

Moving From Success To Significance

Address by Daasebre Professor (Emeritus) Oti Boateng, Omanhene of New Juaben, President Of Eastern Regional House of Chiefs and Patron of MotecLife-UK at a Dinner Organised in Daasebre's Honour in St Albans City on 29th January 2012.

I wish to thank MotecLife–UK for cordially welcoming me and my entourage into the historic Cathedral City of St Albans in Southern Hertfordshire and hosting such a sumptuous dinner in my honour which is akin to the City's tradition of welcoming visitors for well over 2000 years. I also wish to thank you for the presentation of this year's Motec Life –UK Calendar and brochure to each member of my delegation.

In his welcome address, Mr. Paul Ofori-Atta, President of MotecLife–UK, expressed his deep appreciation for the immense support I have given to the organization both in Ghana and in the UK. My immediate response is that I very much cherish the opportunity of association with Motec Life-UK and for being its Patron because I believe in what it is doing and what it stands for.

Although MotecLife-UK is a relatively small charity organization, it has already displayed great dynamism to make a real difference in the lives of many people in the developing world. In this perspective, Motec has moved from success to achieve significance.

Looking around, each and everyone gathered here can claim to be successful. However, even though success is necessary it is by no means sufficient. The sufficiency criterion is achieved only when you make a positive difference in the lives of others.

According to Horace Mann,

“We do ourselves the most good doing something for others: doing nothing for others is the undoing of one's self. We must be purposely kind and generous or we miss the best part of existence”.

In my view, true happiness is attained not through self-gratification but through fidelity to a worthy cause such as the services being rendered by MotecLife-UK.

As a multi-racial, multi-national and multi-faith organization of volunteers and allied health professionals based in Britain, you have rendered invaluable services to benefit thousands of underprivileged people in the West African sub-continent through the provision of education, transfer of skills and health care services. You have achieved this objective mainly through a co-ordinated programme of working visits to target hospitals in the sub-Saharan region particularly Ghana. For example, you have provided post-graduate training of Ghanaian Trauma and Orthopedic Surgeons in St Georges Hospital in London, England and Korle-Bu, Akosombo, Koforidua and the 37 Military Hospitals in Ghana.

You have effected improvements in the practice of Physiotherapy, Microbiology, Pathology, Pharmacovigilance and Medical procurement in target hospitals. You have moreover upgraded IT skills and equipment in target hospitals and health care training institutions in Ghana. Your teaching and training projects with the Komfo Anokye, Pramso, Nkawkaw, Jirapa and Donyima hospitals and especially your nutritional and rehabilitation project in Jiripa in North-Western Ghana have given extended life to hundreds of people in the affected areas.

These are indeed laudable undertakings. The ideals are very well articulated and reflected in the current calendar of the organization just presented to us. The September page depicts a picture of Motec Volunteers, Head of London School of Postgraduate Surgery and Paramount Chief of New Juaben, Koforidua, in a deliberative meeting on health issues in Accra last October. The quote on this page that "the world can come together, united in little groups to achieve immeasurable impacts on humanity" sums up the underlying philosophy of this address. Another quote from the calendar that "we keep climbing higher in our aspirations and objectives, to share knowledge and experiences at all levels" is equally revealing.

The high destiny of the individual is to serve rather than to rule. Success is when you add value to yourself. Significance is where you add value to others. This is why I am willing to exchange the scepter for the trowel to serve Motec.

The late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., leader of America's greatest non-violent movement for justice, equality and peace said,

"Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'what are you doing for others?'".

The ideals embodied in Dr. King's lifelong struggle for social change added real value to the lives of millions in America and across the world and enabled him to achieve the highest pinnacle of global significance.

In my humble opinion and as already indicated, Motec has by dint of hard work, selfless dedication and full commitment moved from the level of success to that of significance. As your Patron, let me assure you that I will utilize my best endeavours to ensure that Motec remains at the significance level forever and ever.

Thank you.