



BOTSWANA NATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE



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MEDIA RELEASE

100 Day Countdown to Samoa 2015 Commonwealth Youth Games for Team BOTSWANA

Gaborone: In just 100 days, up to 1000 young Commonwealth athletes aged 14–18, will compete for 107 Gold Medals in 9 sports over 5 days at the Vth Commonwealth Youth Games, to be held on the Pacific island nation of Samoa from 5–11 September 2015.

The Commonwealth Youth Games are for some – like Nijel Amos (Athletics) the springboard to future Commonwealth Games glory; for many, a formative first taste of international multi-sport competition; and for all, a joyous celebration of high-performance sport, personal development and new Commonwealth friendships made on the level playing field of sport.

The action takes place in the Samoa's capital, Apia, across two sporting complexes that will play host to Aquatics (Swimming), Archery, Athletics, Boxing, Lawn Bowls, Rugby Sevens, Squash, Tennis and Weightlifting.

Botswana will send a delegation of no more than thirteen athletes. To date nine (9) young athletes have been selected to make the journey to Samoa to represent Botswana being six (6) from athletics, two (2) from Boxing and one (1) from Swimming. The team includes Africa Youth Game Gold Medalists, Karabo Sibanda and Rajab Mahomed as well as other medalist Kutlwano Ogaketse (Boxing) and David Van der Colff (Swimming). Two other athletes are on the verge of qualifying

Like the Commonwealth Games, all athletes stay in athletes' village-style accommodation and events comply with International Federation technical rules and regulations, giving many competitors their first taste of an international multi-sport environment. World anti-doping standards also apply. Off the field of play, the Youth Games nurtures the next generation of global sporting citizens by focusing on friendship, integrity and cross-Commonwealth inter-cultural exchange - learning and living the Commonwealth Games Federation's values of Humanity, Equality, Destiny.

The host nation, Samoa, which means Sacred (Sa') Centre (Moa) of the Universe, is a small, tropical island nation in the Central Pacific with a young population of 187,000, over half of whom are 25 and under.

Launched in 2000 and now in its 5th edition, the Youth Games are a sustainable opportunity for smaller cities and nations to benefit from hosting a major sporting event, using predominantly pre-existing venues (in Samoa's case constructed for the 2007 Pacific Games) whilst also promoting an inclusive and positive youth agenda.

With 50% of Commonwealth citizens aged 25 and under, the Youth Games play a vital part in the Commonwealth Games Federation's vision to inspire Commonwealth athletes to drive the ambition and power of all Commonwealth citizens through sport.

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#SamoaCYG2015

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