



ANOCA NEWSLETTER



A publication of Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa



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Africa in Bangkok 2014

The city of Bangkok recently hosted a series of Olympic Movement meetings in which the African Olympic movement was fully involved. Highlights in this special issue of ANOCA Newsletter!

ANOCA holds General Assembly in Bangkok



Bangkok, Thailand, hosted the General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) on **6 November 2014**, with representatives of ANOCA member NOCs in attendance. The Bangkok event held on the sidelines of the 19th General Assembly of the Association of National Olympic Committees, (ANOC) in the same city on 7 and 8 November 2014.

The agenda featured a number of highlights.

First were the speeches, three in all. In his capacity as ANOCA President, **Intendant General Lassana Palenfo** said he was delighted to see all the assembled delegates, and extended his gratitude to the ANOC and IOC Presidents who honoured his association's invitation. To these two, he said: *«I wish, on behalf of my counterparts of the African Olympic Movement, to heartily welcome you in our midst and thank you for gracing our General Assembly. There is no better way of demonstrating the support you have always given to Africa.»*

“I avail myself of this opportunity to sincerely congratulate you on the fact that you succeeded in bringing the United Nations to take the milestone step of recognising the autonomy of the IOC and Sport.”

The ANOCA steward then went on to remind representatives of African NOCs that they were meeting after the organisation, from **22 to 31 May 2014**, in Gaborone, of the 2nd edition of the African Youth Games and the recent participation of the continent's athletes in the 2nd Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing. President Palenfo then reviewed the major activities in which his institution took active part since the 15th ordinary session of its General Assembly held in Abidjan on **12 and 13 July 2013**.

He was succeeded on the rostrum by two illustrious administrators of the Olympic Movement. First was ANOC President, **Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah**, then IOC President, **Thomas Bach**. While lauding the efforts of African NOCs, the ANOC President thanked them for contributing in transforming his institution and backing his policy, which seeks to turn ANOC into a streamlined, efficient body at the service of NOCs. As for the IOC president, **Thomas Bach**, he made a brief review of the issues the Olympic Movement should be concerned with. He also gave assurances that Agenda 2020 will greatly contribute in addressing most major issues. To this end, he thanked African NOCs for their input thereto.

These speeches were followed by deliberations proper. First was the balance sheet report on the 2nd African Youth Games in Gaborone, Botswana. This was followed by a paper by the Jeune Afrique Group, a technical partner of ANOCA, on the organisation of Africa Village in **Rio 2016** and then a report on preparations for the 3rd African Youth Games billed for **Algiers in 2018**.

Participants then shared views on the ANOC General Assembly of **7 and 8 November 2014** and the 16th General Assembly of the institution scheduled for 2015.

The Secretary-General of ANOCA, Thomas Sithole, then took the floor to talk about the signing of a protocol agreement with UNAIDS. He equally presented the protocol agreement of the 3rd African Youth Games, Algiers 2018, signed between ANOCA and NOC Algeria, represented respectively by **Intendant General Lassana Palenfo** and **Mustapha Berraf**, Presidents of the two bodies.



special way. I can imagine that you do not feel at ease and you're really affected by this. I can only tell you that, here I am pleading with you, that we will do everything so that you and your athletes and your countries are getting fair treatment. There also in this respect, that we can help, we are helping and are very grateful to the NOC of Sierra Leone, which put facilities at the disposal of some British organisations which brought facilities to fight against Ebola. I was really impressed with the way the NOC of Sierra Leone approached this issue in a very fast way and in taking these decisions. This was really a good example of how to put sport and a sport organisation at the service of society and people.

I also had a discussion this morning with your President and we agreed that if there are some ways where sport can help sport or where sport can help through sport, then we should look at what sport can do in this fight. But I think what we can do and what we should do is to look into ways how we can protect the athletes, how we can protect the families of athletes and maybe how we can educate athletes and sports organisations and sports clubs. This will be one of IOC's concerns, how we can help them with prevention or education programmes.

So your president and I we will study this and then at the IOC we will do our best in this respect to be by your side and to help. I am very grateful that I have this opportunity to address all of you, because it gives me the opportunity not only to thank you and the African continent, but it is also an opportunity for me to thank ANOC and its President Sheikh Al-Fahad Al-Shabab for the great success he has achieved with ANOC since he took over the presidency, with the many reforms he has already undertaken and achieved in unimaginably fast time and in a remarkable way of consensus and friendship within ANOC, building unity among the National Olympic Committees. I think this is a really great achievement and with this I would like to congratulate you Mr President and your team. And I would like also to thank you very much for all the support you are giving to the IOC and to the reform process we are undertaking with the Olympic Agenda 2020.

So we wish you a successful General Assembly tomorrow with the elections and I hope very much that this General Assembly will take time to reflect on this unity of the National Olympic Committees that we have seen during the last two years.

With regard to the IOC, you will have to suffer from a speech from me tomorrow and so I will not go into details now. Just to thank you Mr President first of all for your kind words with regard to the resolutions having been adopted by the United Nations. This is really a major, major step forward, a real achievement in the relations between politics and sport. And at this moment I really would like to hand over these resolutions to you, because at the IOC we have got this adopted after quite some time. Some few may remember that we started this procedure with my speech at the General Assembly of the United Nations last year immediately after my election, where we put the problem of autonomy on the table. Since then, there have been many, many discussions and negotiations about this.

I do not want to bore you with all the details, for you all have enough experience! Such a negotiation is not easy and sometimes you can't have consensus by the member states. But the fact is, we are there! We have got it! And the fact also is, it is now up to you! Now we are putting these resolutions at the disposal of the National Olympic Committees. Now you have your reference point in these resolutions, your reference point when it comes to discussing with national governments to address the issue of autonomy with them, to address with them the partnership how you can best achieve better results with regard to education, with regard to the healthcare system, with regard to cohesion in society and many other issues which are also reflected in these resolutions. I



would really like to ask you to read, to study these resolutions and to make your judgment on what serves you best in your country, what best serves your political and cultural environment and then enter into partnership with your government, having your government respect your autonomy on the one hand but also acknowledging your contribution to society on the other. With regard to the Olympic Agenda 2020, thank you again . . .

Monsieur le président pour l'appui que vous avez exprimé pendant votre discours. Les 40 recommandations seront distribuées aux membres du CIO dans les deux prochaines semaines, j'espère à la mi-novembre, afin de leur permettre de les étudier en détail. Quelques jours après, toutes les recommandations seront aussi publiées, alors tout le monde devra en avoir accès parce qu'on veut continuer avec cette procédure transparente qu'on a appliquée depuis le début de ce processus et de permettre à tout le monde de faire son jugement, et de décider après si vous pouvez appuyer ces recommandations. Et j'espère bien que le continent africain peut les appuyer, parce qu'à la fin, vous trouverez des recommandations venant de votre continent, venant soit de l'ACNOA, soit des Africains membres du CIO, soit des particuliers africains, soit des CNO. Alors on a reçu beaucoup, beaucoup de recommandations et elles sont toutes prises en considération et comme ça vous y trouverez beaucoup de vos suggestions et ça me donne la confiance que nous pouvons s'entendre sur votre appui à cet Agenda 2020.

Merci pour cet effort que vous avez fait pour ce qui est de vos suggestions. Merci pour votre appui que j'ai toujours senti depuis mon élection et même avant. Et je veux vous assurer que, eh bien, il ne faut pas que je vous assure parce que vous savez très bien que l'Afrique est proche de mon cœur et j'espère bien qu'on peut continuer avec cette coopération vraiment amicale.

Vous pouvez compter sur moi, s'il y a quelque chose que je peux faire pour l'Afrique et le développement du sport en Afrique je suis à votre disposition et je vais vous aider, le meilleur possible. Merci encore monsieur le président de me donner cette opportunité de m'entretenir avec mes amis Africains et je vous souhaite à vous et aussi à l'ACNO plein succès pour l'assemblée générale de demain et je suis sûr qu'on peut se réjouir d'une coopération très, très étroite avec l'ACNOA mais aussi avec l'ACNO. Merci bien à vous tous et bon courage et bonne chance dans tous les projets que vous allez attaquer dans les tous prochains jours. Merci !





Bangkok hosts 45th session of ANOCA Executive Committee



The 44th ordinary session of the ANOCA Executive Committee held in Bangkok on **6 November 2014**, chaired by ANOCA President, **Intendant General Lassana Palenfo**.

Talking on the occasion, **Intendant General Lassana Palenfo** opened up with a tribute to Alpha **Ibrahima Diallo**, former ANOCA President, who passed on two months earlier : *«Before we open our deliberations,» he said, «I request a minute of silence in memory of Alpha Ibrahima Diallo, who passed on last September 12, at 82. He was a former president of ANOCA and honorary IOC member. He was a frontline advocate of the Olympic and Sports movement.»*

The ANOCA President then recalled events in the build-up to the Executive Committee meeting : *«This meeting connects with the intense activity we had in Algiers from 27 to 31 October. The 31st Seminar for Secretaries General was, I must say, a success in all dimensions. Allow me, on your behalf, to once more thank our 1st Vice President, who ... rose to the challenge, despite the short lapse of time he had to organise the event, which was initially scheduled for Lesotho. I must acknowledge that Mr Berraf spared no effort to ensure that this activity, which is part of the ANOCA development plan, is a resounding success.»*

After the opening address, the Secretary-General, **Thomas Sithole**, then read out the agenda of the meeting.

This was followed by the President's progress report on activities since the 44th session of the Executive Committee held on **20 March 2014** in Algiers. In this regard, he said he represented the institution in various events, including the ANOC Executive Board meeting on **28 March 2014** in Kuwait and another session of the body organised from **17 to 20 July** in Lausanne. **Intendant General Lassana Palenfo**





also spoke about the organisation, from **22 to 31 May 2014**, of the **2nd** edition of the African Youth Games in Gaborone, Botswana. It was an event during which **«2,500 young athletes aged between 14 and 18 from 53 NOCs displayed their talents in the 21 sports disciplines on schedule...It was also a first for South Sudan,»** he said. **«The Organising Committee did a great job. We must point out that this second edition was an organisational success. The games actually inspired participants and all of Africa. The volunteers provided much efficient support,»** the ANOCA president went on, saying that it was a delight to host **Thomas Bach** in Africa for the first time in his capacity as IOC president.

President **Palenfo** then said that an ANOCA delegation was in Brazzaville from **11 to 16 July 2014**, at the invitation of the Congolese Minister for Sports and Physical Education, who sought the expertise of ANOCA in the build-up to the forthcoming 2015 All Africa Games. He also made mention of the signing, on **21 July 2014** in Paris, of the contract between ANOCA and the Jeune Afrique Group, in view of the organisation of Africa Village in Rio 2016 and the Africa Village meeting held on **15 September 2014**, still in Paris, with partners of the project.

He also mentioned Africa's participation in the 2nd Youth Olympic Games in Nanjing, China. In this regard, he asserted that : **«Africa put up a good show at the youth jamboree with 11 medals in gold, 12 in silver and 9 in bronze.»**

Participants then discussed several other items on the agenda, amongst them the ANOCA General Assembly on **6 November 2014**.



19th ANOC General Assembly: Lassana Palenfo speaks for Africa



During the 19th session of the ANOC General Assembly held in Bangkok, Thailand, on **7 and 8 November 2014**, the President of ANOCA, **Intendant General Lassana Palenfo**, presented a report on the progress of our institution. He began by thanking NOC Thailand and the country's authorities for *«the wonderful organisation of this complex event.»* He outlined the activities carried out by the supreme governing body of the African Olympic Movement from the last session held in Lausanne in 2013, especially the 2013 Executive Committee Elections in Abidjan, the 2nd edition of the African Youth Games from **22 to 31 May 2014** in Gaborone, preparations for the 2015 All Africa Games and Africa's participation in the 2016 Olympics in Rio de Janeiro.

Intendant General Lassana Palenfo also spoke about how ANOCA helped resolve conflicts between its member NOCs with the assistance of the IOC NOC Relations Department. He lauded the dynamism of the Women and Sport Commission, which championed the organisation, in Kuwait, of the maiden Afro-Asian Women and Sport Forum in partnership with the Olympic Council of Asia. In his words *«The resounding success of the forum inspired both continental associations to organise a second, still in association with the IOC, and invite representatives from Oceania.»*

The President of ANOCA also rated the Athletes' Commission very highly, saying that it is *«one of the most active of our commissions.»* It comprises high profile athletes and has helped ANOCA to understand the needs of athletes.

To round off, **Intendant General Lassana Palenfo** said his institution was very honoured to host the IOC President, **Thomas Bach**, in Africa in May 2014. He also acknowledged Africa's input to the 2020 Olympic Agenda.



Ebola scare: ANOCA rallies support

During the ANOC General Assembly in Bangkok, the President of ANOCA, **Intendant General Lassana Palenfo** made reference to the impact of the Ebola epidemic on the organisation of events in Africa. According to him, *«the scourge has already affected sport and disorganised continental competitions such as the CAF Africa Cup of Nations.»* He thus pointed out the role ANOCA should play to keep the disease in check. He underscored that the surest way was prevention through awareness, noting that *«we can weigh in on this by using the power of sport to educate youths and communities at large on how to stop the spread of the disease.»* **Lassana Palenfo** thus called on all stakeholders of the African Olympic Movement and other friendly NOCs to join forces to eradicate the pandemic.

ANOCA and the IOC in the fight against Ebola



The fight against Ebola was a main feature in the discussions between the Presidents of ANOCA and the IOC, **Lassana Palenfo** and **Thomas Bach**. The two men discussed what the Olympic Movement could do to address this health crisis which, according to the World Health Organisation, has affected **14,098** persons since March 2014, killing **5,160**. This of course demonstrates the Olympic Movement's desire to reach out to the affected people of Africa.



Thomas Bach congratulates NOC Sierra Leone on fast action against Ebola



IOC President, **Thomas Bach**, met recently in Bangkok with **Dr Patrick Coker**, President of NOC Sierra Leone. The meeting focused on efforts made to fight against Ebola in the country. Then, addressing the ANOC General Assembly, President **Bach** congratulated NOC Sierra Leone on acting promptly and helping the British organisation that brought facilities to fight against Ebola to set up a treatment centre in Freetown, Sierra Leone. NOC Sierra Leone, in coordination with the IOC, authorised the commencement of work at the Milton Margai College of Education and Technology site, which helped keep the disease in check.

«I was really impressed with the way the NOC of Sierra Leone approached this issue very fast. This was really a good example of how to put sport and a sport organisation at the service of society,» President **Bach** said. He further promised to assist the NOC to help athletes of the Olympic Movement in Sierra Leone. *«We want to support the athletes of Sierra Leone in their daily activities and preparation for future events,»* he added.

Showcasing the 2nd African Youth Games in Bangkok



A documentary reviewing the major highlights of the 2nd edition of the African Youth Games was aired in Bangkok during the 19th ANOC General Assembly. The documentary presents the opening and closing ceremonies, sports events per se, cultural activities and medal award ceremonies. Participants, who were impressed with the African Youth Games initiative, followed with keen attention the documentary, which helped showcase to the entire Olympic world all that the games had to offer, which games are today a source of pride and joy for youths of the continent.



Recognition: Africa honoured by ANOC



The Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) celebrated its first annual trophies at the Centara Convention Centre Bangkok, with IOC President, **Thomas Bach**, and ANOC President, **Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah**, in attendance.

The performances of world athletes in London 2012 and Sochi 2014 and the dynamism of sports organisations were for the first time recognised by ANOC during a gala night which highlighted the rallying power of sport in fostering unity and solidarity. The prize award Gala was a glowing tribute to the outstanding successes recorded by NOCs and athletes across the world.

Several athletes and officials thus took turns on the



podium to receive their prizes, amongst them an African, Kenya's **David Rudisha**, who was named best male athlete of the London Games.

David Lekuta Rudisha is an athlete who, by dint of his talent, inspires respect. Winner of the African championships in 2008 and 2010, and the 2011 world championships, he bagged gold in the 800 m at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. He holds the world record in the discipline (1 min 40 s 91) a feat he performed on 9 August 2012 in the Olympics final.

African NOCs (Gabon and Botswana) were also among NOCs that recorded the most outstanding progress in London 2012.

Talking about the award ceremony, ANOC President, **Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah**, said that it was a spectacular celebration of sport and universal culture, pointing out that no other event was so committed in support of best practices within NOCs and the celebration of victories in the Olympic family. Under the aegis of the IOC, he said ANOC collaborates with IFs, SportAccord and other partners of Olympism for the benefit of the entire Olympic Movement. He said that they did not only relive the best moments of London 2012 and Sochi 2014 that evening, but it also afforded them the opportunity to make history as well. He congratulated all winners and all those who contributed in making the gala night special.





ANOC honours an African sport legend



IAAF President, Senegal's **Lamine Diack**, recently received the ANOC Merit Prize. **Lamine Diack** received the prize, together with the IOC President, **Thomas Bach**, during the opening ceremony of the ANOC General Assembly on 7 November 2014, before representatives of 203 NOCs. Former President of NOC Senegal, Lamine Diack is also an IOC member. It is thus a great administrator African sport who has been recognised for the invaluable work he has done to foster Olympic values.

Election: Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah elected ANOC President

Meeting in Bangkok on **7 November 2014** for the 19th ordinary session of the Association of National Olympic Committees, NOCs of the world unanimously voted **Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah** as president for a four-year tenure, with **Patrick Hickey** as first Vice President. Both men ran unchallenged.

Al Sabah took office in 2012, following the resignation of **Mario Vazquez Raña**. His election thus confirms the support he enjoys among NOCs and their adhesion to his new vision. In line with this, amendments to the ANOC constitution will get women more involved, as five of them will henceforth sit in the Executive Board.

Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah and **Patrick Hickey** have been on seat since the ANOC General



Assembly held in Moscow in 2012.

After just two years at the helm of ANOC, **Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah** has brought in a new era. He reviewed the ANOC Constitution, set up nine commissions and task forces to boost reform, and got a new logo, website and social media platform for ANOC. He also relocated the ANOC headquarters to a new site in Lausanne.

After his election, **Sheikh Ahmad Al-Fahad Al-Sabah** thanked all NOCs for the confidence and faith entrusted in him, saying that it was a great honour to represent them as ANOC President. He went on to say that when he was elected interim president in 2012, he made my goals very clear: to reform, modernise and professionalise ANOC and provide NOCs with the best support possible. Much ground has been covered since then, but he believes the organisation can go much further. He expressed the hope, in the next four years, to work with all partners of Olympism to concretise the organisation's dreams and goals.



Promotion: Africans in the ANOC Executive Board

Several Africans were recently elected to the Executive Board of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) during an elective General Assembly held on **7 and 8 November** 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The Board comprises 22 members, chaired by **Sheikh Ahmed Al-Fahd Al-Sabah** from Kuwait. The Africans are :



General Lassana Palenfo
Vice-president (Cote d'Ivoire)



Mustafa Berraf
Member (Algeria)



Thoma Amos Ganda Sithole
Member (Zimbabwe)



Habu Gumel
Member (Nigeria)



Matlohang Moiloa-Ramoqopo
Member (Lesotho)



Lydia Nsekera
Member (Burundi)