
Olympism

THE DAKAR MEETING

For the fourth time in its history, the IOC held a meeting of its Executive Board in Africa. After Cairo (Egypt) in 1938, Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) in 1977 and Tunis (Tunisia) in 1978, Dakar, the capital of Senegal, played host to the Olympic Movement last February. The IOC President said: *"We came to Africa to pay tribute to Africa's athletes and sports leaders. We came to Senegal to pay tribute to Judge Kéba Mbaye, for his commitment and devotion to the Olympic cause."*

In his welcome speech, the President of the Republic of Senegal, Abdoulaye

Wade, recalled that: *"Olympism is also a form of humanism as it corresponds to a vision of the world which is in line with the principles of fundamental respect of men and women, their freedom and their dignity Differences enrich it rather than creating a barrier."* He added that *"at a time when the pace of globalization is matched by the development of sport and Olympism, I am happy that the IOC decided to begin the new millennium in Africa. We see this choice as one of confirmation and encouragement, as well as commitment to the demanding yet exciting path that leads to sporting*

excellence [...] Africa's Olympic future is therefore promising. It will depend on our ability to create the future from reality and the willingness of the IOC to accompany us in our conquest of the 'unattainable', since there are no limits to human progress."

Since gaining independence in 1960, Senegal has played a leading role in the promotion of sport, particularly Olympism. Judge Kéba Mbaye, IOC vice-president and chairman of the Ethics, Nominations, Juridical and Sport and Law Commissions, has been an IOC member since 1973. Lamine Diack, now president of the



The President of the Republic of Senegal, Abdoulaye Wade, wearing the Olympic Order, alongside the IOC President, the members of the Executive Board and other guests.

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International Amateur Athletic Federation and the NOC, joined him as a Senegalese IOC member in 1999, and Abdoulaye Seye Moreau who is president of the International Basketball Federation.

The agenda of the Executive Board's first meeting of the year included reports from the various IOC commissions and organizing committees for forthcoming Olympic Games. After the meetings, the members of the Executive Board were received at the Presidential Palace by the Senegalese Head of State, who appointed the IOC President as a Grand Officer of the National Order. On behalf of the Olympic Movement, the IOC President awarded the Olympic Order in gold to the Head of State, and the Pierre de Coubertin medal to Judge Mbaye. The previous day, at a dinner hosted by the president of the NOC, Lamine Diack, the IOC President had awarded the IOC 2000 trophy to Lamine Ba, former secretary general of the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa (SCSA) and the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA), and currently Programme Manager of the Olympafrica International Foundation.



Children of the Ecole Actuelle Bilingue (bilingual school) in Dakar wearing the Olympic colours.



Presentation of paintings featuring portraits of the Executive Board members.



President Lamine Diack (centre), secretary general Tall Bouya Thiare (2nd from left) and member of the Senegalese NOC.



Judge Kéba Mbaye, surrounded by his golfing colleagues and friends, at the presentation of the golf trophy carrying his name in Dakar.

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Musical interlude performed by children of the Ecole Actuelle Bilingue (bilingual school) in Dakar at Judge Mbaye's residence.



(left to right) Françoise Zweifel, Ousmane Sow and Tall Bouya Thiare, standing in front of the sculpture 'Runner at the Starting Line', by Sow.

ANOC in Lomé

The Executive Council of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) held its 36th meeting in Lomé, Togo, last February. On this occasion, Gnassingbé Eyadema, the Togolese Head of State who is also the President of the Organization of African Unity, was awarded ANOC's gold Order of Merit by its president, Mario Vázquez Raña. Among those

present were the IOC President; the Head of Government, Messan Agbéyomé Kodjo; the President of the National Assembly, Fambaré Ouattara Natchaba; the Minister for Culture, Youth and Sport, Klassou Kmoi; the President of the Togolese NOC, Zoumaro Gnofame; and members of ANOC's Executive Council. During his speech, the Head of State recalled the "value of sport in the lives of peoples,

countries and, men and women in general. Sport contributes significantly to the promotion of peace, security, political stability and the physical development of humanity." It should be recalled that in Lomé, in June 1981, the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA) was created, and its first president, Anani Matthia, has been an IOC member in Togo since 1983.



Togo's Head of State, Gnassingbé Eyadema, surrounded by the IOC President (right), the President of ANOC (left), and the members of ANOC's Executive Council.