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FR_Said_Ali_Athouman_Comoros_FA_President_FIFA_28062022

(In English)

Q

00.00

Hello, Mr President. Thank you for giving us this interview. What were your main points of discussion with FIFA today?

00.09

Said Ali Athouman (A)

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Firstly, for me, it's an opportunity to visit Paris and the FIFA office, which I wasn't familiar with and I hadn't yet had the opportunity to discover.

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So, I was welcomed on this occasion by President [Gianni] Infantino. Of course, we spoke about football: football in Comoros and football in Africa, but more specifically in terms of COSAFA, because I was recently elected Vice-President of COSAFA.

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So, we spoke about all those kinds of issues, about the development of football, about the measures that should be taken, how to mobilise more resources, and, ultimately, what reforms should be set in motion. So, we had a good discussion about a number of topics.

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As President of a FIFA member association, for you, what are the advantages of having a FIFA office in Paris?

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The advantages... For me, initially, I [inaudible] Morocco... I think that there are a lot of people, especially from African countries, who pass through Paris. I think it's more practical and easier.

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For me, personally, every time I pass through Paris, I'll be sure to call in at the [FIFA] office, not just to visit, because I've already done that, but because you can get to work there.

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Everything is done to welcome the different [MA] presidents, those who really want to come and work here when passing through Paris. So, I think it's a really good thing, especially for us, the presidents of African federations.

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How does your association work daily with FIFA, and what results have you seen in your country?

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FIFA is our main partner. Of course, we have the Comoros government, for example, when it comes to the national team. We have CAF, but it's true that in a lot of countries, and even more so for us because we're an island nation that...

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I have to mention that most or the vast majority of our activity takes place thanks to, and is notably financed by, FIFA, by grants from FIFA. So, FIFA is a key partner for us.

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Last question. What are the future projects that you'll be working on with FIFA to develop football in your country?

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We have several projects. We already have infrastructure projects that are in the process of being implemented.

Here's an example: we recently got artificial pitches.

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We're in the process of renovating and setting up a training centre, an academy. So, even in terms of training, there are projects that will be set up.

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As I told you, [FIFA] is therefore an important partner [for us]. For instance, whether it be infrastructure or training, these are domains in which we regularly receive support from FIFA, but we still have a lot of projects in these areas.

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END