



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Education

30th Pan-African Mathematics Olympiad 2023
Closing Ceremony - Intare Conference Arena

Sunday 21st May 2023 2:00pm – 4:30 pm

Guest of Honour Remarks

Hon. Dr. Valentine UWAMARIYA
Minister of Education
Email: vuwamariya@gov.rw

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- **IMO Board President – Prof Gregor Dolinar**
 - **President African Mathematics Union - Prof. Basile Guy Richard Bossoto,**
 - **Executive Chairperson PAMO Commission - Prof. Nouzha El Yacoubi, ,**
 - **President AIMS Rwanda Prof Sam Yala and Chief Scientific Officer AIMS Global Network Prof. Wilfred Ndifon**
 - **Senior Olympiad Advisor – Mr Arun Shanmuganathan**
 - **Chair Ms Jessica Weitbrech and Members of the Local Organizing Committee**
 - **Representatives of Mastercard Foundation**
 - **Representatives of Jane Street,**
 - **Representatives of GIZ**
 - **Representatives of other supporting partners**
 - **All Team Leaders, Deputies, Coaches & Students**
 - **All teachers here present and parents of all the participants**
 - **Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. I am delighted to be with you all here today at this closing ceremony of the 30th Pan-African Mathematics Olympiad.
2. I would like to express my sincere thanks to all the organisers and funders of this prestigious event, notably to: Prof. Nouzha El Yacoubi, Chairperson, PAMO Commission of the African Mathematics Union for your confidence in Rwanda to host this event; AIMS Rwanda for co-hosting with the Ministry of Education, the major sponsors of this event, Jane Street, GIZ, MasterCard Foundation and other supporters and partners. I know that the great success of this event is a tribute to your significant support.

Ladies and Gentlemen

3. Rwanda's Vision 2050 is about ensuring high standards of living for all Rwandans focusing on areas such as: quality of life; modern infrastructure and livelihoods; and transformation for prosperity. This vision is supported by the strong belief of the Government of Rwanda to integrate Science, Technology, Research and Innovation into national development strategies for building Rwanda's Economy. It recognises education as the major foundation for Rwanda to realise the vision.
4. We recognise the importance of mathematics as fundamental to all sciences as it relates to problem solving and critical thinking. I am delighted that the Math on the Street event which took place this morning helped to demonstrate and engage the public in importance of mathematics, and how Math and Science is influencing their lives, both directly and indirectly.
5. I realise that now the stress of the week's competition is finished this closing event provides an opportunity for everyone to relax and reflect on the great activities that have taken place during your time in our country.
6. You had the chance to share and interact with fellow students and competitors from all over the African continent and I'm sure that the friendships made will continue over the future years of your careers.
7. This was the first time that Rwanda has hosted PAMO, and this was indeed the largest PAMO event to date with a total of 31 countries taking part, 25 in person and 6 online with a total of 164 official and 14 unofficial contestants in person and including 25 on line.
8. The event took place over a period of 8 days and a total of 6 problems were worked on by all contestants over a period of 9 hours.
9. I know that the organisers have worked tirelessly to ensure that all the logistics of such a tasking event were seamlessly managed to ensure a well-managed event throughout and very many congratulations to all of you on this.

Dear Students,

10. I wish to congratulate the Rwandan team for your great success in PAMO2023, to come in 4th place overall with a total of 5 silver medals, 4 bronze medals and 1 certificate of recognition. This is truly commendable given Rwanda's growth from having no Olympiad programme in 2019, since there was no competition in 2020 the first online participation in 2021, the first in-person participation in 2022 therefore making this only the 3rd year of participation.
11. I wish to congratulate all of the country teams for your strong participation in this competition, the winning teams Morocco, Algeria and South Africa, and indeed all of the participants for having achieved your place in this year's competition. Taking part in this competition is in itself a very remarkable achievement and recognises your talent to be

able to compete in such a high-level pan-African event.

12. I also recognise that this event is about having fun and enjoying the cultural delights of our country. I thank the event organisers and supporters for demonstrating that Mathematics can be fun and engaging. This includes the:
- a. The University & Career Fairs Day
 - b. The Women in STEM Day
 - c. The Math on the Street, and
 - d. The opportunity for students to enjoy the Basketball Africa League competition with the boys able to attend yesterday's competition and the girl's today's competition. Very many thanks to the BAL organisers for making this possible.

Dear Students, Ladies, and Gentlemen

13. I hope you have enjoyed your time in Rwanda, and we look forward to welcoming you many more times in our land of a thousand hills.

14. I thank you for your kind attention!