful exposure

platform for Africa and Senegal. Through these Games, we are showcasing our country and Africa differently. Its history, its culture, its creativity, its hospitality, its know-how and, above all, the vitality of its young people. We want every young Senegalese to watch these Games and say to themselves, 'I, too, can dream big. I, too, can succeed. I, too, can contribute to my country's future.' This flame conveys ambition, an ambition for youth, excellence, knowledge sharing and influence. Dakar 2026 is an opportunity for our young people. It is a source of pride for Senegal and our country's contribution to the influence of a young, dynamic Africa that is confident in its future.'



“AFRICA WELCOMES, DAKAR CELEBRATES”, THE OFFICIAL SLOGAN OF THE YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES DAKAR 2026 UPHELD ON 12 SEPTEMBER 2026

Dakar and the rest of the country were swept up in excitement and enthusiasm for the arrival of the Olympic Flame.



From Athens to Dakar, the 2026 Youth Olympic Games flame arrived in Senegal on Saturday, 12 September 2026, amid an atmosphere charged with emotion and popular enthusiasm. For the first time in history, an Olympic event will be held on African soil.

SENEGAL, BLENDING HONOUR WITH EMOTION.

Earlier in Athens, Greece, the Dakar 2026 Flame was lit in the presence of a Senegalese delegation led by Mrs Djirèye Clothilde COLY, Minister of Youth and Sport, alongside IOC President Mrs Kirsty COVENTRY, Mr Mamadou Diagna NDIAYE, Chair of the Dakar 2026 YOG Organising Committee (YO-

GOC), and Mr Abass FALL, Mayor of Dakar, among other distinguished guests.

The head of the Senegalese delegation, Mrs Djirèye Clothilde COLY, shares her feelings:

“I’m overwhelmed with emotion. I come from a very traditional society and, honestly, I got goosebumps here because, beyond sport, I witnessed the cultural aspect, an element of respect for history,” she said, before adding that:

“Everything that sport and the Olympic spirit truly stand for - that is to say, those values: the values of peace, of sharing, of accepting others, and of pushing one’s limits - is exactly



***what we experienced today
at the Panathenaic Stadium in
Athens.”***

Abass FALL, Mayor of Dakar,
echoed the same feelings.

***“First of all, the initial feeling
was one of great emotion and
knowing that Senegal is at the
summit of world Olympism,
the emotion of hearing people
here in Greece talking about
the Teranga of Senegal.”***

With the arrival of the Olympic
Flame this time in Dakar, there
was a highly visible presence
of many youth organisations,
which are set to play a key role
in the success of the event.

In addition to officials and
sports managers, entertain-

ment groups and supporters'
associations like the 12e Gaïndé,
also shared in this moment of
national pride.

The Youth Olympic Games will
be the first Olympic event in
history to be held on the African
continent. As they awaited the
start of the ceremony, many
young people sought shelter
beneath large trees that form
the unique natural setting of
this part of Dakar city centre,
home to the State House.

In front of the gates of this ico-
nic building on Avenue Léopold
Sédar Senghor, the colours of
the national flag blended with
those of various sports clubs
jerseys, Scout uniforms and
Red Cross outfits.



As is customary on such occasions, music set the tone for the festivities, followed by the 12^e Gaïndé - the supporters' club of Senegal's national teams - whose dance moves were projected on two giant screens erected for the occasion.

Drums, assiko, and other local instruments accompanied various performances, while the voice of the storyteller Massamba GUËYE recalled the defining moments in Senegal's history and the values underpinning the country's progress. Not far away, groups of school children marched cheerfully past the State House, as young people had turned out in large numbers.

ASC Bopp, the Zapata Football School, the ABG Football Academy, the Scouts, and the Red Cross all took part in the morning event dedicated to the presentation of the Dakar 2026 Games flame.

The Red Cross mobilised two categories of volunteers among its staff: **“Young volunteers from various grassroots units in Dakar and first-aiders,”** explained Maodo Malick KONTÉ, Commissioner of Youth Affairs.

“We have come to coordinate rescue and emergency operations with the fire brigade,” he added.



The Dakar Divisional Committee alone comprises 16 local units spread across various municipalities, making these young people more than just spectators.

“Witnessing the handover of the first Olympic flame on the African continent today gives us a sense of pride,” highlighted KONTE.

A few metres away, Anne-Marie-Céline-Sylva, a troop guide with the Dakar Plateau Scouts, wore the blue and red scarf of the Senegalese Girl Guides movement around her neck. About 25 Girl Guides were mobilised to welcome the flame.

The Girl Guides present at the ceremony ***“come from all over, ifrom several regions of Senegal,”*** she specified.

For Anne-Marie-Céline-Sylva, the ceremony was also a new experience.

“It’s a joy, because we’re not used to such events,” she said.

“It’s my first time and therefore somewhat a new experience. We’re here, trying to enjoy ourselves, lend a hand, and make the most of the moment,” said a young girl wearing a well-fitted, buttoned-up green dress.

Children in the crowd watched the show with equal interest. Maman Dièye DIOUF, aged 12, wore a jersey in the colours of the Olympic Games. As a young basketball player at the Mbao basketball training camp on the outskirts of Dakar, she attended the ceremony with her teammates from the camp.



Her voice, though timid, left little doubt as to her enthusiasm for being there. ***“I feel so happy to be here, to see the President of the Republic for the first time,”*** she exclaimed.

Oumou DIAW, a native of Richard-Toll in northern Senegal, was delighted to reunite with other sports enthusiasts.

“Leaving one city for another with the sole aim of celebrating the sport I play - this passion that unites us - is such a pleasure; everything is being done in a peaceful and friendly atmosphere,” she stated:

PACO, a cultural and sports presenter, well known to the Senegalese people, wore an

outfit in the national colours for the occasion, along with an imposing lion-shaped wig and a hat covered in Senegalese symbols.

Introducing himself as ***“PACO, the mascot of Senegal’s national teams”***, Aliou NGOM - his real name - saw his presence at the ceremony as a fan’s duty, asserting that he will continue to turn up to represent Senegal. ***“That’s why I’m here, come rain or shine. I’m filled with joy,”*** he noted.

Before even finishing his sentence, PACO began singing and dancing. His eyes lit up, while the sound of the drums continued to echo in the crowd.

FORTY-FOUR AFRICAN COUNTRIES FOR THE OLYMPIC FLAME: A COLLECTIVE CHALLENGE FOR DAKAR 2026

Forty-four African NOCs celebrate the arrival of the Olympic Flame in Dakar, a historic moment for African youths and the Olympic Movement. Several NOCs host a wide range of activities.



There was massive mobilisation in the following African countries to celebrate the arrival of the flame:

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The massive mobilisation was supported by Olympic Solidarity, as it continues to play a critical role in developing and strengthening the African Olympic and Sports Movement. Through Dakar 2026, the entire Olympic family in Africa stands united around the values of solidarity, unity, excellence, and fraternity.

BOTSWANA

NOC Botswana (BNOC) proudly celebrated the Dakar 2026 Flame Tour, alongside student-athletes and staff from Bokamoso JSS, Motswedi JSS, Maoka JSS, and Thamaga JSS!



From morning fitness sessions to moments of inspiration and sharing, the Olympic spirit was very much alive and shone brightly among Botswana's young people.

CHAD

NOC Chad (COST) organised a ceremony to mark the arrival of the Olympic flame.

Led by First Deputy Secretary General, Kiyanhykbo BAÏM-BAMNÉ, the flame passed through several neighbourhoods in a festive and Olympic atmosphere.

Like other countries, Chad celebrated the arrival of the Olympic flame in Senegal, a symbol

of the values of peace, unity, friendship, and excellence that underpin the Olympic Movement. The ceremony also marked the official launch of Dakar 2026 activities.

Several sports and educational activities were organised for the occasion, based on the Olympic Values Education Programme (OVEP).

The ceremony concluded with an award of certificates to various participants in recognition of their commitment.

MOZAMBIQUE

Mozambique launched the '**March for Africa**', an initiative organised as part of celebra-



tions to welcome the Dakar 2026 Flame in Senegal.

The initiative brought together athletes, students, sports officials, and community leaders from Mabanja at the OlympAfrica Centre in Boane for a moment of celebration of Olympic values and unity among African nations.

GABON

The Dakar 2026 Flame journeyed through Akanda with a symbolic relay between Avorbam High School and NOC Gabon.

It was in a festive, sporting, and friendly atmosphere that the Olympic Flame Day took place in Gabon on Saturday, 12 September 2026, on the theme: ***“Let’s run for Africa, pass the energy.”***

In the presence of Mr NDIAYE, Ambassador of the Republic of Senegal to Gabon, Cyrille MOUYOPA, President of the Gabon National Anti-Doping Organisation (ONADG), and representatives from across the national sports movement, the day was officially launched by the President of NOC Gabon (CNOG), Sylvain Florient PANGOU MBEMBO. Following the launch, the flame began



its journey to the CNOG headquarters, carried in turn by various participants.

Over 500 young people took part in the day's march, giving the celebration a popular appeal and bringing together people from all generations.

From one relay to the next, the flame ended up at the CNOG headquarters, symbolically marking its arrival at Gabon's Olympic house.

The celebration also took on special significance in the lead up to Dakar 2026, scheduled

for 31 October to 13 November 2026 in Senegal. The presence of the Senegalese Ambassador to Gabon further emphasised the African and fraternal spirit of the day dedicated to young people and Olympic values.

Upon arrival at the CNOG headquarters, participants continued celebrations with a group fitness session, allowing everyone to keep active in a dynamic, sporting, and friendly atmosphere.

The day also featured rollerblading and wushu demonstrations, highlighting the diversity



of sports disciplines and the talent of athletes.

Children, for their part, took part in a range of fun and educational activities, including colouring Olympic rings. These activities enabled them to discover the Olympics while, through games and sport, they embraced the values of respect, friendship, excellence, and solidarity.

The ceremony concluded with an award of certificates to participants, in recognition of their commitment and involvement throughout the day.

Through this celebration, NOC Gabon provided a genuine moment of unity, sharing, and camaraderie, bringing together the entire sports movement, young people, families, and various stakeholders around a shared passion: sport.

From Libreville to Dakar, the Olympic Flame serves as a reminder that sport is a powerful tool for unity and togetherness. Through the commitment of Gabonese young people, an entire continent is getting set to experience, in a few months' time, a major festival: the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026.



UGANDA

On 12 September 2026, the Dakar 2026 Flame Tour brought the Olympic spirit to life at Green Valley Primary School in Magigye, in the Gayaza region, bringing together children and community members through sport, games, and culture.

The day featured a host of local games and activities, in a festive atmosphere: rope skipping,

dancing, races, bottle-filling and bottle-carrying games, Ludo, Mweso, and many other activities.

Organised by the Olympic Values and Culture Education Commission of NOC Uganda, the initiative celebrated the fundamental values of the Olympic Movement: unity, friendship, respect, hope, and inspiration.

YOG DAKAR 2026

SENEGAL MARKS MILESTONE WITH HANDOVER OF DIAMNIADIO OLYMPIC VILLAGE

The President of the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency Mr Bassirou Diomaye FAYE, on Saturday, 29 August 2026, officially received the Diamniadio Olympic Village and the Equestrian Centre, two major YOG Dakar 2026 facilities.



With just a few weeks to go until the opening of the YOG Dakar 2026, this ceremony marks a key milestone in Senegal's preparation for the biggest youth Olympic event on the African continent.

Alongside the Minister of Infrastructure, Déthié FALL, and the Minister of Sports, Djireye Clotilde COLY, the Head of State inspected various facilities at the Olympic Village, notably living areas, model rooms, facilities adapted for people with reduced mobility (PRM), as well as the renovated residential pavilions and the sports complex at the Amadou Mahtar Mbow University.

At the Equestrian Centre, he visited the stables and the competition and training arenas before touring the building made available to the Youth Olympic Games Organising Committee (YOGOC).

FACILITIES FOR AFRICAN YOUTH AND SPORT

Located on the Amadou Mahtar Mbow University campus, the Olympic Village will be the main lodging site for African athletes and participating delegations, while the Equestrian Centre will host equestrian events at the YOG.



Beyond their use during the Games, these facilities were designed to be sustainable, benefitting students, athletes, and young Senegalese sportsmen and women even after the competition.

This vision fully aligns with the legacy Senegal wishes to leave through Dakar 2026: making the first Olympic Games in Africa a real driver of youth and sports infrastructure development across the continent.

THE PRESIDENT COMMITS TO A SUCCESSFUL DAKAR 2026

For several months, President FAYE made the completion of

YOG facilities a priority, regularly monitoring progress on various project sites.

During the handover ceremony, he called for the same rigorous monitoring of every aspect of the organisation right up to the opening ceremony. He stressed that every condition must be met to ensure Senegal fulfils its commitments and upholds the country's honour and reputation before the global sporting community.

He further commended efforts by the various ministries and government services involved, in particular the ministries of Infrastructure, Youth and Sports,



and Higher Education, as well as the Armed Forces and the National Gendarmerie.

AFRICA TAKES CENTRE STAGE IN THE OLYMPIC MOVEMENT

The official handover of the Olympic Village and the Eques-

trian Centre took place as Dakar 2026 draws near, slated for 31 October to 13 November 2026.

Being the first Olympic Games to be held on African soil, Dakar 2026 is a historic moment not



only for Senegal but also for the entire African Olympic Movement.

With these facilities now officially delivered, Senegal has taken another step towards achieving its ambition to offer

young athletes from across the globe Games that live up to the Olympic values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect, while bequeathing a lasting legacy to African youths. Dakar 2026: Africa welcomes the world; young people write their own history.

DUNDAL
JOJ

À l'occasion du lancement du
Programme de mobilisation
et d'engagement DUNDAL
JOJ, Mobilisons-nous pour
accompagner les Jeux
Olympiques de la Jeunesse
Dakar 2026.

SAMEDI
05 SEPT.

DAKAR

DUNDAL YOG

NATIONWIDE DRIVE FOR DAKAR 2026

The President of the Republic of Senegal, Bassirou Diomaye Faye, launched a national campaign dubbed 'Dundal YOG' at the Iba Mar Diop Stadium Dakar, on Saturday 5 September 2026, to rally the entire nation behind the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026. The ceremony was witnessed by Youth and Sports Minister, Djiréye Clotilde Coly, other members of Government and stakeholders involved in preparations for the

Games. Centred on legacy and knowledge-sharing, this initiative aims to make the YOG a truly national project, backed by local authorities, businesses, schools, associations, families and communities across Senegal's 14 regions.

Speaking on the occasion, the Head of State called for concerted efforts to ensure that Senegalese youth fully experience the Games and that



their impact endures long after the competitions. In this regard, more than 150,000 pupils and teachers will receive back-to-school kits, whilst schools and associations will be allocated 200,000 tickets.

The foundation Sénégal Solidaire, an initiative of the First Lady, Marie Khone Faye, will also contribute CFAF 500 million to support the organisation of the YOG.

Presenting the broad outlines of the initiative, the President's Special Adviser on Sport, Diamil Faye, stressed the need to

“consider the legacy of the Youth Olympic Games over the long term”.

The aim is to make Dakar 2026 a catalyst for transforming sport in Senegal, with a vision extending to 2035 and even 2040, notably through streamlined sports governance, training, talent development and the promotion of Senegal's image internationally.

With the Dundal YOG initiative, Dakar 2026 aspires to be a national project, a driver of youth engagement and an opportunity to bequeath a lasting legacy to Senegal.



YOG DAKAR 2026

THE LION AND THE BAOBAB - A MEDAL THAT TELLS THE STORY OF SENEGAL

Winning a medal in a competition is mainly an achievement. Medals at the Youth Olympic Games Dakar 2026 are also designed to tell a story – that of a country, a continent, and a generation of young people united around an Olympic event that is a first for Africa.

Both sides of the medal were crafted to represent a dialogue between several worlds, featuring two familiar symbols of the Senegalese landscape – the lion and the baobab tree – combined with Olympic symbols

and references to modernity.

On the obverse of the medal, the lion takes centre stage. An iconic symbol of Senegal, the lion is commonly associated with strength and courage, two essential qualities in sport.

The design, however, goes beyond this depiction. Its mane consists of two faces inspired by Senegalese craftsmanship. Arranged symmetrically, they represent fairness, a fundamental principle of sports competition. Each face is crowned with an olive wreath. In Olympic tradition, this is a symbol of victory, peace, and excellence. It is a direct reference to the history of the Olympic Games.

Dubbed “**The Roar of Youth**”, this design was conceived by the 26-year-old Spanish designer Pilar Barbadillo VICARIO, following a global call for proposals launched by the IOC.

FROM THE ANCIENT BAOBAB TO A CONNECTED SENEGAL

On the reverse side, the image changes with the lion giving way to the baobab, another deeply respected symbol across Senegal and the African continent, which represents longevity, wisdom, and the passing down of knowledge. In the context of the YOG, it is a metaphor for young people who move forward without severing their ties to their roots. Its graphic design, however, gives it a new dimension, as branches and roots loop into sweeping curves and counter-curves, with some lines resembling digital cables.

The message here is clear: heritage is not static. It can reinvent itself and engage with new technologies. The baobab thus becomes the meeting point between an ancient memory and a connected future.

A MEDAL BRIDGING MEMORY AND VISION

This very dialogue gives meaning to the whole design, with the theme of Dakar 2026, ‘From History to the Future’, finding true expression in the medals.

The lion embodies strength and identity, while the baobab evokes roots and the passing on of traditions across generations. Furthermore, references to the Olympic spirit and digital technology project the design towards international competition and the contemporary world.

With just a few weeks to go before the opening of the Youth Olympic Games, these medals offer the first tangible expression of the spirit of Dakar 2026: a sports event for young people, yet deeply rooted in the identity of the host country.

On the podium, medals will not only honour the achievements of young athletes, but also serve as mementos of a historic moment: the moment when the Olympic spirit of youth took root, for the first time, on African soil.



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