

## **THE COURAGE OF THE FEW, THE VISION OF HOPE FOR MANY AND THE CHALLENGES IN THE NEW WORLD**

Delivered at Motec Dinner Dance, St Albans City. 11<sup>th</sup> Aug. 2007  
Paul Ofori-Atta. Founding President. Motec Life-UK

Thank you very much for your generous introduction. It is a pleasure to be introduced by a beautiful daughter of your close colleague. If Raymond your father is considered the chief of the Nkawkaw working group, then I will call you the princess of Nkawkaw. He and of course his special assistant and full time wife Muriel, his entire family are in no doubt one of the best members and friends that Motec may ever have in the world. Thank you very kindly.

Hello to you all, Motec's honourable guest. Today's dinner dance is the first of its kind and it promises to be a memorable one. I welcome you all and I thank you for making the journeys, and above all, sacrificing your precious weekend prime time even giving up match of the day, or the visit to your local pub, and or socialising with your family and friends. But we know that in doing so, you have offered Motec the opportunity to meet you, share fun and food with you while at the same time expressing your affection for mankind through good thoughts and donations for people far away in Ghana.

It may be opportune at this time for me to touch on the origin and destination of Motec Life UK. When a family gets touched by the difficulties and problems of health care for poor patients, the choices of response are few: ignore it and be depressed, respond to human needs and be happy in your heart. What my family saw at Koforidua St Joseph's hospital and other hospitals by "accident" in July 2006 meant only one thing: re-deployment of charity troops from the U.K.

Translated into civil language: MOTEC means:

**Movement of Medical teams to reach out to Africa**

**Orthopaedic trauma care at the forefront, bones/joints/soft tissue**

**Training of local staff, Transfer of Skills and Technology**

**Educate and be Educated in all faculties of health care**

**Consultation and Co-operation concentrating on accountability**

**Leadership that is prepared to Lead and Learn**

**Industrious plan to self sustain a meaningful programme**

**Faith in ourselves to achieve objectives with Friends of Ghana**

**Effective and Efficient service to a few that would inspire many**

**United Kingdom of members with a purpose.**

So ladies and gentlemen, when my family drove back to Accra from a visit to Koforidua St Joseph's hospital on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July, 2006 pondering over the request from the Hospital's Clinical Director, the debate continued on and on in the car. The coining of MOTEC LIFE UK was spontaneous. This idea was introduced to friends in the U.K who welcomed the idea wholeheartedly.

Initially, with a membership of ten a Care Taker Trustee was formed on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2006.

Today MOTEC has about 80 strong membership with skilled personnel that includes the following: Nursing staff, pharmacist, microbiologist, physiotherapist, Theatre equipment sterilisation experts, anaesthetist and supporting staff, health managers and secretaries, plastic and general surgeons, obstetrician-gynaecologists, orthopaedic surgeons, account clerks, plumber, information technology experts, health product procurement officers all of whom are full time employees in the National Health service as well as the Private Health Sector and the local Police Constabulary. We have professional membership in Ghana, Holland, Germany and Canada. We have established lines of communications with similar organisations in the United States.

Motec is a British Registered charity and is now run by a Trustee Executive guided by a constitution and ably led by a trio of patrons spearheaded by Lord Professor David Alton of Liverpool and House of Lords. The first Annual General Meeting and formal full swing elections coming up on the 1<sup>st</sup> of December, 2007 We currently have a planned working visit to Ghana four times a year with teams of a minimum of 10 experts each trip. This involves financial cost but our results show its worth in the hearts and homes of many in Ghana. As a responsible organisation we aim to work hard and hold ourselves accountable for our actions. We aim to work hard and this reminds me of a saying by a famous man- "A man should do his job so well that the living, the dead and the unborn could do it no better.....be the best of whatever you are" and Motec promises to deliver.

We have not even celebrated our first year of working visit but in trying to do our work well, we face new challenges that baffles the membership. Calls for help have come from far and wide. Today we pay working visits to two different hospitals Nkawkaw Holy Family and St Joseph's Hospitals and are assessing health care services, educational and training needs at Pramso St Michael's, Asafo and Tema General Hospitals. There is a call to be involved in the training of Orthopaedic residents by the Ghana College of Surgeons and Physicians. Groups of people and hospitals in the Gambia and Nigeria keep knocking on our door. We have been linked with the Tropical Health and Education Trust in the UK. Motec has been supported by the International Organisation for Migration. We enjoy the co-operation of the Ghana High Commission in London through whom tax free clearance of medical materials at the ports of Ghana for Motec has been arranged, British manufacturing firms like Corin UK has responded to the call for subsidised implants. We are now affiliated to the World Orthopaedic Concern in a new alliance that promises to be exciting.

Certainly there comes a time when the brakes may have to be applied without holding back the desire to support change and improvement. Members only need to be reminded of what was once written by Ralph Emerson in 1871: "If a man wrote a better book or preached a better sermon even if he built his house in the woods, the world would make a beaten path to his house". So Raymond and Muriel, it is no surprise that we have navigated our way to Hertfordshire. We could smell the food and palpate the music through the advert...Sri Lankan Dinner Dance in support of Motec's Agenda is alive and kicking.

If you ask me for a wish list, I will smile back with joy seeing as many friends of Motec gathered in response to a call to help. I have a vision of an organisation that would raise the standard of health care in Ghana through our target hospitals (torch bearers), co-operating with the Ghanaian Health Ministry in the process, supporting the training programmes for health workers in our target hospitals by linking institutions in Ghana with benevolent institutions in the UK and the developed world. I can foresee an organisation that would have a secretariat of at least one paid permanent secretary, an honorary accountant advised by a Trustee Executive. I dream of an organisation that would encourage the local industries in Ghana to support their local hospitals in a purposeful fashion. I have a vision of the day that Sub-Saharan Africa can provide adequate health care for her people and modernise to meet the true health needs of her people. I am not comfortable in my sleep when it keeps echoing 'you are in Africa so you cannot have this treatment here'. Surely the human anatomy only varies in skin colour and genetic instruction. Poverty has been inherited in disguise but human affection is common to all and the world can help change the quality of life for all. The financial difficulties of Motec should make us resolute and help us strive for support and indeed in one sense, our difficulties have dynamised our call for change.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN we are not only hungry to eat today but hungry enough to contribute our quota in the drive for better healthcare in the remotest parts of the world that we should care to reach. Motec needs you. Motec welcomes you. Now I am ready to eat and dance.

Thank you all very sincerely for coming. My special gratitude to Raymond and Muriel whose dream idea has made this day happen. To all my special assistants, it's been a wonderful time together. To the helpers, music makers, the cooks I say 'Me da mo ase (thank you)'. To my family whose support has been the strength of my endeavours, I say AKPE AKPE (thanks a million). Long live Motec. Long Live Ghana!