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PINI ANNOUNCED AS CHEF DE MISSION FOR TEAM PNG TO THE PARIS 2024 OLYMPIC GAMES

Former Papua New Guinea (PNG) swim sensation and four time Olympian for Team PNG Ryan Pini was announced as the Chef de Mission to the Paris 2024 Olympic Games by the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee (PNGOC).

Pini has made a name for himself in the pool on a national and international athletic career spanning over 28 years for Team PNG and Papua New Guinea.

PNGOC President Sir John Dawanincura in making the announcement congratulated Ryan on his recent endorsement and appointment as Team Lead for Team PNG to the next modern and second post-COVID Olympic Games.

“As one of the most successful Team PNG athletes to the Olympics with a competitive athlete term spanning over 20 years, competing in 4 Olympics, 3 Commonwealth Games, 5 Pacific Games and many World Championship events representing PNG, Ryan has always embodied and lived out the four PNGOC character values of honesty, excellence, respect and openness. His sporting accolades, character and commitment to sports and life after sports for our young athletes unquestionably make him the ideal candidate to lead PNG to its 13th Olympic games”, said Sir John.

“Ryan has been an outstanding role model and mentor for hundreds of Team PNG athletes whilst being a notable member of our Team PNG family over the years. Having him lead the 2024 Team PNG delegation to Paris is a testament and culmination of his efforts during and after his sporting career” he added.

Pini represented PNG in the 2004, 2008, 2012, and 2016 Olympics whilst also serving as the PNG flagbearer at the 2008 and 2016 Olympic editions of the Games.

Pini is arguably PNG’s most successful Team PNG Athlete to have progressed to an Olympic final in any of the sports and events that PNG has fielded Athletes in since joining the Olympic Movement in 1974 as a National Olympic Committee (NOC), and the consequent attendance of the first games during the 1976 Montreal Olympics in Canada.

Coincidentally, his grandfather Jack Pini was the Chef de Mission for the first Team PNG contingent to the first ever Olympic Games to the 1976 Montreal Games.

In recognition and acknowledgement of his pursuits of Athlete excellence through the sport of swimming and athlete contributions to the Pacific Games, Pini was elected

Athlete Representative to the Pacific Games Council during the 2015 Pacific Games in Port Moresby, and then again at the 2019 Pacific Games in Samoa.

Regionally, he is a Committee Member on the Athletes Commission of the Oceania National Olympic Committee (ONOC), part of the Oceania Sports Federation Organisation (OSFO), PNG Olympian Association and Sport Matters Board, and was most recently re-appointed as a member of the Swimming World governing body, FINA during the 2022 World Championships held in Budapest, Hungary.

He was awarded the Member of the Order of the British Empire in 2005 for his services to sports in PNG. In addition, he has also been awarded the PNG SP Sportsman of the Year Award for the years 2003, 2004, 2005, 2011 and 2015, in addition to him being awarded the PNG SP Sports Award Lifetime Achievement Award in 2008.

While in Oceania, his sporting excellence in the pool also bagged him the ONOC Male Oceania Athlete of the Year Award in 2015 and South Pacific Games Male Swimmer of the Meet in 2003 in recognition of his win in 7 events where he also set 4 in Games' Records.

Team PNG will be drawing from Pini's vast experience as they ramp up their preparations to Paris, France games.

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About the Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee

The Papua New Guinea Olympic Committee (PNGOC) is a non-government, not-for-profit organisation committed to inspire and unite Papua New Guinea through sporting excellence and success. The PNGOC is a believer of sport as an enabler for sustainable and inclusive development. We serve the three different global games movements, those being the Olympic Movement, Commonwealth Games Movement and the Pacific Games Movement. It is our responsibility to select, send and fund Team PNG to the Olympic Games, Commonwealth Games and Pacific Games. This is achieved by working with our member national sports federations and with the support of our sponsors and partners, through fundraising events and with the backing of the Government. To find out more visit our website www.pngolympic.org.pg

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