

22<sup>nd</sup> Novembers, 2022.

Open Letter To Dr. K.D Asante - Ghana Hockey Association President (2022-2026) IV

Dear Dr. K.D Asante,

It is a delight to write to you once again and I trust episode finds you in good health. I always look forward to another Tuesday immediately after I am done writing an epistle. I take immense joy in writing these epistles because I consider it as my/our contribution towards the creation of a better Hockey community for present generation and also for generations unborn.

In our quest to patching up certain fundamental organizational methodology gaps in preparation for an excellent Ghana Hockey Association in the immediate future, we are and will be dealing with critical matters, though important but have attracted less attention. It is therefore imperative to petition your high office to set up a research department consisting of abled men and women to at least probe every content in our epistles in order to establish facts for appropriate actions.

Sir, do not be surprised if we hit harder despite threats or warnings from anyone who may feel uncomfortable by our writings. We are prepared to be denied opportunities and favors, because our satisfaction do not come from what we can get from GHA but it is in what we can offer as our contribution to making GHA a better organization more than we came to meet it.

In May 2018, one fine sunny Thursday afternoon, I walked into the T.O National Hockey Stadium to make an inquiry about how I can participate in the activities of hockey and possibly become a member. The first person I met and interacted with is Mr. Eddy Frimpong (GRA Men's Hockey Team Coach and Former Head Coach of Ghana's Men National Hockey Team) who was picking something from his car, parked on the compound. He answered my questions and the rest is history meant to be shared at another time.

You may be wondering why I chose this path of telling you about the history surrounding my entry into hockey. This introduces my topic for discussion, which is about the Ghana Hockey Association Constitution. A Constitution as we all know is a written law that governs a group of people with common intent, goal or aim. As important as this document is, it is a highly scarce document and this, I find very difficult to comprehend.

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Importance of GHA Constitution includes but not limited to;

- 1. It provides guidance to members on what constitutes a crime and the penalties associated with the crime thereby shaping the behaviors of all.
- 2. It provides the framework for the operationalization of the Association i.e it gives clear roadmap on how the organization should be run.
- 3. It sets out the basis for accountability.
- 4. It reveals the rights, privileges and responsibilities of all.

As seen above, the Constitution puts everyone in check irrespective of your position or status and this commands equality and mutual respect. Per it benefits, the availability of the Constitution is as important as the Constitution itself. Without malice, I can authoritatively state that, if 30 people were sampled, only 1 out of the 30 might have seen or touched the Constitution of GHA.

Prior to this episode, we took time to visit the Ghana Olympic Committee and Ghana Football Association, we saw all documents relevant to their operations. I do not think that, GHA is not capable enough to emulate this. It is rather in the best interest of leadership to make every member of the hockey community aware and knowledgeable in the laws and principles that governs their activities as long as hockey is concern.

"Lack of knowledge my people perish" as the holy book puts it is very relevant in this context because when members do not know what is expected of them, misconduct is inevitable. FIFA and the Government of Qatar together made rules of which they made it available and known to all stakeholders willing to participate in World Cup and this ensures uniformity in behavioral patterns.

This is an appeal, Sir, do everything you can to make the Constitution a common document within and outside the walls of the T.O Hockey Stadium. Go further and ask teams to discuss the constitution with their members, at least, spending 10mins on it each time they meet.

I will like to discuss the content of the Constitution with you God willing next week. I was privileged to have received a copy of the Constitution after knocking on several doors and there are a number of issues worthy of discussion towards growth and development.

Till you hear from me again next week, enjoy the goodness of God.

Best regards Kojo Lumour Ameye / Ball and Stick

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