

Open Letter To The Ghana Hockey Association President, Dr. Ben K.D Asante
Subject: Restarting Right; The Constitution I
Date: 28th September 2020.

Dear Sir,

FIH Pro-League restarted on Tuesday and Wednesday (September 22&23) where Germany hosted both the male and female Belgian national teams with thrilling results even in the wake of devastating second wave of coronavirus in Europe. In the light of the successful organization of this event on a continent with a significant number of recorded coronavirus infections, there is enormous excitement and optimism that, the game of hockey is indeed back and especially, since Africa has lower case record.

There are elements in the constitution of the Ghana Hockey Association that we strongly feel were extremely thought through and has what it takes to advance the course of the game and that of the association at all levels. It is important to note that, previous administrations have not pursued the various provisions made in the constitution that guarantees comprehensive growth, even though many were framers of that administering document.

It is said that, what a child has in its hands, is that which he can offer as gift to someone. The constitution is one of the most valuable asset of the association depending on the hands that upholds it. A meticulous observation on data and reasoning over the years, reveals that, certain elements of the constitution have not been attended to. Current data gathered through avid research by us requires a back to basics plan.

Shouldn't there be enough information about what members in the hockey community must do and what not and also be aware of expectations from GHA? Making the constitution more available and accessible to all will appear to be a prudent thing to do. We want to emphasize that, the previous administration did little to extend widely a sensitive document like the constitution and we had our share of struggle before sighting it and subsequently reading it. Some executive members of the previous administration were contacted in relation to this but refused to comment (this is being stated for record purposes). We have interacted with several members (young and old) in the hockey community and the constitution is not a document they have seen before.

We have taken this as an obligation to discuss some elements of the constitution that we think requires a closer look and an enforcement commitment. For today, we want to consider; **Article 2.2:- The GHA shall have the power to constitute Regional and District Hockey Associations.**

The most important effect of this **clause** is the absolute and nationwide coverage of the sport. This is meant to be a super spreading initiative of the sport's governing body as far

as promotion is concern but unfortunately, it did not meet the utmost consideration of previous administrations.

As an organization (Ball and Stick), we have always argued that, the nonexistence of a decentralized system (which the clause seems to provide solution to), is one major problem that affect Ghana's podium attainment quest over the years.

The standard practice is that, tournaments are first organized at the district level, where winners play at the regional level and finally participants in a national league. What we currently have here in Ghana is that, the league is organized by Greater Accra Hockey Association (GAHA) and;

- i. The runner-up and league champions in both the men and women's teams represent Ghana in Africa Cup for Club Champions (ACCC). In a real case, we can say that, Ghana is not duly represented since the tournament was not organized at a national level.
- ii. National team management, officials and players are all appointed or selected as a result of this regional league.

The effect of the above-mentioned are as follows;

- i. Significant growth and sport popularity cannot be ensued since coverage is limited to a particular region (Accra).
- ii. There is limited talent pool to select from.
- iii. Talent discovery will be an arduous task to scouters.

We are very confident that you will consider this imploration since you have already committed to providing every region with a turf as your vision. You have to reassure members in the hockey community who have concern and skepticism that you can be trusted and your administration is growth conscious and it is certainly within your timetable that it can be achieved.

It should be pointed out that, we cannot keep rewriting history, scrambling norms, ignoring systems that ensures checks and balances. Unfortunately, we only existed during your reign and therefore you are likely to encounter us much more than any other in history. Kindly keep in mind that, the potential change that will see Ghana climb onto the podium is not far beyond your reach.

We pledge our support and wish you well, Sir.

Ball and Stick
Hockey Enthusiasts/ Promoters