

The world of football is in mourning following the passing of Issa Hayatou, a towering figure in the sport who left an indelible mark on African football. Born in Cameroon in 1946, Hayatou's influence extended far beyond the pitch, as he served as the president of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) for nearly three decades until March 2017.

Under Hayatou's leadership, African football experienced unprecedented growth and gained global recognition. His tenure saw the expansion of the Africa Cup of Nations, allowing more teams to participate and showcasing the continent's talent on a grander scale. Additionally, his efforts led to the inclusion of more African teams in the FIFA World Cup, further solidifying Africa's presence in international football.

Hayatou's contributions were not limited to CAF. He also held the position of interim president of FIFA from October 2015 to February 2016, stepping in during a turbulent period following the suspension of Sepp Blatter. Despite the challenges, Hayatou managed to navigate FIFA through a critical time with his characteristic calm and authority.

News of Hayatou's passing has prompted an outpouring of condolences from around the globe. Many have acknowledged the significant role he played in transforming African football into a force to be reckoned with on the world stage. His legacy will undoubtedly continue to inspire future generations of football leaders and players alike.