



NEWSLETTER
OF AFRICA'S PARTICIPATION
IN THE 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES



N°003

AFRICA
IN TOKYO

HALF WAY...



**AFRICA
DISTINGUISHES
HERSELF IN TOKYO**

400 M FREESTYLE: TUNISIAN BORN AHMED HAFNAOUI ALL IN GOLD



Tunisian born Ahmed Hafnaoui stunned the entire world on 25 July 2021 by becoming, at barely 18, 400m freestyle Olympic champion. Right from the first day of the finals in the Tokyo Olympic pool, Ahmed Hafnaoui strongly impressed onlookers, thus keeping alive the many hopes placed on him. Eighth semi finals best time scorer and lined on the outer lane (N.8), Hafnaoui won

the 400 m freestyle contest in 3 minutes, 43 seconds and 36, beating Australian born Jack McLoughlin (3:43.52) and American Kieran Smith (3:43.94) at the very last moment. It was an honour to the entire African continent which was winning its very first Gold medal at the Tokyo Games. He also became the second Olympic champion swimmer in his country's history, after Oussama Mellouli was crowned in the 1,500m category



during the 2008 Games in Peking.

Very satisfied with this outstanding victory, the Olympic gold medalist had this to say: *« I am very proud, very happy; I thought about my parents. I came here to win a medal in the 400 m and 800 m categories. Just a medal, any one. I did not imagine that I could win gold, especially as I was in lane 8. During the second phase of the race, I felt better and it was a nice battle*

at the end. It's really incredible, I didn't expect that and I am so happy. ». *« I believed when I touched the wall and noticed that I was the first. Terrific! And when I saw my country's flag and heard the (Tunisian) anthem, my eyes were filled with tears, I felt so proud. I am dedicating this title to the entire Tunisian people: you now have a champion! I am so glad to have won a gold medal, be proud of me and that's it »*
Ahmed Hafnaoui added.

TATJANA SCHOENMAKER DISTINGUISHES HERSELF IN THE 100M BREASTSTROKE CATEGORY



On 27 July 2021, South-African swimmer Tatjana Schoenmaker won a silver medal in the 100m breaststroke contest. The athlete topped the race for long; but in the last 25 metres, 17-year-old Lydia Jacob from

America made an unexpected catch up to snatch the gold medal (1'04''95). Tatjana Schoenmaker ended second (1'05''22) before another American, Lilly King, two-times World champion and former Olympic champion.

TATJANA FROM SOUTH AFRICA ALL IN GOLD IN THE 200M BREASTSTROKE CATEGORY



Young South African swimmer Tatjana Schoenmaker, who is part of ANOCA's athletes support programme, won the

200m breaststroke gold medal on 30 July 2021 in Tokyo, at the same time breaking the World record (2 minutes, 18 seconds and 95 hundredths). Tatjana



Schoenmaker who had earlier won a silver medal in the 100m breaststroke contest impressed onlooker by winning the final sprint ahead of all her challengers of the day, including Lilly King

(2:19.92) and Annie Lazor (2:20.84) from the USA. Aged 24, the South African athlete said she was very happy to win this gold medal in a so highly contested event.

A SILVER MEDAL FOR SOUTH AFRICAN SURFER BIANCA BUITENDAG



South African surfer Bianca Buitendag won a silver medal in the women's surf category at the Olympic Games on the 27th of July on a fantastic day for the South African team present at Tokyo, the same day her countrywoman

Tatjana Schoenmaker bagged the same distinction in the 100m breaststroke category.

Surf finals were put forward for a day due to worries about an oncoming storm, and Buitendag had previously remained very

fit when she came ahead of Yolanda Hopkins from Portugal and Caroline Marks from America at the quarter finals and semi-finals respectively. During the final sprint for the gold medal, the South African was overwhelmed by Carissa Moore from the USA.

She expressed her joy when she said that for her, it was an exceptional day because, winning a medal in the Olympic is the ideal achievement for any high-level athlete.

...THERE COMES AGAIN RUTH GBAGBI AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES



Ivorian born Ruth Gbagbi who is a taekwondo fighter, already bronze medal winner at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games, made it again last 26

July in Tokyo by winning the same medal following her victory over Milena Titoneli in the semi-finals. She qualified for the semi-finals after Naomie Katoka from Congo

was disqualified for being absent from the weigh-in, then a win over Mengyu Zhang from China in the next round before losing in the semi-finals behind Lauren Williams from Great Britain. Ruth Gbagbi became World champion in 2017 in South Korea.

It should be mentioned that taekwondo came back as a medal

sport in Sydney 2000. Involving about 80 million people in more than 200 countries and territories, taekwondo is a popular discipline in Côte d'Ivoire. Five times winner in the African championships, Ruth Gbagbi won the gold medal at the 2015 Brazzaville All Africa Games.

GOLD MEDAL WINNER AYOUB HAFNAOUI OFFERS HIS JERSEY TO THE OLYMPIC MUSEUM



Four years after her victory in the 400m freestyle in 3' 43" 36, Ayoub Hafnaoui

handed the jersey he was wearing during the finals to the Olympic Museum. This was in

a ceremony organized on 29 July in Tokyo, in the presence of many personalities, including the President of International Swimming Federation (ISF) Houssain Al Musalam from Kuwait, the Director of IOC's Olympic Art, Culture and Patrimony Foundation, the Tunisian Ambassador to Japan, H.E Mohamed Elloumi, and the

President of the National Olympic Committee of Tunisia, Mehrez Boussayane.

Speaking on this occasion, Ayoub Hafnaoui expressed his great pride and joy to write the name of Tunisia for the first time in the Olympic Museum and to ably represent the Tunisian Olympic movement.

MEN'S 10000 M RACE: SELEMON BAREGA FROM ETHIOPIA WINS GOLD



Selemon Barega from Ethiopia won the 10000m race gold medal by overcoming on the 30th of July the super favorite from Uganda, Joshua Cheptegei, after a highly contested race. At the end of the event, as his compatriots have usually done, Selemon Barega grabbed Ethiopian red, yellow and green flag, greeted his supporters made up of his delegation's members, before making a lap of honour in the great Tokyo Olympic Stadium. Barega won the race in 27 min 43 sec 22 beating Cheptegei (27 min 43 sec 63) and the other Ugandan Jacob Kiplimo (27 min 43 sec 88). This is the first major title won by this athlete who is now aged 21 and who came second during the 2019 World championships in the 5,000m category. This young athlete thus distinguishes himself in this category after other great names who have won a gold medal, such as Kenenisa Bekele

(winner in 2004 and 2008), Haile Gebreselassie (1996 and 2000) or even Tirunesh Dibaba in the women's category (2008 and 2012). « Winning here is a way to mark history; since Abebe Bikila won the Tokyo marathon in 1964 and I'm very proud of that. I already experienced victories on shorter distances, therefore I was very confident during the last 400-200 meters. Nonetheless, it was a fierce battle » said the gold medalist.

It should be noted that all three medal winners are Africans.

1. Selemon Barega (Ethiopia) 27:43.22
2. Joshua Cheptegei (Uganda) 27:43.63
3. Jacob Kiplimo (Uganda) 27:43.88



SOUFIANE EL-BAKKALI GOES DOWN IN THE ANNALS OF THE 3 000 M STEEPLECHASE EVENT



The 2nd of August 2021 will be remembered as the day when Soufiane El-Bakkali from Morocco imposed himself in the 3000m steeplechase race final. In 8 minutes 08 seconds and 90, he ended the race before Lamecha Girma from Ethiopia who clocked 8 minutes 10 seconds and 38, and Benjamin Kigen from Kenya with 8 minutes 11 seconds and 45. Yet, Girma and Wale from Ethiopia led the race, followed by Kigen and Kibiwot from Kenya. Behind the favourites of this race Moroccan born Soufiane El-Bakkali kept in touch but slightly behind so as

to save his energy for the last lap. 500 m from the finishing line, El-Bakkali came in between the Ethiopians and the Kenyans and launched a massive attack in the last lap. The 25 years old Moroccan is the very first non-Kenyan 3000m steeplechase Olympic champion after Bronisław Malinowski of Poland in Moscow in 1980. Earlier in Rio 2016, Soufiane El-Bakkali distinguished himself at the age of 20 where he was ranked 4th. Since then, he became World vice-champion in 2017 in London, then bronze medal winner in Doha in 2019.



TOKYO 2020

INTERVIEW WITH SOUFIANE EL BAKKALI, 3,000 M STEEPLE OLYMPIC CHAMPION

**«TODAY, EVERYONE CAN SEE
THAT HARD WORK BEARS
FRUITS.»**



Le Matin: Tell us how you planned this race; and what was the key to success during the final laps?

Soufiane El Bakkali: Thank God. All who know and follow Soufiane El Bakkali know that it was a long term work which lasted for years. During the Rio 2016 Olympic Games edition, I came fourth and started gaining confidence. Then the dream of becoming champion started growing... Today, everyone can see that hard work bears fruits. The race wasn't easy at all, despite all that was said earlier on the absence of the former Olympic champion. I had to cope with the fierce contest opposed by Ethiopian athletes. One of them even posed me serious problems during the 2019 World championships. I underwent enormous pressure before the race and I even had to suspend all activity on the social media. I received many messages from people expressing their full confidence

in me and my fear was that I might not be up to the task. Thank God, I didn't disappoint them and I want to dedicate this consecration to His Majesty King Mohammed VI and the entire people of Morocco, as well as to all my relatives who supported me a lot. I am now the Olympic champion on a very difficult distance, which has for long been the private matter of Kenyan athletes.

You are today Morocco's first Gold medal winner since the one won by Hicham El Guerrouj in 2004, that is 17 years after. What is your feeling?

It is an indescribable feeling! We are all very proud of these champions. We all watched their historic performances and I tried to use this as a motivating factor. I kept in touch with them and they advised me to consider this race as an ordinary contest and not as an Olympic final, especially with the absence of supporters in the stands. Thank

God, I managed the race very well and I was able to write my name in the history of the Olympic Games.

What was the contribution of your compatriot Mohamed Tindouft today; did he help you during the race?

I am very happy for Mohamed Tindouft, who has evolved step by step, who suffered a lot in the past, but who has become stronger and more experienced. He took part with me in the race in Italy and he broke the record. When he qualified for the finals in Tokyo, I was very happy because I was no longer going to face the Ethiopians and Kenyans alone as was the case in 2019. This enabled me to better manage the race with more confidence, and I hope the next finals will include three Moroccan athletes.

You will have to postpone your celebrations, since your

assignment in Tokyo is not over yet...

Of course! I'll try to recover a bit tomorrow (Tuesday, Ed) before going to collect my number for the 1,500 m race.

Should we expect a second victory on this distance?

I can't promise you anything! (Laughter). You know? All great athletes will take part in this contest and the Olympic champion will also go through qualifiers. The best six of each series and the best six by the clock will be qualified. I hope I'll be among them... This time around, I'll run without any pressure, as opposed to the 3,000 m steeple which is my specialty. There will be two young Moroccan runners besides me, Anas Essai and Abdellatif Seddiki. I hope we will all qualify for the final.

Source: Le Matin





ANOCA PRESIDENT'S ACTIVITIES IN TOKYO

A HISTORIC AGREEMENT SIGNED BETWEEN ANOCA AND GERFLOR

ANOCA, the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa and Gerflor Company have entered into agreement which aims at providing floorings for the following sports disciplines to National Olympic Committees hosting the All

Africa Games, the Africa Beach Games and the Youths Olympic Games: Handball, Basketball and Volleyball. The agreement was signed by ANOCA President, Mustapha Berraf, and the Director of Gerflor Company, in the presence of the Minister



of Youths and Sports of Ghana as well as ANOCA's Executive Committee members.

« We are happy about this agreement. ANOCA will continue supporting countries hosting international events and assures them of its full collaboration. This convention is only the start of a fruitful and very successful

collaboration. ANOCA President, Mustapha Berraf, added that equipment acquired under this scheme will go a long way to strengthen measures put in place to improve the quality of infrastructure and equipment, but also contribute to the birth of talents on the African continent. »



ANOCA PRESIDENT ATTENDS ANOC'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING



The President of ANOCA, Mr. Mustapha Berraf, took part on 28 August 2021, in the Executive Committee meeting of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), in his capacity as the institution's Vice-President. The meeting took place in Tokyo on the sidelines of the summer Olympic Games. Members discussed on several items and adopted some measures aimed

at improving the support granted to NOCs by this association. This meeting was attended by IOC President, Dr. Thomas Bach who in his address reiterated his support in favour of ANOC and NOCs. He also mentioned the holding of the Olympic Games by pointing out that although the event is holding within a special health context, Japan is offering a nice sports jamboree to the world. ANOC Executive



Committee members on their part expressed their full support to the IOC and to the Organizing Committee who left no stone unturned to ensure the staging of successful Games.

As key items on the agenda, was the selection process for the hosting of the 2023 and 2025 editions of ANOC World Beach Games to take place after Tokyo 2020. The Executive Council was informed that some NOCs have already expressed their desire to apply for the hosting of these editions. Rules for the ANOC World Beach Games and anti-doping rules to be tabled before the General Assembly for adoption were also approved.

During deliberations, the amended Statutes of ANOC were also adopted, which include the possibility of organizing virtual or partly virtual General Assembly meetings, and the decision of including at least 30% women in this body. These amendments will also be tabled before the General Assembly for adoption. Due to the current health situation, and in collaboration with the Korean Olympic and Sports Committee (KSOC), it was agreed that Seoul will not host the next General Assembly of ANOC, which will instead hold in Athens on 24 and 25 October 2021.

ANOCA PRESIDENT HOLDS A WORKING MEETING WITH GHANA'S MINISTER OF SPORTS

On the sidelines of the 32nd Olympic Games currently holding in Tokyo, the President of ANOCA has been multiplying working meetings with actors of

the international Olympic and sports movement and state authorities. It is in this line that he had a meeting with the Minister of Sports of Ghana, Hon. Mustapha Ussif, during which they mainly





talked about sports development in Africa in general and in Ghana in particular, cooperation relations between his country and ANOCA, and preparations for the All Africa Games to be held in Accra in 2023. Both authorities also exchanged

on Africa's performances in the Tokyo Games. It should be mentioned that during this meeting, ANOCA President was accompanied by the institution's Secretary General, Ingr. Ahmed Abou Elgasim Hashim.



AFRICAN IOC MEMBERS MEET IN TOKYO



An important meeting bringing together IOC African Members, including Mr. Mustapha Berraf, President of ANOCA took place in Tokyo on the sidelines of the 32nd summer Olympic Games. Participants made an appraisal of Africa's preparations for these games and the Continent's mid-term performances during this

competition. They also expressed satisfaction on efforts deployed by ANOCA to support the continent's athletes. The health situation the world is facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic was also scrutinized. On this issue, African IOC Members hailed the involvement of various actors of the African Olympic and sports movement to fight this pandemic.

MUSTAPHA BERRAF VISITS AFRICAN ATHLETES



ANOCA President, Mr. Mustapha Berraf visited African athletes present in Tokyo. During this visit, he addressed them a message of support from the entire African Olympic and sport movement. Mr. Berraf notably told athletes that despite the Covid-19 pandemic, they were able to qualify for the Olympic Games and to train in good conditions. *« Be able ambassadors of the entire African continent here in*

Tokyo. I wish you all full success » he concluded. It should be noted that about 896 African athletes are taking part in these 32nd summer Olympic Games.





GALLERY















