

Beat: Sports

## **PRESIDENTIAL COUPLE MACRON HAS LUNCHEON WITH LES BLEUES IN CLAIREFONTAINE**

**TO ENCOURAGE THEM BEFORE KICK OFF**

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**USPA NEWS** - Four days before the opening of the 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup, the President of the Republic Emmanuel and his wife, Brigitte MACRON, will travel on Tuesday 4 June 2019 to the National Football Center. Clairefontaine for lunch with the French women's team. The President intends to bring to the players a message of support and encouragement before this 8th edition of the world which is held from June 7 to July 7 in the stadiums of Grenoble, Le Havre, Lyon, Montpellier, Nice, Paris, Reims, Rennes and Valenciennes. On June 7th, therefore, at the Parc des Princes, the French women's team will launch the 2019 World Cup with an opening match against the Republic of Korea, which the President and his wife will attend.

After this luncheon, back at the Elysee Palace, the President of the Republic Emmanuel Macron, will meet with FIFA President Gianni INFANTINO to give an overview of FIFA news and discuss their cooperation.

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**PRESIDENT MACRON SIGNING THE AGREEMENT AFD WITH FIFA IMPACTING AFRICA OVER SPORT-----**

As an extension of this exchange, an agreement will then be signed between FIFA and the French Development Agency (AFD), which want to join forces to multiply the impact of their respective development actions through sport in Africa.

Sport is at the heart of the vision of the President of the Republic for the development of the African continent. During his speech in Ouagadougou in November 2017, the President set France's strategy for Africa: a partnership and balanced relationship to engage in concrete cooperation in the service of African populations.

The President placed sport as a major lever of action for investing in youth and the economic and social development of the African continent. He had asked AFD to make sport an axis of cooperation between France and Africa to achieve several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially in terms of education and equality between women and men.

Later, in February 2018, during his meeting with the President of the Republic of Liberia, Mr. George WEAH, the President of the Republic concretely structured his ambition around the construction of a platform for transformation through sport in Africa. , with an initial budget of 15 million euros and supported by AFD. Since then, AFD has worked to support several projects while seeking to increase international funding for development through sport in Africa. On July 4, 2018, in Lagos, Nigeria, a first major partnership with an international sports structure, the NBA was sealed. This new signature, with FIFA, on June 4, 2019, symbolizes the first meeting between the world of football and the one of development. The projects supported through this agreement will focus on the themes of gender equality and access to education, in line with the priorities of the commitment of the President of the Republic.

**PRESIDENT MACRON PAYS A TRIBUTE TO THE BLEUS TEAM WHOSE EACH PLAYER & DESCHAMPS CAPTAIN THE LEGION OF HONNEUR-----**

Then, the President of the Republic will give the Legion of Honor to the members of the French football team to honor their victory at the 2018 world. For the occasion, will be gathered, beyond the families of the players, the members of the executive committee of the FFF, the Professional Football League, the presidents of league clubs 1 and the entire technical team that surrounds the blues. This ceremony will also highlight the commitment of these athletes. Several associations that they support were invited by the players, such PlayLife, Solidarity Federation Women or First of Cordée.

The President of the Republic will address to the Blues the thanks and recognition of the Nation for their sporting merits, but also for the exemplary and inspiring image they have given to our youth throughout their career at the World Cup 2018.

Finally, the French Head of States, will attend the opening cocktail of the 69th FIFA Congress at the Grand Palais where he will deliver a welcome address to the 1500 participants. He will recall the special ties that bind France to football and FIFA, and the importance of the responsibilities and challenges that are incumbent today on members of this international federation.

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**Editorial program service of General News Agency:**

United Press Association, Inc.  
3651 Lindell Road, Suite D168  
Las Vegas, NV 89103, USA  
(702) 943.0321 Local  
(702) 943.0233 Facsimile  
[info@unitedpressassociation.org](mailto:info@unitedpressassociation.org)  
[info@gna24.com](mailto:info@gna24.com)  
[www.gna24.com](http://www.gna24.com)