

CAF And Its Role In The Breakdown Of FIFA

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CAF

The Confederation of African Football (CAF), was instituted 58 years ago in Portugal, the organization started with four African Nations which comprised of South Africa, Somalia, Sudan, Egypt, it is however, an African confederation of football associations in Africa which is currently saddled with responsibilities to 56 member associations.

The official languages of the organizations are: English, French and Arabic while Hicham El Amrani is the scribe of the organization and Issa Hayatou Presided over the organization.

In spite of the fact that this organization organizes matches for Africans, they did not develop football in the continent despite the monies pumped into funding several developmental programmes. However, CAF is the biggest of the six continental confederations of FIFA and remain the less developed of them all.

Undoubtedly, CAF through members associations has contributed to the production of football players around the world. However, some of footballers that grew up in Africa had to switch nationalities for different reasons ranging from lack of opportunities, lack of a 'godfather', to lack of funds and also for the unbearable corruption ridden football in Africa.

FIFA and CAF

CAF cannot get a lot done on its own without the support from FIFA as regulated, CAF has to be involved in all the affairs of FIFA. Recently, in the course of the rising issues corruption allegations which had seen two Africans, Amos Adamu (Nigeria) banned by the body for their involvement in corrupt practises.

However, CAF and FIFA top men maintains a strong cabal which seem so hard to crack. I recollect that the acting President of FFA and the Chairman of CAF, Issa Hayatou once supported Sepp Blatter despite all the corruption allegations, this however is passing across a message of partnership.

World cup bids happen between member associations and top government officials of each nations before any tournament takes place, and compulsorily there will be stadium, equipment and facilities inspections by a top FIFA member before any match venue is chosen.

FIFA on the other hand gives appearance fee to nations that participated in world cup tournaments amongst other responsibilities.

How CAF got Involved in the FIFA Breakdown

In as much as CAF did not play much role, they did not start the crisis, Europe started it from the bidding of the country that will host the 2018/22 World Cup in Qatar and Russia and as rumoured, because America and the UK also wants to host the tournament which was the beginning of the end for FIFA.

CAF, of course got involved through its members associations, Amos Adamu got three years ban, Ismael Bhamjee of Botswana got four years ban, Amadou Diakite of Mali and Ahongalu Fusimalohi got three years while Tunisian official, Slim Aloulou got two years ban with fine attached to their ban, all however at a time were CAF/FIFA executives nabbed for corruption and was banned from football by the FIFA Ethics Committee. At that time, according to inside sources, they were suspended or probably set up because that time of elections when Issa Hayatou wants to continue, the two hatchet-men who posed as a threat to him were yanked off, and as some of us rightly knew, Hayatou had to reset CAF's constitution to make himself a life president. It was all politics.

However, the source added that, Amos Adamu was the sacrificial lamb and they knew if Hayatou had contested for the post, he will have a total of Fifty-four votes which will pose as a threat to the elections. CAF is a big part of the FIFA politics.

On a lighter note, whatever happens to the youth/young leaders. Like CAF like FIFA governed by men who ought to have stepped down long ago and act as advisers to young leaders who should take over.

FIFA's Involvement in CAF members associations.

In Nigeria for example, when Jack Warner, a former, now banned Vice President of FIFA came to inspect our stadium for the hosting of the U20 world cup in 1995 before they change it to 1999 when he came and inspected he said he did not think Nigeria can host the moment, he went to the federal capital city, Abuja, and met with the Nigerian President as at then, Late Sani Abacha, after the meeting, he said eight wonders of the world, and gave us a passmark. After inspecting the Kaduna pitch too, so how many minutes between condemnations and praise and so people believe something has exchange hands and instead of them to cancel it they now said we should host 1999 which we hosted.

When we hosted the U17 World Cup in 2009, there was a believe that, it is the same things because Jack Warner, gave us a pass mark in spite of our obvious shortcomings in the sporting facilities and equipment area. Some states in Nigeria like Cross Rivers, Kano, Kaduna were not ready as at then.

When Germany hosted the world cup in 2006, there were allegations that they used money to defeat South Africa, and again it was said that South Africa used money to win the 2010 world cup bid too. It is an association under CAF but looking t this from the another angle, it is not CAFs fault in its entirety. South Africa defended themselves but they have not been arrested hand, it was just an allegation, invariably, Africa does not have serious involvement.

Overall, they were accused of strong connections with corruption, but it is not linked with FIFA, that is not saying CAF is not corrupt but because of our smartness and level of development and technology it is difficult to arrest us they have tried but couldn't succeed.

In conclusion, CAF doesn't have much role to play in the breakdown of FIFA, the main guys there have been ridiculed with ban and fine. The ongoing crisis in FIFA will not directly affect CAF as it is. Rather, it is an eye-opener for Africans to see the depth of corruption in the biggest association in FIFA and yet the most underdeveloped riddled with misappropriation of funds, unreported cases of doping and match-fixing.

It is a wake up call for the Africans to rise up and get serious in fighting corruption that has settled into their midst, blocking development and causing talented skills to leave the continents by swearing allegiance to countries in Asia and Europe.

As a former staff of the Nigeria Premier League a body under the Nigeria Football Federation where I worked for five years, I can put it to you that we have to check FIFA administratively, what administrators, I mean FIFA staff get down with can be dirtier than all we are seeing in the leadership and I hope CAF and FIFA get an administrative cleansing as soon as possible.

I hope the FIFA brouhaha will die down soon as it is a huge distraction to all football fans globally, and also I also hope Issa Hayatou retires or leave office after all these melodrama.

Thank You!