

《里约奥运会英文报道：德雷·科代罗·利马点燃奥运会开幕式主火炬》

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RIO DE JANEIRO - Brazilian long-distance runner Vanderlei Cordeiro de Lima lit the Olympic cauldron in the opening ceremony of the Rio de Janeiro Games on Friday.



A marathon bronze medal winner in Athens in 2004, he has been held up as a model sportsman after refusing to give up when a protestor attacked him in that race, slowing him from first to third.

Football great Pele was expected to be given the honor before ruling himself out earlier on Friday because of ill health.

The lighting the of the flame was the culmination of a stirring ceremony at the Maracana stadium that lasted almost four hours.

The ceremony cost an estimated \$21 million, about half the budget for the London 2012 Games.

It included the participation of 5,000 volunteers, 300 artistic producers and more than 200 dancers.

According to the International Olympic Committee, the extravaganza was watched by up to 5 billion people around the world.

