

Rwanda's hopes for a historic Olympic medal were dashed as seven of its eight-member contingent concluded their Paris 2024 campaign without a podium finish. Despite the country's burgeoning sporting spirit, the athletes faced stiff competition on the global stage.

On Saturday, August 3, Rwanda's hopes rested on long-distance runner Yves Nimubona and cyclist Eric Manizabayo. Unfortunately, Nimubona finished 21st out of 24 athletes in the 10,000m race, while Manizabayo was unable to complete the grueling 274km cycling road race, retiring from the competition.



Swimmer Umuhoza Uwase Lidwine failed to reach the podium in the women's Freestyle 50m, finishing sixth, while fellow swimmer Oscar Peyre Mitilla Cyusa clocked a time of 58.77 seconds in the 100m butterfly heat.

Jazilla Mwamikazi, Rwanda's first female mountain biker at the Olympics, finished 34th in her event, showcasing the nation's growing participation in diverse sports. Fencer Tufaha Uwihoreye and cyclist Diane Ingabire also represented Rwanda but were unable to secure medals. Ingabire finished in 35th place after clocking 48 minutes and 05 seconds.

The Rwandan team's participation, largely through wildcard entries, underscores the challenges faced by developing nations in competing at the highest level of international sport. While reaching the Olympic stage is a significant achievement, the results highlight the need for increased investment in sports development to enhance Rwanda's competitive edge.

As the Rwandan Olympic dream persists, the nation's athletes and sports officials will undoubtedly draw valuable lessons from this experience to build a stronger foundation for future competitions.