



MINISTRY
OF
YOUTH AND SPORTS

P. O. Box MB 252, Ministries - Accra
Digital Address : GA-111-5583

Kindly quote this number and date on all correspondence

My Ref. No. ZF.133/155/01

Your Ref. No. _____

Date. 25TH JANUARY, 2024

PRESS RELEASE

**STATEMENT ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE BLACK STARS AT THE 2023
AFCON IN COTE D'IVOIRE**

Monday, January 22, 2024, stands as a solemn and sad chapter in our football history, as the Black Stars exited the 2023 AFCON competition in Cote d'Ivoire thereby concluding their journey in the competition. The Ministry of Youth and Sports profoundly shares the disappointment and devastation echoing through the hearts of millions of Ghanaians and followers of Ghana football both home and abroad.

Despite the indications that all was not well with our beloved Black Stars, hope persisted until that fateful Monday. Prior to the competition, and our last game, and even deep into the match, dreams were rekindled, imaginations and expectations were high, the optimism was unwavering, but suddenly, the mighty Black Stars fell once again. The spirit of Ghanaians was shattered, and the Ministry stands as heartbroken as every Ghanaian.

Over the years, the Ministry, especially under the administration of the current Government wholeheartedly supported our national teams, the Black Stars in particular. We created a conducive and enabling environment, invested in the development of the team and introduced performance-based reward systems. The government, recognizing the importance of sports at the grassroots level, also invested and continues to invest significantly in infrastructure and other logistics to nurture and develop young sporting and footballing talents.

Regrettably, the recent and continued poor performance of the Black Stars highlights fundamental structural and systemic deficiencies in our football ecosystem and journey. This is such that, despite our unwavering support and considerable investment, leaving no stone unturned, the team has not delivered, and results do not commensurate with efforts and resources invested. This clearly points to the urgent need for a comprehensive diagnosis and restructuring of Ghana football to align with our aspirations in football and beyond.

In the coming days, the Ministry, in consultation with national team stakeholders, will announce a strategic plan to identify the causes and the road map towards the revival of the Black Stars. We recognize the urgent necessity to address the underlying issues and are poised to embrace holistic approach towards rebuilding and reviving our football. This is crucial and pertinent, not only for the Black Stars and the followers of Ghana football, but also for every aspiring young Ghanaian footballer. The

Tel: +233 (0) 0302 664 716 / 665 630

+233 (0) 0302 683 402 / 683 413-18

Email : info@moys.gov.gh

Website : www.moys.gov.gh

government's investment in the diverse grassroots sports infrastructure serves as a testament to our dedication to the development of sports at all levels.

As we navigate this challenging period, we remain committed and focused to fostering a football environment that reflects the aspirations, hopes and desires of our great nation and its people. We believe in, and call for your support and understanding. Together, let us rebuild and restore hope in the future of football in Ghana.

ISSUED BY:

PUBLIC RELATIONS UNIT