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## **BERNARD MIZEKI COLLEGE**

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**Date 18/09/2024 08:08:15**

**Subject: BMC Badminton Team Achievement Report**

### **Bernard Mizeki College Badminton Team Shines in Senegal**

The All Africa Schools Badminton Championships, held in Thies, Senegal, will forever be etched in our memories as a remarkable achievement, showcasing our teamwork, resilience, and determination. Our talented team, comprising Rowan Mundondo, Ron Dzvairo, Tinotenda Mubaiwa, Samuel Nyapokoto, and Albert Mhondoro, proudly represented Zimbabwe in the schools category, securing a well-deserved Bronze medal amidst fierce competition.

#### **The Journey to Success**

The tournament was a baptism by fire, with powerhouse nations like Benin (Gold) and Senegal (Silver) vying for top honours. Undaunted, our team demonstrated unwavering resolve, braving Senegal's sweltering temperatures to emerge victorious. The Bronze medal was a culmination of our collective effort, strategic gameplay, and sheer willpower.

Beyond the badminton courts, our Senegalese sojourn offered a rich cultural experience. We delved into the local cuisine, sampling delicacies that broadened our palates. However, navigating everyday conversations was a hilarious challenge. As Team Manager, I can attest that mastering basic French phrases was a must – but I soon discovered that "Bonjour" and "Merci" only take you so far.

A guided tour of Dakar's iconic landmarks – the port, monument, and beach – provided a glimpse into the country's history and heritage.

#### **Challenges and Lessons**

Senegal's unpredictable weather posed unexpected challenges, with rain forcing the cancellation of some AirBadminton matches in August. However, this setback only

strengthened our resolve. We adapted, learned, and grew, taking valuable lessons from our experiences.

### **The Journey Ahead**

As we return to Zimbabwe, our sights are set on the next All Africa Schools Badminton Championships, slated for Ghana in 2025. Preparation has already commenced, driven by our determination to once again represent Zimbabwe on the continental stage.

### **A Heartfelt Thank You**

We extend our deepest gratitude to our esteemed sponsors, whose generous support made this incredible journey possible:

- The Nyapokoto Family
- Ms Dembedza
- Dee's Wear (Supplier of School and Sports Wear)
- The Dzairo Family
- The Matthews Family
- Total Energy
- Green Flash (Supplier of Vegetables)
- Bernard Mizeki College Administration
- First Mutual
- Badminton Association of Zimbabwe

Your contributions have not only helped us achieve success but also inspired us to strive for excellence. We are forever grateful.

### **A Lasting Legacy**

Donning the Zimbabwean blazer in Senegal was an honour, elevating us to heroic status. This tournament was an unforgettable experience that forged unbreakable bonds, tested our character, and broadened our perspectives. As the Bernard Mizeki College Badminton team, we cherish the memories of Senegal 2024 with pride, our Bronze medal a shining symbol of our teamwork, tenacity, and Zimbabwean spirit.

**By Mr. N Ncube, Badminton Team Manager.**

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