

## = Vanuatu at the 2008 Summer Olympics =

Vanuatu competed at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing , China . A total of three Vanuatuan athletes competed in two sports . Moses Kamut and Elis Lapenmal competed in , respectively , the men 's and women 's 100m sprints , and Priscilla Tommy competed in women 's singles table tennis after being selected by the IOC 's Tripartite Commission . Tommy 's appearance in particular was Vanuatu 's debut into table tennis . Tommy was also the country 's flagbearer during the opening ceremony . The Vanuatuan delegation to Beijing included the country 's head of state and prime minister , but only included Elis Lapenmal ; the other two athletes did not accompany the delegation and arrived in China at different times .

None of the three Vanuatuan Olympians progressed past the first round in their events , and thus did not earn any medals .

## = = Background = =

Vanuatu has participated in the Olympics since the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul , South Korea ; its Olympic committee ( VASANOC ) was founded a year earlier . Vanuatu 's appearance at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing , thus , marked its sixth appearance in the summer Olympics . Although Vanuatu 's earlier Olympic appearances were primarily characterized by people participating in athletics ( with the exception of the 2000 Summer Olympics , which included an archer ) , the 2008 Vanuatu team involved the country 's debut in Olympic table tennis . Other Vanuatuans attempted Olympic qualification competitions in girl 's beach volleyball , men 's football , and taekwondo , but did not succeed .

Vanuatu 's delegation left for Beijing on August 4 ; the delegation encompassed one of the three Olympians , as well as coaches Denison Tari , Sun Hongyi , and Anolyn Lulu ; VASANOC president Joe Carlo ; and VASANOC secretary general Seru Korikalo . Vanuatuan dignitaries , including the head of state , prime minister , and the minister of sports , also accompanied the team to attend the opening ceremony on August 8 . Table tennis player Priscila Tommy and athlete Moses Kamut , the other two Vanuatuan qualifiers , did not accompany the Vanuatuan delegation to Beijing . Tommy arrived in China early for training , while Kamut spent time in Belgium .

Of the participating Olympians , table tennis player Priscila Tommy was the youngest , at age 17 . Moses Kamut , at age 26 , was the oldest . Kamut and Elis Lapenmal participated in athletics , and Tommy participated as the team 's only table tennis player . There were no medalists from Vanuatu during these Olympic Games .

Priscila Tommy was Vanuatu 's flag bearer in the opening ceremony .

## = = Athletics = =

Moses Kamut and Elis Lapenmal participated on behalf of Vanuatu in track and field , or athletics , events at the 2008 Beijing Olympics .

Kamut participated in the men 's 100m sprint , and participated in the first round of the event on August 14 . Kamut was placed in the first heat , and ran the event in 10 @.@ 81 seconds . Within the first heat , Kamut placed 7th out of 8 , beating Francis Manioru of the Solomon Islands by 0 @.@ 28 seconds , but falling behind Jamaica 's Usain Bolt by 0 @.@ 61 seconds . Bolt ranked first in Kamut ' heat . Overall , Moses Kamut ranked 61st out of 80 out of all the heats run on that day , and did not advance to the next round . Kamut received financial assistance through the Beijing Scholarship , which terminated after the Beijing Olympics ended .

Elis Lapenmal was Vanuatu 's sole participant in the women 's 100m dash . She took part in the first round of the event on August 15 , in which she was placed in heat three versus athletes that included the United States ' Muna Lee ; Saint Kitts and Nevis ' Virgil Hodge ; and Mauritania 's Bounkou Camara . Lapenmal ran the 100m in 13 @.@ 31 seconds , placing eighth in a heat of nine people , just ahead of Camara , who scored 13 @.@ 69 seconds . Muna Lee scored first in Lapenmal 's heat with a time of 11 @.@ 33 seconds . Overall , Lapenmal tied Guam 's Cora Alico

for 76th place out of 85 , and did not advance to the second round on August 16 .

Key

Note ? Ranks given for track events are within the athlete 's heat only