

# QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April to June 2020



Rwanda Sport Movement joined Rwandans and the entire world to remember and pay respect to **the victims killed during the Genocide against the Tutsi.**



RNOSC Webinar Series In Response to **COVID-19 Impact**



The Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee celebrated **the Olympic Day 2020**

## O. Editorial Message

Dear our Rwandan Sport Family,

We are delighted to release the quarterly newsletter of year 2020/2021, which covers three months from April to June.

This platform is a trustworthy and inspiring source for you of every activity of Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee (RNOSC) and its Member National Sports Federations, as well as another opportunity to keep promoting the Olympism. This newsletter is also one of the RNOSC communication strategies to share its activities with the Rwanda Sport Movement and to increase its visibility in Rwanda and abroad.

Though we are still facing this pandemic, we are trying to run some sports activities within context of COVID-19 thus we really glad to publish this newsletter as a sign that life goes on, a hope that we will finally win this battle very soon and be reunited by sport.

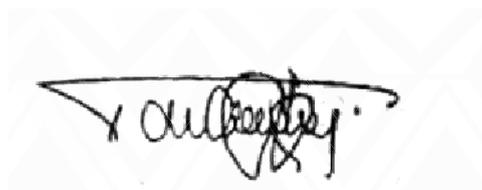
As contribution of RNOSC in fighting the COVID-19, we have organized a series of webinars with topics related to the COVID-19 and Post-COVID-19 impact on our athletes and Rwanda Sport Movement in general and we donated to more than 700 motorbike taxi men and women in Kigali City as part of the Olympic Day 2020 celebrations.

Let me conclude by encouraging everybody to keep respecting the measures put in place to prevent the COVID-19 outbreak and reminding our athletes to stay active and strong.

We are all in this global health crisis, together and united by our Olympic values, we will overcome it.

Happy reading!

Sincerely,



**Amb. Valens Munyabagisha**  
**President.**



## I. Virtual meeting with 10 National Sports Federations regarding the Long Term Athlete Preparation Programme For The Rwandan Athletes (Dakar 2022 Project)

On the 27th of May 2020, The Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee (RNOSC) held an online meeting with representatives from 10 national sports federations.

The meeting aimed to deliberate a long term athlete preparation programme for the Rwandan Athletes from their younger age in a continuous cycle leading to good performance.

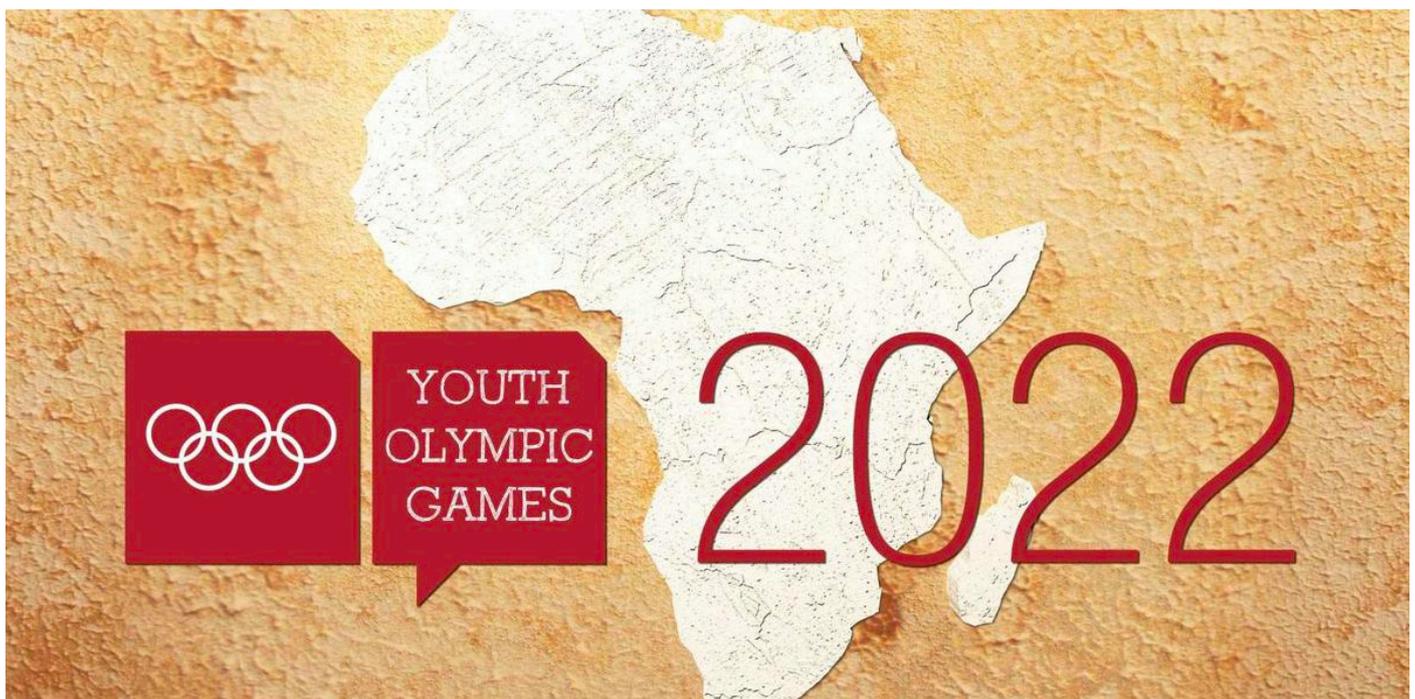
The selection of those 10 sport disciplines is based on the current performance of our athletes, the sports chosen by the host cities of the future games and on the limited capacity of the Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee.

The number of beneficiaries can be increased once the other federations are committed to implement the project and with also the support of partners.

The first experience about the proposed model would be to focus on the 2021 Anoca Zone V Youth Games in Cairo – Egypt, the Commonwealth Youth Games 2021 in Trinidad and Tobago, the African Youth Games 2022 in Maseru-Lesotho, all events reading to the 2022 Youth Olympics games in Dakar Senegal.

The selected 10 National sports federations that are in plan Road to 2022 Dakar:

1. Rwanda Athletics Federation
2. Rwanda Basketball Federation: 3\*3
3. Rwanda Cycling Federation
4. Rwanda Karate Federation
5. Rwanda Kung Fu-Wushu Federation
6. Rwanda Swimming Federation
7. Rwanda Table Tennis Federation
8. Rwanda Taekwondo Federation
9. Rwanda Tennis Federation
10. Rwanda Volleyball Federation (Beach Volleyball)



# Genocide Memorial Tournament 2020 (GMT 2020)



REPUBURIKA Y'U RWANDA  
MINISITERI YA SIPORO



RWANDA



## II. Rwanda Sport Movement joined Rwandans and the entire world to remember and pay respect to the victims killed during the Genocide against the Tutsi.

*Due to COVID-19, the Rwanda Sport Movement has participated at the 26th commemoration of Genocide against the Tutsi by organizing following activities:*

- 1. Writing an open letter to the Olympic and Commonwealth Games Federation families regarding the 26th Commemoration of the Genocide against Tutsi.*
- 2. Genocide Memorial Tournament 2020 (GMT 2020)*

## II.1. An open letter from the RNOSC President regarding the 26th Commemoration of the Genocide against Tutsi.

Dear Rwandans sportsmen and women,

Dear Olympic and Commonwealth Games Federation family,

The world is going through a very difficult and challenging time. All of us are struggling to stop the spread of COVID-19, but unfortunately some people are dying day after day in many countries. Rwanda is one of the countries affected by COVID-19 and has implemented a lockdown to protect the citizens and reduce the spread of this pandemic.

During this global challenging time of COVID-19 pandemic, from April 7th to July 3rd, 2020, Rwandans will be commemorating the Genocide against Tutsi for the 26th time. During the week from 7th to 13th April 2020, all Rwandans and friends of Rwanda will carry out from home activities related to paying tribute to more than 1 million Tutsi including sportsmen and women who perished during the Genocide that was meticulously prepared and perpetrated by the government of that time between April 7th and July 3rd in 1994.

At different occasions, our Olympic and Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) family have demonstrated its support to all of us and especially to the survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi.

We particularly remember the sense of humanity of the whole CGF family at the occasion of the 24th Commemoration of the Genocide against Tutsi. During the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games in Australia, a minute of silence in memory of the victims of the Genocide against Tutsi was observed and some of you participated in the commemoration organized by the Rwandan community living in Brisbane, Australia.

The African Sports and Olympic family participated at the 25th Genocide commemoration and was represented by the IOC Member and President of the Association of the National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA), **Mr. Mustapha Berraf**, the Secretary General **Eng. Ahmed Abou Elgasim**, President of ANOCA Zone 5 and IOC Member **Mr. William Frederick Blick**, Presidents of National Olympic Committees of the ANOCA Zone 5 with more than 300 young players coming from 11 countries and **France** as guest. The Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee and the Rwandan sports and Olympic family will always be very grateful.

The 26th Commemoration of the Genocide against Tutsi which starts on this 7th April 2020 will be another very hard period for all of us especially the survivors of the Genocide against the Tutsi. It is going to happen at a moment we are all locked at home due to Covid-19. It is a time Rwandans and survivors need much more support from you. A special thought of our Olympic values of friendship, respect and excellence and our CGF values of humanity, equality and destiny would be enough to stop the revisionism and the denial of the Genocide against Tutsi. It would support their usual resilience and would demonstrate to them that life is going on.

**Together WE REMEMBER, UNITE, RENEW**

**“Building a peaceful and a better world through sport and Olympic ideals”**

Done at Kigali, April 7th, 2020.

Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee & Rwanda Commonwealth Games Association.

## II.2. Genocide Memorial Tournament 2020 (GMT 2020)

Every month of June is a special period for Rwanda Sport Movement to join forces with the world to remember and pay respect to the Rwandans especially the sportsmen and women killed in 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi by organizing different commemoration activities.

Normally, the commemoration activities are divided into 3 parties:

- 1. A walk to remember and discussions for the fight against Genocide ideology.**
- 2. Financially supporting the vulnerable survivors of 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi by Rwanda Sport Movement.**
- 3. Genocide Memorial Tournaments organized by all 33 National Sports Federations through the Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee in partnership with the Ministry of Sports.**

In order to respect the Rwanda's guidelines to slow and fight COVID-19 where gatherings and sports activities are not yet allowed, this year of 2020 was marked by the visit of Rwanda Sport Movement to Kigali Genocide Memorial and a media tour to raise awareness of GMT's purpose:

On the 1st of June 2020, the Rwanda Sport Movement team led by the Minister of Sports, Hon. Aurore Mimosa Munyangaju visited the Kigali Genocide Memorial to begin a week to commemorate the sportsmen and women who were killed during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. The team was composed by the representatives from the Ministry of Sports, Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee and National Sports Federations.

### Media Tour:

on the 3rd and the 7th of June, the Rwanda National Television hosted officials from

sports institutions to discuss following topics:

### On 3rd June:



From left up: Permanent Secretary at Ministry of Sports Mr. Didier Maboko Shema, the RNOSC 2nd Vice President Mr. Festus Bizimana || From left down: President of Rwanda Volleyball Federation Mr. Leandre Karekezi and Cycling Olympian Mr. Adrien Niyonshuti.

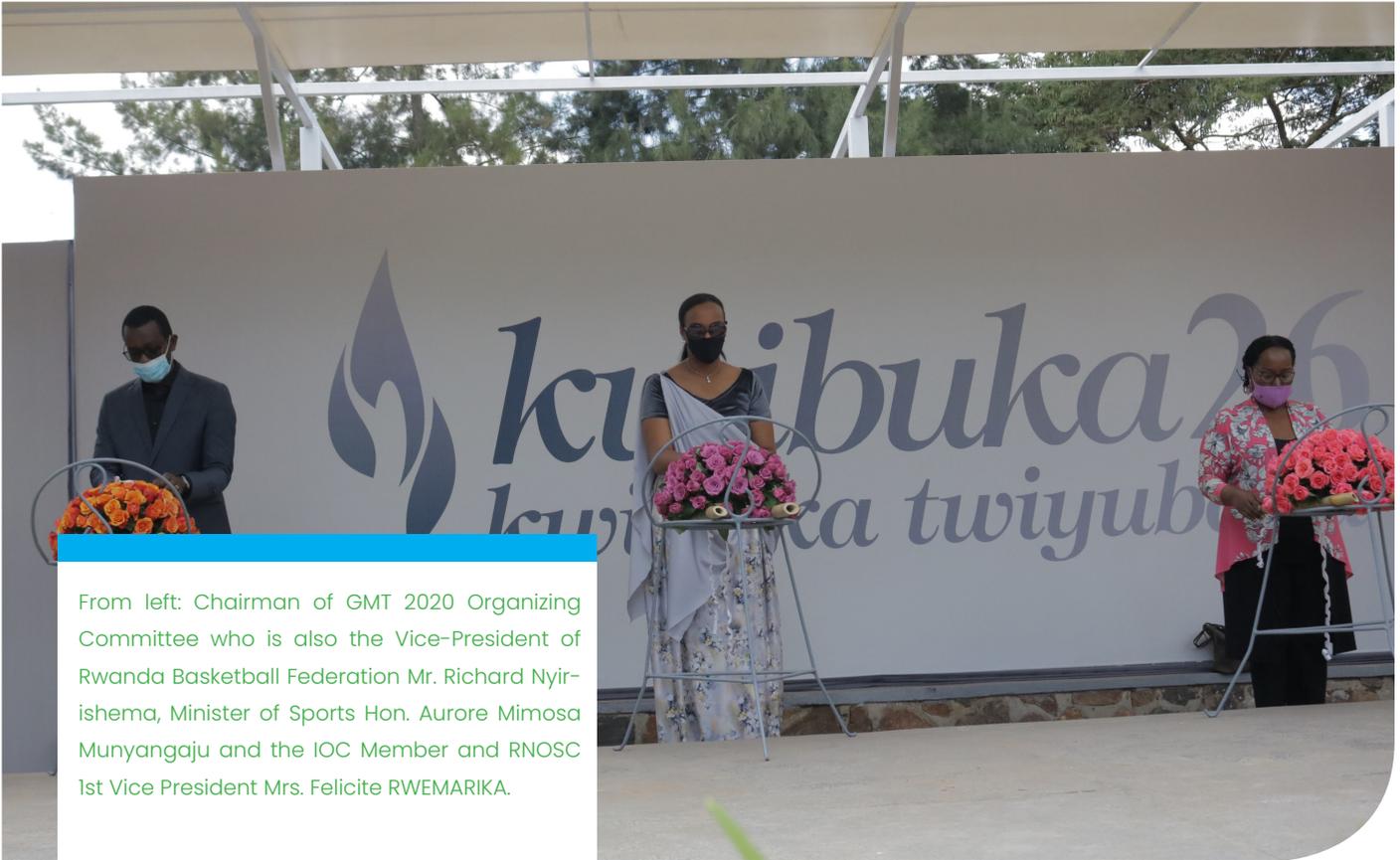
**Topic:** “Contribution of Genocide Memorial Tournaments in promoting unity and reconciliation in Rwanda and generally in Eastern African Community.”

### On 7th June:

**Topic:** “Contribution of sports administration and sports policies in rebuilding the nation after the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi.”



Speakers in the studio from right: President of Rwanda Cycling Federation Mr. Abdallah Murenzi, Minister of Sports Hon. Aurore Mimosa Munyangaju and Senator Charles UYISENGA



From left: Chairman of GMT 2020 Organizing Committee who is also the Vice-President of Rwanda Basketball Federation Mr. Richard Nyirishema, Minister of Sports Hon. Aurore Mimosa Munyangaju and the IOC Member and RNOSC 1st Vice President Mrs. Felicite RWEMARIKA.

After writing in the memorial’s guest book a message of hope, remembrance and peace, the Minister of Sports Hon. Aurore Mimosa Munyangaju has donated to Kigali Genocide Memorial a financial support on behalf of the Rwanda Sport Movement.





Representatives of National Sports Federations







**15th June:**

Are youth and sport on grassroots level in danger? [the discussions held in French]

You can rewatch the webinar here:

<https://youtu.be/7x-4IW9T2wQ>



**16th June:**

How to fight COVID-19 impact on athletes/clubs: role of media and all partners in sports. [the discussions held in English]

You can rewatch the webinar here:

[https://youtu.be/IRYVR\\_NirJg](https://youtu.be/IRYVR_NirJg)

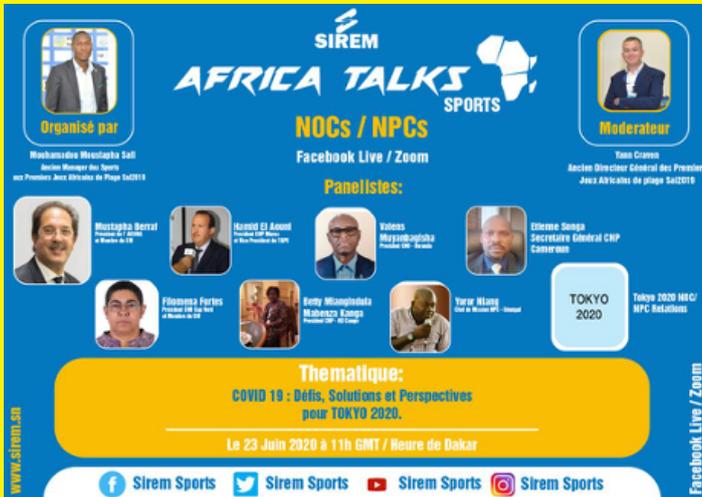


**19th June:**

Partners and rights holders in Africa and Rwanda after the COVID-19 crisis. [the discussions held in French]

You can rewatch the webinar here:

<https://youtu.be/h-yIN4-leEK>

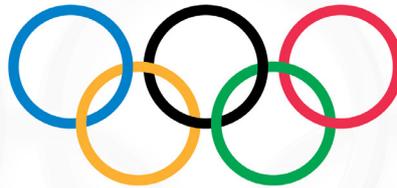


**23rd June:**

The President of Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee Amb. Valens Muryabagisha has also participated as panelist at the Africa Talks –Sports, organized by the Sports International Relations & Events managements with topic “Challenges, solutions and perspectives for Tokyo 2020.” The IOC Member and President of ANOCA Mr. Mustapha Berraf was also among the panelists. [The discussions held in French]

You can rewatch the webinar here:

<https://youtu.be/dmwe6pazvNo>



# OLYMPIC DAY

TUESDAY, 23 JUNE 2020

## IV. The Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee celebrated the Olympic Day 2020

*Though the COVID-19 pandemic is still a big challenge the entire world is facing and many activities are yet closed including sports events, Rwanda has organized different activities through digital platforms to celebrate the Olympic Day:*

1. *Olympic Day 2020 Message from the RNOSC President.*
2. *Webinar with a topic “Olympic Day, How Olympic values and sport values can be used to fight COVID-19 and its consequences.”*
3. *Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee donated hand sanitizers to taxi-moto riders in Kigali city as part of*

*the Olympic Day 2020 celebrations.*

4. *Olympic Day 2020 Messages from Rwandan athletes, Olympians, coaches and RNOSC officials.*

## IV.1. Olympic Day 2020 Message

Fellow Rwandans and Sports lovers, fellow RNOSC partners in developing sport in Rwanda.

As you may already be aware of Rwanda and the world has been going through trying times where we are all requested to respect our health and our counterpart's in fighting COVID-19.

These are special times in Sports as sport competitions have been stopped not because of wars but to counter the spread of this virus.

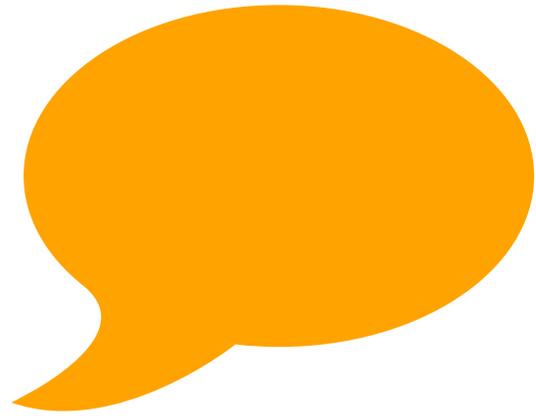
Every year, on June 23rd, the NOCs celebrate the Olympic Day with sports lovers to commemorate Olympic values, the value of sport in developing mankind and promote peace. We as Rwandans (RNOSC) are celebrating the Olympic day to reflect on how the Olympic values help our fellow Rwandans and sports lover to self-develop.

The IOC first demanded this celebration in 1948 to all the countries that had NOCs. At that time, only 10 countries celebrated the Olympic Day. Nowadays, this celebration happens in the NOCs throughout the world.

This year's message is special as we are addressing all the sport's actors as opposed to every other year where children and young ones are the principal beneficiaries. Through this day, they are reminded of Excellence, respect and friendship.

With the threat that the corona virus represents, there was no proper way to celebrate the Olympic Day in multiple schools throughout the country by having sports competitions and special messages that encourage them to be good citizens as we usually do.

For this year's celebration, we plan on basing our help on the fight against COVID-19 by encouraging sports lovers to combat the spread of this virus, we will also



be donating hand sanitizers to motorbike taxi men and women in Kigali City.

During June, we had interesting talks that were spread through our social media networks. We have invited sports expert to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on sports and how to lessen the said impact.

A special webinar is scheduled on the 23rd. This session will discuss the role of Olympic values and sports values in the fight against COVID-19 and Olympic values related messages will be spread throughout our social media networks.

The wellness of our athletes should be our top priority. That is why throughout this week we are encouraged to think about solutions that are oriented towards the wellbeing of our athletes during and especially after the COVID-19 crisis.

I wish you all a good Olympic Day celebration and all together we will overcome this virus, thank you and may God bless you!

**Amb. Valens Munyabagisha**

**You can watch it here with English subtitles:**

<https://youtu.be/MtH-Lm4MAxk>

## IV.2. Olympic Day 2020 Webinar

As part of the Olympic Day celebrations, the Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee hosted a webinar with topic “Olympic Day, How Olympic values and sport values can be used to fight COVID-19 and its consequences.”

The event was hosted by the IOC Member and RNOSC 1st Vice President Mrs. Felicite Rwemairika and moderated by the Radio/TV1 Journalist Mrs. Assumpta Mukeshimana. On the panel was the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Sports Mr. Shema-Maboko Didier, the Secretary General and President of Rwanda Olympians Association Mr. Alexis Sharangabo, the President of Rwanda Swimming Federation who is an Olympian Mrs. Pamela Girimbabazi Rugabira and the Secretary General of Rwanda National Paralympic Committee Dr. Dieudonne Mutangana.

You can rewatch the webinar here:

<https://youtu.be/Et2mezDPJz8>

[The discussions held in Kinyarwanda]

## IV.3. Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee donated hand sanitizers to taxi-moto riders in Kigali city as part of the Olympic Day 2020 celebrations

Due to the current context of the COVID-19 pandemic and the restrictions in force, The Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee (RNOSC) celebrated the Olympic Day by donating the hand sanitizers to about 700 taxi-moto riders on Tuesday, June 23, as Rwanda joined the world in marking this year’s Olympic Day.



The President of Federation of Motorcycle Cooperatives, **Mr. Daniel Ngarambe** officially receiving the donation from the IOC Member and RNOSC First Vice President **Mrs. Felicite Rwemairika**.

The donation to moto riders, according to the IOC Member and the RNOSC First Vice President Félicité Rwemarika, will help the moto riders and passengers to combat the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic as new cases in the country have surged over the last two weeks.

The event was graced by the IOC Member and RNOSC 1st Vice-President Mrs. Félicité Rwemarika as the guest of honor, Mr. Gervais Munyanziza who was the Ministry of Sports representative and the President of Federation of Motorcycle Cooperatives (FERWACOTAMO) Mr. Daniel Ngarambe.



From Left: The Ministry of Sports representative Mr. Gervais Munyanziza, IOC Member and RNOSC 1st Vice-President Mrs. Felicite Rwemarika, President of Federation of Motorcycle Cooperatives (FERWACOTAMO) Mr. Daniel Ngarambe, RNOSC Advisor and President of National Olympic Academy Mr. Eugene Nzabanterura and President of Rwanda Olympians Association who is also the Secretary General Mr. Alexis Sharangabo.

“In recent years, we usually marked the day by organising youth competitions but unfortunately it was not possible this time round due to the Covid-19 pandemic,” she said at the function to hand over the donation in Downtown, Nyarugenge District.

“Motor riders are one of the most exposed people, and at the same time the hand sanitisers will also protect their passengers.

That is why we chose this particular group for the donation. We are happy to join the government’s efforts in tackling the pandemic.” she added.



The IOC Member and RNOSC 1st Vice-President Mrs. Felicite Rwemarika speaking during the Olympic Day 2020 celebrations.

The Ministry of Sports representative Mr. Gervais Munyanziza applauded the initiative and reminded that everyone is concerned in this fight so that the Ministry of Sports can

resume mass sports and other sports activities in general soon as possible and he requested the moto riders to use



Mr. Gervais Munyanziza, the Ministry of Sports Representative

the hand sanitizers properly

The President of Federation of Motorcycle Cooperatives (FERWACOTAMO) Mr. Daniel Ngarambe thanked the Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee for the support and to have been thought of in these difficult times. He promised the participation of Taxi-motos in the fight against the Coronavirus.



The President of Federation of Motorcycle Cooperatives (FERWACOTAMO) **Mr. Daniel Ngarambe.**



Olympians at the Olympic Day 2020 celebrations (From right: Sharangabo Alexis, Mparabanyi Faustin, Girimbabazi Rugabira Pamela, Ntawurikura Mathias, Nyirabarambe Epiphanie, Agahozo Alphonsine and Mukamutesi Christine).

Also present at the event was a team of athletes led by volleyball athlete Olivier Ntagengwa, President of the RNOSC Athletes Commission and a group of Rwandan Olympians led by their president Mr. Alexis Sharangabo who is also the Secretary General of Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee.



Athletes at the Olympic Day 2020 celebrations. (From right: Ntagengwa Olivier/Volleyball, Emery Bayisenge/Football, Micomyiza Rosine Cisse/Basketball, Liliame Mukobwankawe/Sitting Volleyball, John Hakizimana/Athletics and Muhitira Felicien aka Magare/Athletics).

*“Olympic Day is a global celebration of the founding of the International Olympic Committee and the modern Olympic Movement by **Pierre de Coubertin** in 1894.”*

## IV.4. Olympic Day 2020 Messages from Rwandan athletes, Olympians, coaches and RNOSC officials

*During this time of COVID-19, the use of digital platforms has become standard meetings location and easiest way to communicate. Our athletes, Olympians, coaches took this advantage to wish everyone a happy Olympic Day and promoting Olympic Values through the RNOSC social media networks.*



You can watch all Olympic Day/Olympic Week videos messages here [Kinyarwanda version]:

- **Athletes messages (Areruya Joseph/Cycling, Olivier Shyaka/Basketball, Haruna Niyonzima/Football, Liliane Mukobwankawe/Sitting Volleyball, John Hakizimana/Athletics, Tuyisenge Jacques/Football, Muvunyi Hermas Cliff/Para-Athletics, Munezero Valentine/Beach Volleyball and Muhitira Felicien/Athletics)**

<https://youtu.be/8tRovA41iuk>

- **Olympians Messages (Alexis Sharangabo/Athletics, Bukusenge Nathan/Cycling and Pamela Girimbabazi Rugabira/Swimming):**

<https://youtu.be/ZVVOVwAjyqQ>

- **Coaches Messages (Mashami Vincent/Football, Karasira Eric/Athletics, Habimana Mugwaneza Claudette/Basketball):**

<https://youtu.be/BnYWHVg-Cvg>

- **RNOSC Officials Messages (Felicite Rwemari-ka/1st Vice-President, Festus Bizimana/2nd Vice-President and Eugene Nzabanterura/RNOSC Advisor & National Olympic Academy President):**

<https://youtu.be/f7zk8otNVfo>

## V. Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee supporting the athletes ahead the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

### V.1. RNOSC Support for qualified athletes

The Rwanda National Olympic and Sports Committee has recently awarded a financial support to two athletes namely Muhitira Felicien and John Hakizimana who have qualified to compete in marathon at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. This support will help them to prepare in good conditions ahead of the Olympic Games 2020.



Muhitira Felicien AKA Magare (left) and John Hakizimana (right).

### V.2. Olympic scholarships

This is the program benefited by the top athletes displaying the ability to qualify for the Olympic Games. From 2018, 5 athletes benefited this program in Athletics and Cycling. Those athletes are Mr. Sugira James (Athletics), Ms. Marthe Yankuriye (Athletics), Mr. Areruya Joseph (Cycling), Mr. Mugisha Samuel (Cycling) and Mr. Munyaneza Didier (Cycling).



Areruya Joseph (Cycling)



Mugisha Samuel (Cycling)



Sugira James (Athletics)



Munyaneza Didier (Cycling)



Marthe Yankurije (Athletics)

## V.3 Team Support Grant program

This program is designed for a team sport with the high chances to qualify to the Olympic Games. Following their good performance since 2017 and ranking among top African teams, Beach Volleyball teams were chosen as a beneficiary of the program. This program is underway from 2017 until 2020 and the women and men beach volleyball teams have qualified to the 2nd round of the continental cup acting as the qualifiers to the Olympic Games.

2 more rounds will need to be played to qualify and all qualified teams for Tokyo 2020 will be announced not later than on 23rd of June 2021. Munezero Valentine and Nzayisenga Charlotte who compose the Women Beach Volleyball Team and the duo of Olivier Ntagengwa and Patrick Kavalo Akumuntu for the Men's Team benefiting this program.

***“We wish all our athletes good luck in their future competitions after this COVID-19 pandemic!”***



Women's Beach Volleyball Team: Nzayisenga Charlotte (left) and Valentine Munezero (right).



The duo of Olivier Ntagengwa and Patrick Kavalo Akumuntu in action.



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