



SPEECH BY P. OFORI-ATTA, FOUNDING PRESIDENT OF MOTEC LIFE,
UK AT THE INAUGURATION OF NANKESE ABISIM MA PRIMARY
SCHOOL, 24TH MAY 2019

Nana Chairman- Omanhene of Nankese, The chief of Abisim, Honourable Municipal Assembly Chief Executive -Mrs Margaret Darko-Darkwa, the Regional Directorate of the Ghana Education Service represented Mrs Quaye, The clergy, Members of Motec Life UK – I can see my beautiful wife Executive Trustee of our charity Mrs Ofori-Atta and two eminent volunteers Elaine and Victoria who flew in from London last night to participate in this event, the Headteacher and staff and PTA of Abisim MA Primary School, owners of the land on which this school was built Mr Adjatey and his entourage, members of the press, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls.

Before I proceed, permit me to extend the fraternal greetings from all Motec executives and volunteers abroad and the consortium of patrons led by Prof Lord David Alton of Liverpool.

I am indeed delighted about the successful completion of the primary school complex project. Launched in April of 2017, the construction started in June 2018. It is with joy that I share with you this joyous moment of the handing over of the school to the Municipal Assembly. I can imagine how excited the teachers and pupils will be as they move into their rooms. I am told that some of the junior secondary school teachers now want to teach in the primary school. Well, who would blame them, looking at the sorry state of the Junior Secondary school building? I think all can see the plight of the young ones in the primary school leaving these new classrooms for less attractive ones. I am sure we can use this occasion to appeal to philanthropists, indigenes of Abisim home and abroad to come to the rescue of the Junior Secondary School.

Questions that I have been asked recently is about how the choice was made for Abisim school. The main activity of Motec since it was established 13 years ago has been a clear focus on health care service improvements. When we realised that children with injuries stayed in hospital for a long time, at the onset we decided to support children's education on the ward with Motec teachers from abroad working on the wards with the parents and their wards. As my work as the Founding President grew, I found myself travelling to all West African countries. A reflexion on my observations made me think that it was probably not very effective teaching these kids on the ward as they get treatment only to



return to dilapidated building like the old school building. So, when the decision was initially taken by my family and a communication was circulated to villages who needed help to submit their plea, I was not surprised that many schools from the country showed interest. From Atebubu to Accra, a selection of three schools was made and finally Abisim's plight was the most serious to us. The old site is here for all to see. The idea of providing a good school was introduced to our charity but most importantly, it would become a clear decision to commit family funds from our UK retirement pot to the school and getting material and educational material support from volunteers and our sympathisers.

We have received the cooperation of the local community including the chief, PTA and the owners of the land. The guidance by the Municipal Assembly, Regional and District Education Service has been extraordinary. Of special mention is the way the Assembly machinery responded with the plan for the school, providing an engineer to supervise the project at no charge. The role of the supervising engineer Mr Godfred Iadam Sroda and the headteachers of the school, past and present deserve commendation. If you have to consider selfless devotion to Abisim, I am delighted to express my sincere gratitude to Mr Ebenezer Otibu, the contractor of the project. Himself a native of Abisim, he stood firm in the face of huge challenges and I salute this noble son of Ghana! Profound gratitude also to all the project workers. These are the finest citizens of our country. I can still recall the message from His Excellency Nana Addo to Ghanaians to play the role of 'citizens not spectators'. Abisim School Complex found them easily.

I am sure that the improved physical environment may help change the learning culture for good. Although the building structure is important, pupils, teachers, parents, communities are the most important ingredients with which we will and can galvanise the higher levels of teaching and learning.

I recently had a tour of the school and chatted with the boys and girls. I asked them what they wanted to do. They were quick to tell me which career they were aiming for. Some said - teacher, nurse, musician etc. It was a very good feeling for me. They were aspiring to be professionals. Interestingly majority said they wanted to be in the Police Service! One of the smallest in one of the classes said he wanted to be a soldier and I felt re-assured of our security for Ghana and that of Abisim. They are probably aware that "**Learning is the beginning of wealth and health**". Education is a lifelong pursuit of all young people and it is our support of this noble concept that we can build a better future for our nation.



I am really looking forward to seeing improvements in pupil's discipline, examination results and I am confident that together we will see a transformation of the school in all fields of endeavour.

May I take this opportunity to remind the school authorities to maintain the structure for schooling, not a rental resident for drug pedlars. Let the facility offer our children the opportunity to focus on their education. It is the only proven way to secure the future of our motherland.

At this juncture I would like to ask two special Motec volunteers Elaine and Victoria to present their books to the school. Some books are yet to arrive especially donation from Mrs Roslyn Farley of Adelaide Australia I am sure they will find their way to you soon.

This is a day of hope for the future. May the good Lord strengthen your resolve to become a very good school for all pupils, families, teachers and the community. Thank you. God Bless!