

QUOTES FROM TECHNICAL DIRECTORS WORKSHOP – JOHANNESBURG: APRIL 2018

The technical directors attending FIFA's technical directors workshop in Johannesburg in April 2018 had the following to say:

Francis Oti-Akenteng Technical Director, Ghana

We in Africa sometimes want to arrive at the target without thinking of the steps that have been taken along the way. For me, this workshop has shown me that there are things that we are not getting right because we don't focus on the process. There are areas in coaching education and talent identification that we can build on. I'm looking forward to getting back and starting on that.

Bekisia Mkhonta Technical Director, Swaziland

As the technical director of a small association I appreciate that if we are to be sustainable we need to work on these two areas. Without properly qualified coaches the game at all levels cannot grow, and without an effective elite youth programme we won't have the players to feed into our top clubs and eventually into the national teams. This workshop has broadened our minds about the role of the technical director in all of this.

John Kaputa Technical Director, Malawi

The exchange of ideas and the new information I received have inspired me to go back and make use of them. This workshop has been a big step up from the general workshop we attended in 2016. We learnt there about the importance of scouting, for example. Now we have learned how important it is to have an elite youth philosophy, and to have set criteria for talent identification, to be used in the scouting process.

Ulric Mathiot Technical Director, Seychelles

For me the most significant thing is to see how things fit together. Coaching and development, competitions, referees, elite youth programmes etc. You cannot have some without the others. I can go back now and revisit our structure and programmes in the light of the things we learnt at the workshop.

Abdul Rassullassine Abdulla Technical Director, Mozambique

It's important that we have been given guidance and direction at the workshop. I realised again the importance of the 13 to 17 age group for football. As technical directors we have the responsibility to ensure that we have coaches working at that level who are qualified and capable, and that the most talented young players are identified and channelled into effective elite player programmes.

Salum Mamadi Technical Director, Tanzania

This workshop was a definite step up from the general technical directors course we attended in 2016. Here we looked at specific things and the emphasis has been on the real things we should be doing. In Africa it's often a case of "we just train, we just play" without having a philosophy in place. That's been an important lesson for me. A new coach coming in needs a philosophy to work within. That's what I will be implementing when I go back.

Timothy Tjongarero Technical Director, Namibia

I am new to the job of technical director, so this intervention could not have come at a better time for me. The post has been vacant for a while, so there is a lot of work to do. Hearing the experts from Europe speak about these two areas gives me a great place to start. Getting the coaches right and investing in the elite youth will be my immediate areas of focus.

Neil Tovey Technical Director, South Africa

It's always useful to measure yourself against others. We get so caught up in our work that we do that we don't remember that others are facing the same challenges and there might be solutions there. This workshop has allowed cross-pollination and an exchange of ideas that can only be good for all of us. The job of the technical director is so vast that it's been good to stop and concentrate on these two areas for a few days.

Dominique Niyonzima Senior Manager Technical and Development Department, CAF

The quality of the instructors has been excellent, and the two topics chosen for this workshop are very relevant to the work technical directors must do. I think it is a very timely intervention for African Member Associations because the areas of coaches training and the handling of our elite youth programmes have not been very good. It will be a step towards raising the quality in the continent.