



UM FAROL DE CABO VERDE

CARLOS ALBERTINO VEIGA FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER | No. 13 | JUL 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



THE REAL GAME BEGINS NOW

Dear Friends,

I never imagined I would be writing a message as President of the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation while Cabo Verde was still competing in a FIFA World Cup. For many years, we followed World Cups as spectators. We admired other flags, other anthems and other nations' stories. Today, for the very first time, we are experiencing a different emotion, one in which we are no longer simply witnessing history but genuinely feel that we are part of it.

Ancient philosophers used to say that some dreams begin long before the world ever sees them. The dream that today unites Cabo Verde was born long before the opening whistle. It was built over months of quiet preparation, training

camps, meetings, journeys, the search for partners, and the dedication of officials, coaches, players, volunteers and institutions that believed a small country could present itself to the world with the dignity of the greatest nations.

The Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation has had the privilege of walking alongside the Cabo Verdean Football Federation throughout this journey. From the cooperation agreement signed in 2025, through the support provided during the national team's training camps, logistical organization, the establishment of strategic partnerships and the creation of better conditions for the players and coaching staff, we sought, with discretion and a strong sense of purpose, to help ensure that our National Team could focus exclusively on what it does best: representing Cabo Verde.

It is with that sense of pride, but also with profound humility, that we experience every match. We know that the true protagonists are those who step onto the pitch. We also know that great national achievements are always the result of a collective effort, where every contribution, however discreet, helps build a shared dream.

This special edition is therefore not simply a newsletter about football. It is a newsletter about Cabo Verde. It is about a people rediscovering the strength of their unity, a diaspora transforming every stadium into a small piece of our islands, a younger generation finding new reasons to believe, and a country that, through its own merit, is now

earning a place in the eyes of the world.

At the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation, we believe that the defining moments in the life of a nation only become truly historic when they leave a legacy that extends beyond the emotion of the moment. This World Cup is offering us a rare opportunity to show the world who we are, while raising an important question: what will we do with this opportunity? How will we transform this visibility into greater confidence, more tourism, increased investment, broader opportunities for our young people and lasting international recognition for Cabo Verde?

Regardless of how far our National Team progresses in the tournament, there is already one victory that can never be taken away from us. The world is discovering Cabo Verde. It is discovering a stable country, a mature democracy, a resilient people, an extraordinary culture and a nation that, despite its geographical size, has never stopped thinking big.

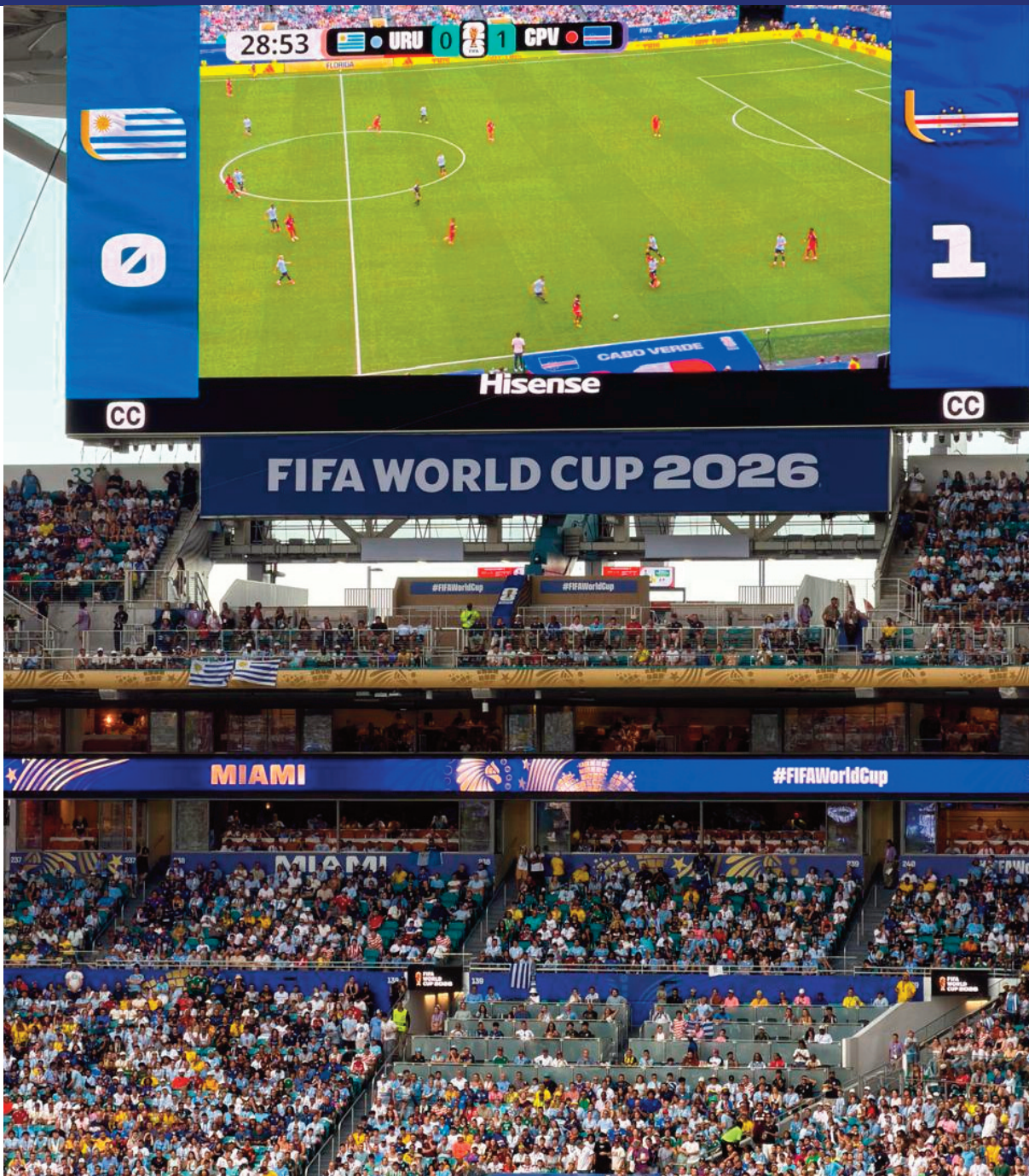
When the referee blows the final whistle of our last match, one World Cup will come to an end. Yet for Cabo Verde, I sincerely believe it will mark only the beginning of a new chapter.

And the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation will continue, as it always has, to stand alongside all those who work to ensure that this future is built with ambition, responsibility and a true sense of purpose.

Enjoy your reading.

Paulo Veiga

Presidente da Fundação Carlos Albertino Veiga



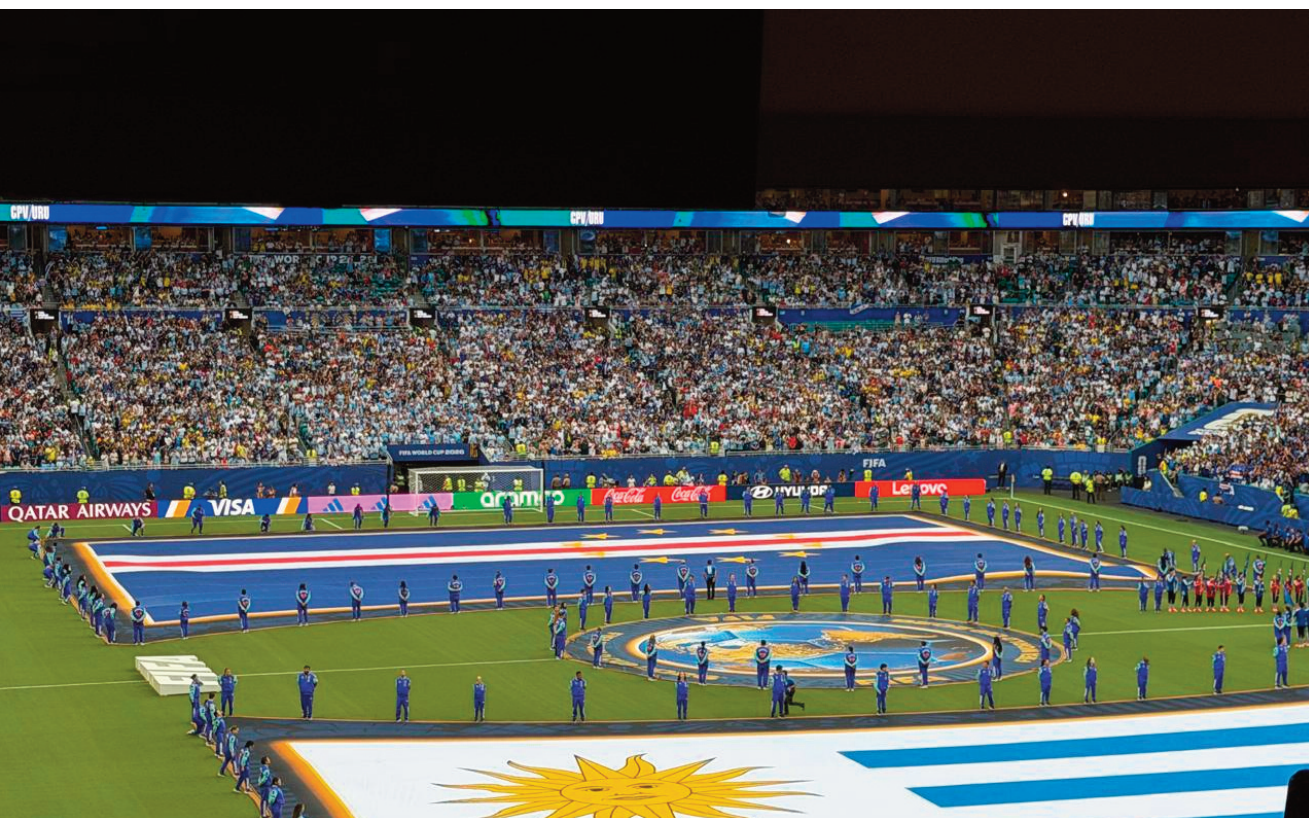
MUCH MORE THAN A NATIONAL TEAM

A NATION WITHOUT BORDERS

The World Cup is revealing a reality that Cabo Verde has known for a long time and that the world is finally beginning to discover: ours is a Nation far greater than the size of its territory. From Boston to Brockton, from New York to Providence, from Lisbon to Paris, from Rotterdam to Luxembourg, from the islands to a diaspora spread across five continents, millions of Cabo Verdeans are living every match as though they were sitting together in the very same stand. Throughout these extraordinary weeks, oceans seem to disappear, distances become shorter and borders simply

cease to exist. What remains is a single Nation united by the same flag, the same emotion and the same dream. In the United States, host of this FIFA World Cup, an atmosphere has emerged that is difficult to describe in words. Long before kick-off, the cities welcoming our National Team are transformed into authentic celebrations of Cabo Verdean identity. Restaurants, hotels, streets, cafés and community centres fill with families, children and members of the first, second and third generations of our diaspora, all finding in football an opportunity to feel closer to the homeland.

Then come the stadiums, and that is where something truly extraordinary happens. The stands are filled with blue. Flags multiply. Traditional songs and chants blend naturally with the voices encouraging the National Team. Creole is heard alongside English, French, Portuguese and Dutch, creating a unique expression of identity, pride and belonging. Anyone witnessing these moments quickly understands that they are not simply watching football supporters. They are witnessing an entire Nation celebrating its roots. The Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation has had the privilege of accompanying part of this remarkable journey alongside the Cabo Verdean Football Federation, supporting the logistical preparation of the National Team's presence in the United States while witnessing, first-hand, the extraordinary mobilization of our diaspora. It was impossible to remain indifferent to the emotion of the reunions, the embraces, the tears and the immense pride with which thousands of Cabo Verdeans welcomed their National Team. More than supporting a football team, the diaspora is showing the world the strength of an identity that crosses oceans and remains intact from one generation to the next. There are children born far from the islands who proudly sing the national anthem despite never having lived in Cabo Verde. There are young people who wear the blue shirt with the very same pride as their parents and grandparents. Entire families continue to carry with them the memory of the islands, the language, the music, the flavors and the longing that prove distance has never been capable of weakening what truly binds us together. Few countries can claim to possess a community so present, so united and so profoundly connected to its origins. This remains one of Cabo Verde's greatest national assets. Perhaps that is one of the greatest lessons this World Cup is offering us: Cabo Verde does not end at the limits of its territory. It lives wherever a Cabo Verdean carries with them the name, the culture and the hope of an entire Nation. ■



LONG BEFORE THE FIRST WHISTLE BEHIND THE SCENES OF A DREAM

When millions of Cabo Verdeans saw our National Team take the field at the World Cup, few imagined the many months of silent work that made that moment possible. Because a World Cup does not begin on the day of the first match, it begins much earlier. It begins with preparation, organisation, the search for partners, training camps, travel, logistics, the ability to anticipate problems and find solutions. It begins with the invisible work that almost never reaches television screens, but that makes all the difference when the time comes to compete at the highest level. It was precisely along this path that the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation made a commitment to the Cabo Verdean Football Federation. Through the cooperation agreement signed at the end of 2025, the Foundation began accompanying the preparation of the National Team, placing at the Federation's service its institutional capacity, its network of international contacts and its experience in project management and strategic partnerships. The first major challenge emerged as early

as November 2025, during the training camp held in Dubai. The Foundation was present at that decisive moment of preparation, working directly to help resolve different logistical and operational constraints that could have compromised the success of the training camp. It was discreet work, carried out far from the spotlight, but essential to ensuring that players and technical staff found the necessary conditions to focus exclusively on their sporting preparation. Months later, already in 2026, the Foundation once again supported the Federation during the training camp held in New Zealand, through close cooperation, through which it became possible to secure the presence of Capelli, the Federation's technical partner, as well as an official photographer who accompanied the National Team during this important period of preparation, helping to strengthen the communication and international projection of the national team. Preparation continued in Lisbon, where the Foundation once again accompanied the national delegation, reinforcing

institutional and organisational support at a decisive stage before departure to the United States.

The point that perhaps represents one of the most symbolic examples of this partnership may have been the approach promoted by the Foundation that made it possible to establish an agreement with AVA CR7.

Thanks to this collaboration, the National Team gained access to muscular and physical recovery equipment used at the highest level of international football, including by Cristiano Ronaldo. For the first time, Cabo Verdean players and physiotherapists had access to excellence technology that allowed them to optimise physical recovery processes throughout preparation and competition, placing our team in conditions comparable to those of the world's greatest national teams.

Shortly before the start of the World Cup, the Foundation also accompanied the Federation's trip to New York and the Boston region, collaborating in the preparation of the National Team's pre-camp already on North American soil. This was another fundamental stage in the logistical organisation of Cabo Verde's presence in the United States, ensuring that the team would find the best possible conditions before the start of the competition.

Throughout all these months, the Foundation's work never sought protagonism, it sought only to contribute so that nothing would be lacking for those who had the responsibility of representing Cabo Verde within the four lines, because we believe that great victories never belong only to the players who take the field. They also belong to all those who, behind the scenes, believe in the same dream and work daily to create the conditions that allow athletes to give their very best.

It is in this spirit that the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation will continue to walk alongside the Cabo Verdean Football Federation, believing that investing in sport is investing in youth, education, social inclusion, the international projection of Cabo Verde and the construction of a country increasingly confident in its own abilities.

Because a World Cup may last only a few weeks, but the work that makes it possible to get there begins many months before, and it is that silent, collective work, deeply committed to Cabo Verde, that also deserves to be told. ■

CAN THE WORLD CUP TRANSFORM CABO VERDE?

WHEN FOOTBALL IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

As the ball continues to roll across the pitches of the United States, one question inevitably begins to emerge: can a World Cup truly transform a country? The answer always depends on what happens afterwards.

Throughout these weeks, Cabo Verde has achieved a level of international visibility that could hardly have been attained through any institutional promotional campaign. The country's name has entered the homes of millions of people, appeared on the front pages of the world's leading media outlets and aroused the curiosity of those who, until now, knew little or nothing about our islands, giving true significance to all this international exposure, which cannot be measured solely by television audiences or the number of internet searches.

At this moment, this impact will instead be measured by the image that Cabo Verde is building before the world.

Every report broadcast, every photograph published, every interview given and every blue flag displayed in the stands is helping to affirm a democratic, stable, safe and welcoming country that is capable of competing at the highest level. In an international context where reputation has become one of the greatest assets of nations, few events possess the ability to strengthen a country's brand in the same way as a World Cup.

This is precisely why football ceases to be merely football, becoming



diplomacy, economic promotion, culture, tourism, confidence and a powerful instrument for development.

International experience shows that the countries capable of transforming major sporting moments into long-term strategies are those that reap the greatest benefits from those achievements. True success lies not only in participation or in the results achieved on the field, but rather in the ability to capitalize on the world's attention in order to create new investment opportunities, strengthen tourism, promote culture, foster the economy, support young people and consolidate the country's international image.

This will now be our true challenge as a Nation and, as a Foundation, we believe that this moment should serve to mobilize institutions, businesses, universities, associations and civil society around a common vision for Cabo Verde. The World Cup can become much more than a memorable chapter in our sporting history, becoming a catalyst for development, a meeting point between talent and opportunity, and a driving force for new partnerships capable of generating value for the country for many years to come.

Throughout this journey, the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation has had the privilege of closely accompanying the preparation of our National Team and witnessing the professionalism, dedication

and sense of purpose of all those who helped make this historic participation possible. That experience has reinforced a conviction that today becomes even more evident: whenever there is vision, cooperation and the ability to work together, Cabo Verde is capable of competing alongside the very best.

The World Cup is showing the world who we are, and it is now up to us to decide who we want to become once the lights of this competition are switched off. Because a Nation's greatest victories do not end when a match comes to an end; they begin precisely at that moment. ■

NATIONAL PRIDE

VOZINHA

*It is never too late to live
a Fairy Tale*



As we write these lines, we are reminded of those moments that seem destined to remind nations that dreams know no age, follow no calendar and do not end simply because someone else decides that our time has passed.

Josimar José Évora Dias, known to everyone as Vozinha, is one of those stories.

He arrived at this World Cup without a club, after a long, discreet career built far from the great international spotlights. He devoted an entire lifetime to football and reached the world's greatest stage at a moment when many would have believed that his journey was already approaching its end. At the age of

40, he stands face to face with some of the finest players on the planet, knowing that he is often the last barrier between an entire country and defeat.

And perhaps it is precisely there that the greatness of this fairy tale begins.

Vozinha did not arrive at the World Cup as a star created by fame. He arrived as men of resilience always do, through hard work, faith, discipline, humility and an unwavering commitment to the national shirt. With modest social media, a story built on perseverance and a profound desire to honour the colours of Cabo Verde.

With every save, he is not simply protecting a goal, he is protecting hope. He is telling young people that difficult paths can also lead to extraordinary destinations, while reminding older generations that it is never too late to fulfil a dream. The world is witnessing greatness expressed through serenity, quiet courage and the dignity of someone who never gave up.

While millions of people are discovering Cabo Verde through his performances, they are also discovering the values he represents: resilience, leadership, humility and an extraordinary ability to remain steadfast when everything around him appears greater.

For the Carlos Albertino Veiga Foundation, the greatest examples are not always those who lift the most trophies. They are those who inspire others to believe that they too can go further.

This month, our National Pride is Vozinha. Because some men defend goals, while others defend dreams.

Vozinha is doing both. ■

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2021 Década das Nações Unidas
2030 da Ciência Oceânica para
o Desenvolvimento Sustentável



SOBRE A FUNDAÇÃO

A Fundação Carlos Albertino Veiga tem como missão promover o desenvolvimento social e económico de Cabo Verde, com base nos valores de solidariedade e empreendedorismo, contribuindo para um futuro mais justo para todos os cabo-verdianos.

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