



**MOTEC LIFE – UK's 2nd AGM, HEMEL HEMPSTEAD 29TH
MARCH 2009.**

A TRAIL OF ---SOLIDARITY WITH HUMANITY & THE PEOPLE OF GHANA.

By Mr P. Ofori-Atta, Mrs. G. Ofori-Atta

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MR ISAAC A. DADZIE



Hemel Hempstead Town Centre

Motec Life UK held her second Annual General Meeting at Hemel Hempstead on 29th March.

The two session meeting was attended by about 50 members and friends of Motec. The function was chaired by Mr Justice U-Lois, an orthopaedic surgeon and member of Motec Life –UK. Among the dignitaries were the Speaker, Mrs Zena Bullmore (MBE, Dacorum Action Group), Mr Edward Coffie of the Consular, Counselling Affairs, Ghana High Commission, London, Mr Dan Ozarow a Private Fund Raising Consultant, London and Mrs Pamela Fleming – Fund Raiser for Charities. All Executive Trustee members of Motec were present and most sub-committee members, as well as members who could find time out their full time jobs and social obligations.



The Chairman Mr Justice U-Lois shares ideas with Trustee Welfare Officer and Secretary.

APRIL WORKING VISIT

The meeting kicked off on time with a welcome speech by Motec Secretary Ms Rosie Doogan followed by self introduction. Registration of participants was seen to by Mrs Gladys Ofori-Atta. The April working visit pre-departure briefing was led by Mr Ofori-Atta, President of Motec Life UK. The seven strong April team was introduced, the pre-departure requirements and programme re-visited and discussed. The socio-cultural variances between Ghana and the developed world were re-emphasised and Mr Ofori-Atta reminded the travelling team to focus on the objectives of the trip which has been planned over a period of two weeks for most, and four weeks for one mid-wife volunteers. Major corrective and implant surgery on patients disabled by disease, lecture series focusing on sickle cell bone and joint disease, pharmacovigilance, birth injuries /congenital musculo-skeletal anomalies will be delivered. The programme of Activity in Ghana highlighted the roles of 3 teams working at different sites at Nkawkaw, Akosombo, Pramso- Jakyie, Donyina and Jirapa (Upper West) with stop over consultations at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi, and Sefwi-Asafo among others, the team will see to the advancement of a twinned project of Basic Drug manufacturing and an International Surgical Centre with teaching credentials with Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital. The twin project is a partnership collaboration between Motec and the Hospitalier Order of St John of God, Dublin. The projects are being financed by the Order in Dublin. Participants broke for lunch which was served by Elizabeth Edwards Caterers.



Participants soaking the atmosphere.

PRIME TIME

FUND RAISING.

Business meeting was efficiently chaired by Mr U-Lois who made sure that the function was smoothly integrated. Time keeping was impeccable. He re-shuffled the order of speakers to accommodate special requests. That meant that Mr Dan Ozaros, a consultant in Fund Raising would give his presentation on the options available to Motec first. Participants were keen to get answers to burning questions which reflected on the current financial difficulties.



Mr Dan Ozaros, Fund Raising Consultant, London given Motec the Mathematical chance of retaining momentum through fund raising at affordable cost. Low risk approach was recommended to Motec.

Financial Summary

With the options set beforehand, it was the turn of Mr Raymond Ofori, Motec's Treasurer to summarise the financial state of Motec which stirred members to revisit need for fund raising. It was clear that the partial sponsorship of Motec's teams by MIDA/IOM was very helpful but over 60% of costs of sponsorship of trips, projects came from self sponsorships, contributions from the African membership, and public fund raising. Subscriptions remained poorly patronised but still effective enough to support preliminary costs of fund raising, attendances of relevant meetings by members and other miscellaneous costs. Motec's positive balance in the account was estimated as about £1,300.00. Mr Ofori promised to publish the full details on the web site at the end of the financial year in April.

APPEAL FOR PARTICIPATION AND MEMBERSHIP

The Vice President of Motec, Mr Simon Derby explained the need for people with different expertise to join Motec, contribute to humanity in the best possible way. He recounted the establishment of Motec and how the organisation has moved on from humble beginnings. The V-Pee invited people to join Motec's course for the benefit of humanity.

TELEMEDICINE

The time came for Dr Conrad Buckle to give a brief talk about telemedicine project in Ghana. Dr Conrad had been involved in the challenging idea of using telemedicine as a medium of education and training between partnerships in the UK and Ghana. Sad to state that his fund Raising activity in Kings Lynn was not patronised by Motec and Ghana Doctors Association. Dr Buckle announced his three month working visit to Ghana (MIDA sponsorship).

SUMMARY OF ANNUAL ACTIVITY

Mr Ofori-Atta recounted the year's activities which involved 35 individuals making working visits to Ghana over the year. Achievements and difficulties over the year were highlighted and suggestions made to improve our efficiency and impact. On that note he emphasised the need for commitment with our goals and stressed that our manpower selection for trips would depend on the tasks and that volunteers should understand it if they have to make the trip another time. He encouraged the Ghanaian /African membership to continue to show guidance and leadership in the quest for health care improvements in the sub-region.

The President confirmed the decision made a year ago that Motec would make two official working visits in 2010/2011 fiscal year excluding administrative tour of our target institutions. He reiterated that if new projects were to be approved by the EU – UNDP, the working visits would be reviewed in response.

The President expressed hope and joy working with IOM/ MIDA in spite of unavoidable restrictions. New projects submitted to the EU /UNDP Joint Migration and Development if approved would substantially improve our working capacity and effectiveness in supporting health care improvements in Ghana, particularly in Trauma Care and First Response Emergency Care at doorsteps and on the roads in Ghana.

He concluded with an appeal to participants to look carefully at themselves how as humans we can chose to act to make a better world for good or do nothing and invite troubles in the world which would invariably impact on our very existence.

PHARMACO-VIGILANCE



Dr Mrs Sarah Daniels educating the educators at the AGM on 'VIGILANTE'.

Dr Mrs Sarah Daniels explained the principles of Drug manufacturing and the necessary vigilance that it attracts. On the surface it appeared that adverse effects of medicines may be under-reported in Africa. She states: Most drugs are developed in the Western World, a significant part of which will be delivered for use in places like Africa for good reasons and invariably will be used by a population with different genetic constitution. She recommended in no uncertain terms proper procedural methods of reporting adverse effects of medicines in Africa in order to improve drug safety. She emphasised the role of education of patients and even more importantly medical, nursing staff and pharmacists.

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE GHANA HIGH COMMISSION.

Mr Edward Cofie represented His Excellency Annan Arkyin Cato at the function. In an address, Mr Kofie recounted the pressures that the Commission faces regarding conditions that Ghanaians ask for help from the Commission which poses serious challenges to life and human dignity. In effect, he called on participants to respond to calls for help in saving lives of poor Ghanaians especially in times of special needs. He expressed his delight with the efforts of Motec towards Health Care improvements in Ghana and re-affirmed the Commission's continued support for Motec in addition to the attention Motec receives from the Office of His Excellency.



Mr Edward Cofie in the middle of picture is focusing on Motec's agenda for Ghana.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

The Chairman introduced Mrs Zena Bullmore MBE to the audience. He described her as a tower of strength and a unique example of an individual with sustained leadership and commitment to humanity.

Mrs Bullmore gave the audience a brief history about Hemel Hempstead General Hospital. There was some resemblance between people's struggle for their rights and responsibilities as it was yesterday and community action groups' efforts to retain moral values and human dignity today. 'We stand on the shoulders of our ancestors to whom we are in progress and who had far greater problems than we do now. Those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it.' She said.

On another note she emphasised: Empires will come and go, power hungry dictators come and go, the selfish and the greedy will always be with us, determined to hold on to their privileges at the cost of the suffering majority. But thank goodness, there have been and are now people – principled, caring and foresighted – who are

prepared to campaign for better lives for all, wherever they are. That is why Motec Life and so many other charities and campaign groups will always be needed.

She continued:

Undernourished, overwhelmed and suppressed people have neither the strength nor the ability to look ahead, hoping for better times; they are too pre-occupied in coping with the present and staying alive. But they can be given hope, and more than hope.



**Zena delivering her address flanked by a common wealth of purpose, solidarity and hope.
*'Those who do not learn from history are condemned to repeat it'. She said'***

It is for those of us who can help, in however small a way, to give them not just charity, but the respect and dignity that is everyone's right in a just society.

Humility and goals.

'I confess with shame that I know far too little about Ghana. I do know where it is on the map, that it is independent' she said. It has rivers and lake and a tropical climate. It doesn't hit the headlines so I suppose it is not at war. She carefully states: Any nation that ignores the needs of the poorest, with people who die too young, with so many children who do not reach maturity is an unhealthy nation in every sense. It has to be pushed and inspired and that is what Motec Life is doing and will do for Ghana.'

Mrs Bullmore recounted the 33 year old history of the Dacorum Hospital Action Group to emphasise the place of history in Motec's deliberations and activities. She was accorded a tumultuous applause for her inspired speech.

MESSAGES OF GOOD WILL.

The chairman read messages of goodwill from supporters of Motec who were unable to attend.

1. IOM / MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (MIDA)



IOM International Organization for Migration
IOM Internationale Organisatie voor Migratie

The Chairman read a summary of MIDA message from Mr Hans Eijkhout of Holland and Project Manager MIDA – Ghana. Mr Eijkhout expressed his gratitude to Motec for the work in Ghana. He went on to say that Motec carried out more than one – thirds of the recourse personnel input from the Diaspora paying MIDA sponsored working visits to Ghana last year. He hoped for a long lasting collaboration with Motec

2. **Mr John Mitchell** of Dublin stated in his message how delighted he was collaborating with hard working people of Motec. He pledged his support to Motec and hoped for many more to come.



Picture of John taken in Dublin collaborating with Motec Trustee Executives.

John and the Order of Brothers of St John of God, headed by Bro Laurence Kearns have sponsored about 7 Motec volunteers to Ghana of Motec in the recent past as well as many more other non member experts to Ghana. The collaboration

centres on humanitarian services through provision of facilities, medical services and sustainable training programmes. He is the brain child of a Food Security – Vocational Scheme for poverty stricken children and mothers in the Forest-West of Ghana. A pleasant, down to earth man to work with. John yearns for positive impact.

3. **Professor Lord David Alton, Patron** of Motec wrote to express his appreciation of the efforts of Motec and wished members the best of everything in the years to come.



Picture shows Lord Alton receiving an artwork of African Communication Machinery of men with talking horns from Motec. *Picture taken at the House of Lords.*

Lord Alton recently celebrated the 30th anniversary of a historic landslide political victory at by-elections in Liverpool. Motec were guests at the function of prominent distinguished people, some of whom were actively pursuing agendas aimed at diminishing global poverty.

4. **Corinne Budd** said in her message to Motec – sorry I cannot be with you. Jon and myself have to be away from home. Will be with you in spirit. Hope you enjoy the day.



Corinne Budd, the exceptional lady.

The West Hertfordshire Radiographer with the HEART FOR MOTEC-with hubby Jon, instructed their wedding guest not to donate anything to them, instead encouraged cheques to Motec Life –UK. Over £1300 raised. These kind of hearts are few and numbered.

5. Marilyn Goreham

The Hertfordshire lady has seen Motec from the distance. Her actions have touched Motec and the many benefactors in Ghana through sponsorship of educational projects / workshop by donating the interest on her savings to Ghana. Mrs Marilyn Goreham is looking forward to meeting Mote at the earliest possible time.

6. **Mrs Pamela Fleming** addressed the participants in person. She recounted her involvement in Charity work. She has been a contributor to Motec's education Fund. She pledged to continue to do her best for Charities including MOTEC.



Mrs Pamela Fleming is seen here delivering her message.

At open forum, further discussions were held on the subject of fund raising and announcements were made regarding impending Quiz Night for support in radiology 25th April at Hemel Hempstead, Musical night at St Albans Maltings 2nd May in support of air fare and arrangements connected with Motec volunteers going to Ghana for Motec's assignments and a DINNER Dance on 3rd October in support Club Foot Surgery and Orthopaedic workshops in October 2009. Mr Ofori-Atta expressed re-emphasised the strength that he drew from Mrs Bullmore's principles and ideology – the human needs in our microcosm of our macrocosmic world.

Chairman's Remark.

Mr Justice U-Lois commended participants and speakers for their role in the successful meeting. He was very instrumental in the smooth sailing of the meeting, particularly with time keeping and constructive remarks.

Closing Speech



Ms Antoinette Dadzie, prepares to deliver her Closing remarks.

Ms Dadzie expressed her gratitude to all for making it a successful meeting. Special gratitude was extended Chairman –Mr Justice U-Lois, Mrs Zena Bullmore MBE and her companion, Mr Edward Cofie from the Ghana High Commission, the leadership of Motec and all those who were involved in the arrangements for the meeting. She wished every participant a safe return home.

The function was closed at 16.15 prompt.



Photogenic Motec - at the end of it all, Biomedical Scientist, Anaesthetic Nurses, a member of the Constabulary (web master), Pain Control Sister, Operating Theatre Scrub sisters pose for 'the photo-finish'.

'ALL WELL AND GOOD' – they seem to suggest.