

REMARKS BY
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PRESIDENT, BARBADOS OLYMPIC ASSOCIATION, INC.
"FLOW" OLYMPIC FAN EXPERIENCE
DOVER PLAYING FIELD
FRIDAY JUNE 24TH

The Honorable Stephen Lashley, Minister of Culture, Sports and Youth, Your Excellency Luiz Gilberto Seixas De Andrade, Ambassador to Brazil, Mrs. Shelly Ann Hee Chung, FLOW Head of Marketing, Ms. Marilyn Sealy, FLOW Director of Communications and Stakeholder Engagement, other distinguished guests, colleagues in sport, ladies and gentlemen.

Yesterday was Olympic Day, the anniversary of the formation of the modern Olympic movement and more than four million people around the world took part in events designed to encourage physical activity, to demonstrate Olympic values and to motivate healthier lifestyles. Here in Barbados my association held a number of events starting on Saturday.

Yesterday, Olympic Day over 200 primary school children participated in various activities at the Olympic Centre up until 6 pm when the adult action took over until 9 pm. This afternoon's event will bring the curtain down on the Barbados Olympic Week activities and I must thank Flow not only for organizing this Olympic Fan Experience to help us promote Olympic Sport and the Olympic Movement in Barbados but also for inviting me to part of this celebration. I must also yet again express sincere appreciation to Flow for partnering with the Barbados Olympic Association to help us fulfill our quest to promote healthy lifestyles for all Barbadians. I plead with other members of the private sector to follow this fantastic example.

Let me also say that my capacity as Chairman of the Caribbean Association of National Olympic Committees and Chairman of CANOC Broadcasting Inc., we are deeply indebted to FLOW and CWC for being the primary sponsor for the coverage of the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. For the first time, Caribbean people will have a dedicated television service, zeroing in on our athletes and be able to witness first hand, not only the thrill of victory but also the agony of defeat. The coverage will be carried by CBC and ESPN and there will also be an additional 12 FLOW channels with viewing for every sport in progress during the Games. So, if you would prefer to watch equestrian or

swimming, you would simply tune in to the equestrian channel, either on your television or hand-held device.

We anticipate that we will have a team of just under 20 athletes taking part. Jason Wilson will make history as the first Caribbean Triathlete to compete in an Olympic Games. Also for the first time Barbados will compete in tennis with our tennis star Daren King and as I speak the National Athletics Championships are starting at the National Stadium and so by Monday we will know our full team.

I constantly acclaim that we should be celebrating the fact that our small country has athletes that can qualify for the Olympics, despite the fact that we do not have the level of financial support which is at the disposal of larger, wealthier countries.

Your Excellency, we are looking forward to being in your country and taking part in the first Olympic Games in South America. I recently returned from Brazil where I was present for the arrival of the Olympic Flame on Brazilian soil. I was presented with one of the actual Olympic flame torches which I have here tonight. I should mention that in a recent letter to the president of the Organizing Committee my good friend Carlos Nuzman, I said this in my capacity as Caribbean Olympic Chair, and I quote "as the time draws near for the Opening Ceremony of the 2016 Olympic Games, please take solace, during these difficult times, in the fact that CANOC, and all of our Caribbean members stand fully behind the Organizing Committee and yourself, to ensure that the first Olympic Games in South America will be the most successful ever. We pledge to partake in the Games in our full capacity consistent with our membership within the Olympic family. Indeed, the Caribbean once again looks forward to making a salient imprint in the Games of 2016." End of quote.

Minister, Ambassador, executives of Flow ladies and gentlemen indeed Barbados looks forward to making an imprint in Rio. Once more I express appreciation to Flow for their support of the Barbados Olympic movement and for organizing tonight's event. I thank all of you for listening and hope you enjoy the rest of night's activities.