



# GoodSport NEWS

S R I L A N K A O L Y M P I C W E E K L Y N E W S B U L L E T I N

SPORTS NEWS

## NOC Sri Lanka Election for 2022 -2026



### Suresh Subramaniam back at the helm of NOC SL

*Maxwell de Silva  
too reelected as Secretary General*

**I**ncumbent National Olympic Committee President Suresh Subramaniam overwhelmingly retained the custody of the governance of the team for the period of 2022 to 2026 at its quadrennial elections held at the Hemasiri Fernando Auditorium today.

As expected, Subramaniam a vice president of the Sri Lanka Tennis Association convincingly beat his rival General Palitha Fernando of the Sri Lanka Athletics at 21votes to 12votes.



Continued on Page 02



*“ Mohan Wijesinghe representing the Badminton Association received only 10 votes against the 23 votes received by de Silva. ”*

From page 01

In the other major position contested, serving Secretary General Maxwell de Silva proved that the majority of the Federations had kept their faith in the governing style of the veteran who is from the -

Judo Federation by a margin of 13 votes.

Mohan Wijesinghe representing the Badminton Association received only 10 votes against the 23 votes received by de Silva.

Under the wave of confidence of the Subramaniam faction three of the four vice president posts also were elected from the Subramaniam faction.

From page 02

They are Ms. Niloo Fernando (Golf Union 20 votes), Joseph Keny (Yachting Association 19 votes), Suranjith Premadasa (Equestrian 19 votes) while Kanchana Jayaratne (Sri Lanka Volleyball 20 votes) from the Palitha Fernando faction.

Gamini Jayasinghe of the of the Ski and Snowboarding Association received 23 votes and was elected over Ajith Kumara Siyambalapitiya fencing who received 10 votes.

The two positions of Assistant Secretary – Chandana Liyanage of Sri Lanka Basketball Federation and Assistant Treasurer Shirantha Peiris of the National Shooting Sport Federation came in uncontested as Damika Karandenigoda and Manoj Padmakumara Karunarathne -

were ousted by the elections commission due technical deficiencies in their applications.

Both Karandenigoda and Karunarathne are members of the Archery Association and sympathizes of Palitha Fernando faction.

The elected committee members were Ruwan Alahakoon (Sri Lanka Taekwondo Association 23 votes), Sarath Hewavitharana (Wrestling Federation 22 votes) and Neel Perera of the National Roller-Skating Association of Sri Lanka (22 votes).



## *Queen's Baton Relay - Birmingham 2022*

# Victoria Dam the pinnacle of the Lankan leg



**H**aving visited more than 23 countries and nations in just 81 days, the Queen's Baton Relay has now completed over a quarter of its journey, most recently finishing its tour of the 19 Commonwealth countries in Africa.

While hosting the Baton, each Commonwealth Games Association organises activities to engage young people in sport, showcase their local heroes, and highlight a project that addresses at least one of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

For example, while in Kenya, the Baton was hiked up the Ngong Hills where, at the peak,

the Batonbearers took part in a tree planting activity and were joined by children from local performance group, Huruma Town Kids.

Rwanda demonstrated how they take on Sustainable Development Goals by hosting a visit at the new Nyandungu Urban Wetland Eco-tourism Park which aims to increase and conserve local biodiversity and restore on-land and aquatic habitats.

Whilst in Zambia, the Baton visited Victoria Falls, one of the Seven Wonders of 'The Natural World' and the largest waterfall in the world. Brave Batonbearers swam through the Devil's Pool, a natural rock pool -

along the edge of the falls. Climate justice activist, Enock Mwewa represented Zambia as one of the Batonbearers.

During the visit to Uganda, the Baton visited the Uganda Wildlife Education Centre, which runs conservation projects, as well as the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary, whose mission is to protect chimpanzees and their ecosystems. Supporting the Sustainable Development Goals, Mauritius showcased their low emission transport options around the island, including an electric bus, the public metro and even a sailboat to ferry the Baton to Mahebourg Waterfront.

Continued on Page 05

From page 04

At the Waterfront, Noemi Alphonse, the first Paralympian finalist in Mauritius, carried the Baton.

Celebrating youth engagement in sport, the Queen's Baton visited Government Primary School Bas-tos in Cameroon. Whilst in Lesotho and Eswatini, the Baton was taken to OlympAfrica Centres where sport activities were hosted for children to get involved in.

In Botswana, the Baton visited several schools to engage young people in the Relay. At Tshwaragano Junior Secondary School, 72 students drew the 72 flags of the Commonwealth nations and territories. Local hero and Batonbearer, Oganne Manen-gene represented her community.

Oganne set up a tuck shop using a government grant, she then expanded it to a grocery store, and now she uses its proceeds to build environ-mentally friendly housing for her community.

Each nation also took the Ba-ton to visit their communities' iconic locations or to witness to witness unique perfor-mances, showcasing their culture or history.

In Tanzania, the Baton was taken to the Askari Monu-ment, which memorialises Af-rican soldiers, who fought in the British Campaign against Germany in World War I, where Batonbearers and at-tendees paid their respects to the lives lost.

The Baton visited St Michael and All Angels Church in Ma-lawi, which was built by locals who had no previous formal training.

The church tells the story of a com-munity coming together to create something remarkable for future generations. Mary Waya, who previ-ously competed at three Common-wealth Games in the Malawi Netball Team and then founded the Mary Waya Foundation which encourag-es girls in Africa to take up sport, represented her country as a Baton-bearer.

The Queen's Baton Relay reached the remote volcanic island of St Hel-ena for the first time in eight years where Josh Herne, 16-year-old Ba-tonbearer, carried the Baton up Di-ana's Peak, the island's highest point and Jacob's Ladder, which is 700 steps high.

The Baton was welcomed in Mo-zambique by a Chopi Timbila per-formance, during which musicians use different sized drums to produce a variety of sounds, while the main orchestra is made up of Timbilas, which are similar to xylophones, but are made from a rare wood only found in Inhambane.

*"Each nation also took the Baton to visit their communities' iconic locations or to witness to witness unique performances, showcasing their culture or history."*

While touring South Africa, the Ba-ton was taken to the Big Hole (The Kimberly Mine), an open-pit and underground mine, which was once thought to be the deepest hole exca-vated by hand.

When the mine was active, almost three tons of diamonds was recov-ered from it- which is the same weight as a baby blue whale! In Na-mibia, the Baton was taken on an intense journey, from quad bikes to camel rides, to horseback, and even skydiving, Batonbearers travelled in extreme ways.

The Baton visited many incredible islands and beaches in the Sey-chelles, the first night was spent at one of the beaches with locals per-forming the Moutya dance around a bonfire.

Speaking on the opportunity to be involved in the Queen's Baton Re-lay, Malawian Batonbearer Mary Waya said: "The Commonwealth Games means a lot to me and be-ing a Batonbearer for the Queen's Baton Relay has been a real hon-our. The young girls I train hope to one day represent our country and take on the Baton for the Com-monwealth Games."



*At the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary.*

Continued on Page 03

*"The Lankan leg of the Queen's Baton Relay will take place from 3rd January 2022 to 6th January 2022. The QBR Baton is scheduled to arrive at the BIA at 11.40 a.m. on 3rd January 2022 and will travel to Colombo to the CGA Headquarters in Colombo-7 and culminated with a ceremony at the reception at the British High Commission."*



*The Baton was relayed up Jacob's Ladder and then travelled to the Jamestown Wharf where a group of Prince Andrew School students and members of the Island swim team then performed a relay swimming the Baton to the SS Papanui.*

From page 02

Lisa Hampton, Head of The Queen's Baton Relay, said: "The Queen's Baton has already completed over a quarter of its journey and has shone a spotlight on communities in the African Commonwealth countries and territories and highlighted all the hard work each Commonwealth Games Association puts into organising these incredible events and activities while hosting the Baton."

"Learning about all of the ongoing environmental initiatives, such as the Nyandungu Urban Wetland Ecotourism Park, is amazing and it is a fantastic representation of how the Commonwealth can come together in solidarity and inspire future generations to take on the same responsibility. I can't wait to see the rest of the journey unfold and see how the remaining Commonwealth Games Associations celebrate the Queen's Baton Relay."

The Queen's Baton Relay will now continue its journey around the Commonwealth, starting its South Asian journey in Pakistan, the Maldives, Sri Lanka, then Bangladesh.

The Lankan leg of the Queen's Baton Relay will take place from 3rd January 2022 to 6th January 2022. The QBR Baton is scheduled to arrive at the BIA at 11.40 a.m. on 3rd January 2022 and will travel to Colombo to the CGA Headquarters in Colombo-7 and culminated with a ceremony at the reception at the British High Commission.

On January 4, the Baton will move to the hill country and start the festivities with a reception at the Victoria Dam constructed in 1978 funded by aid granted by the United Kingdom under the patronage of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

The next phase of the festivity will be at the Ranabima Royal College, -

Kandy where the British Council will be conducting an Education programme under the auspicious of CGA Sri Lanka.

On 5 January, the Baton will travel to Hatton to visit a tea estate before travelling down to Colombo in its last leg of festivities.

During the QBR journey in Sri Lanka, the Baton is will also have a programme at the Ceylon School for the deaf and blind in Ratmalana, Temple Trees and then move to Independence Square for some sports activity in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth and Sports.



# Athletes' Skills Development Programme - 2021

The National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka - Crysbro Next Champ held an Athletes' Skills Development Programme - 2021 over the last four months on various topics for the Next Champ scholarship holders. This programme was created to enhance the junior athletes' skills and prepare them for their international competitions.

The main objective of the program is to develop athletes' skills, such as English language level, leadership, sport disciplines, and related knowledge. This would be an excellent opportunity for athletes to forge a more successful career in sports. All the selected Next Champ scholarship holders were part of the programme.

There were eight sessions in this programme consisting of basic English for athletes, leadership and teamwork, communication skills, preparation of resume, Olympism and Olympic values, competition preparation, basic English writing skills, and an interactive session with the global sport managers.

These sessions were facilitated by Mr. Shehan Ambepitiya, Ms. Hansika Wijayagunasekara, Mr. Gobinath Sivarajah, Ms. Charuni Dissanayake, and Ms. Dinkey Bandara. The last session was led by the Global Sport Managers: Ms. Zaya Yadamdorj of Mongolia, Mr. Derrick Ntege of Uganda, Ms. Kaji Krichena of India, and Ms. Xueying Ma (Michelle) of China. They have shared their sport experience and inspirational stories with our junior athletes.

***“ As an athlete, this programme changed me as a knowledgeable athlete who got to know a lot of necessary information about the sport. The effort that was put in by the NOC Sri Lanka is really fantastic. It was a pleasure to be a part of this skills development programme. ”***

At the closing ceremony of the programme, the president of NOC Sri Lanka, Mr. Suresh Subramaniam emphasized that every athlete has to focus on what they want to achieve in their career, which is really important. At the end of the programme, the athletes who had fulfilled the requirements of the course were issued certificates.

Dhanushan, a junior golfer, commented on the programme “As an athlete, this programme changed me as a knowledgeable athlete who got to know a lot of necessary information about the sport. The effort that was put in by the NOC Sri Lanka is really fantastic. It was a pleasure to be a part of this skills development programme.”

“This is a great move by the National Olympic Committee of Sri Lanka when it comes to nurturing the NextGen athletes. We should all learn from them,” one of the global sport managers of this programme, Derrick Ntege, said.

One of the session facilitators, Shehan Ambepitiya who won three gold medals in a Youth Commonwealth Games described the programme that, “The young athletes we focus on through this program are national assets and the future of our country.

“This is not just another program that funds athletes to continue their sports, but a program that develops their skills and teaches them how to win in life in a competitive world. I do believe that thousands of youths in our country will be motivated to participate in and continue sports as a profession in the future.”

One of the global sport managers of the programme Zaya Yadamdorj, World Universiade Shooting Champion tweeted, “Great to see how NOC Sri Lanka contributes to the next generation of athletes through various effective programs. I really enjoyed the session. All the bests to the young athletes and the Sri Lanka NOC team.”