

**HAIL JAMES AKWASI APPIAH STATEMENT BY HON. FRANK
ANNOH-DOMPREEH MP FOR NSAWAM ADOAGYIRI.**

James Akwasi Appiah a Ghanaian who was born on the 30th of June 1960, who played as a left back for our local Asante Kotoko Football Club between 1983 and 1993, later joined our prestigious National team (The Black Stars) in the year 1987 and 1992 not just as a player but the Captain of the team for the FIFA world Cup qualifying matches.

Mr. James Akwasi Appiah received a technical training from the English Clubs Manchester City and Liverpool respectively, he also become the Assistant Coach for the Ghana Black Stars between 2007 and 2012. He won the 2011 All African games with the Ghana Under 23 which in my belief together with his experience got him to become the Head Coach of the Ghana National Team in April 2012, he qualified the team for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

Mr. Speaker these made him the First Black African Coach that has ever taken the Country to the World Cup. He also managed the Sudanese club at Khartoum.

Mr. Speaker having outlined what one will call a brief profile about Mr. James Akwasi Appiah, I want to join the countless Ghanaians and stakeholders to congratulate Mr. James Akwesi Appiah on his re-appointment as the Coach of the Ghana National Team beginning April, 2017 in replacement of Former Chelsea Manager Avram Grant. Having critically and actively followed the activities of our Black Stars in the African games and pending qualifiers to the World Cup I strongly agree and join the masses of Ghanaians calling for a Local Coach, a Coach of the Land and a Coach from our own system. Mr. Speaker, since 1958 till date our National Team has had 43 different Coaches comprising (8) Eight Ghanaians and the 23 being foreign coaches, we can testify of C.K.Gyamfi, Fred Osam-Doudu, Emmanuel Akwasi Afrane, Herbert Addo, Sam Adey,

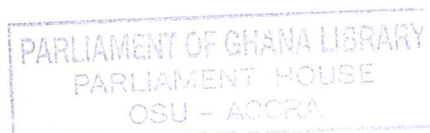
PARLIAMENT OF GHANA LIBRARY
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
OSU - ACCRA

Cecil Jones Attuquayefio, Sillas Tetteh and Akwesi Appiah himself, even though some of the above names were interim Head Coaches, I think that a Ghanaian Coach was given an opportunity to handle our National Team, we can all talk of the glorious days when our gallant men led the teams to various games and tournaments. Again for the records, C.K.Gyamfi is the most successful Coach and he was a Ghanaian (the Golden Era) Ghana has won the (AFCON) four times that is in 1963 on home soil, 1965 in Tunisia by C.K. Gyamfi and in 1978 by Osam Duodu which was for keep. C. K. Gyamfi came back again to lead the Black Stars to our Fourth AFCON victory which was his third time in 1982. I only seek to provide this history which I know is obvious to all only to place relevance on the contribution of our Local Coaches and their inspiration to the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, in as much as I congratulate Mr. James Akwasi Appiah there are some very important issues which need to be looked at as a Nation and I outline them as follows:

- ✓ The support of GFA and other key stakeholders to our Local Coaches
- ✓ The independence of our Local Coaches.
- ✓ The National support
- ✓ Government and support of the Youth and Sports Ministry.

Mr. Speaker often times we see different conditioning, welfare and privileges given to the Foreign Coaches to that of our Local Coaches, in terms of Salaries, Services Conditions and sometimes support to execute their core mandate etc. to a large extent we hear of direct influence of the GFA in their activities and performance, that is to say choosing and selecting of players, these to a large extend affects their performance, I make this call to congratulate him but to again



call on the GFA to support him, provide him with the needed Logistics to be able to perform and deliver, and also importantly call on the GFA to desist from any act that appears to be influencing and indirectly deciding for the Coach so that the Coach can have and be able to utilize his experience and skills learned from his previous engagements.

Mr. Speaker the independence of the Local Coach is as important as his appointment, I wish to advocate that after approving the report from the six-man Coaching search committee by the Executive Committee of the GFA on Tuesday which handed over to Akwesi Appiah a two year contract and a full charge of the Local Black Stars, should be devoid of strings and subtle micro management from the GFA and other key stakeholders, the stakes are high and the Nation is thirsty for a trophy.

Mr. Speaker, to the sole responsibility of the Ministry of Youth and Sport and by extension the Government of Ghana to provide the needed vision and direction to the National Team provides the needed motivation to the Team Management and Players to re-kindle their sense of patriotism and nationalism to fight to end the thirst for trophies.

Mr. Speaker one very important stakeholder in these picture is the Ghanaian. The Football Fans to a large extent, the Nation who for some years now have lost interest and have withdrawn must be ignited, their support for the National Team must be awoken. I only pray that the appointment of a Local Coach will bring back that nationalistic support to the national team. Let us all support and pray for the Black Stars.

The Stephen Appiah and Richard kingston Factor: Mr. Speaker it is again interesting to note that our own Fascinating Captain Stephen Appiah has also be named as the Team Manager, Appiah the former midfielder and Captain of the Black Stars in the 2006 World Cup, is going to

take up these role from S.Quaye and I believe that with his experience as a Player and Captain, he will serve as a role model and motivation to other Ghanaian Players and add a lot to our quest to end our Trophy thirst. These apply to our own Richard Olele Kingston one time goalkeeper of the national team who has also been called to help the national team. It is an inspiration to Ghanaians and it demonstrates the rate of confidence we have in our local products.

Mr. Speaker I once again congratulate Mr. James Kwasi Appiah, Stephen Appiah and Richard Kingston on their various appointments to the national team, I am happy and also proud to be a Ghanaian I look forward to their glorious days as they lead the nation to bring back the old glory of the country.

