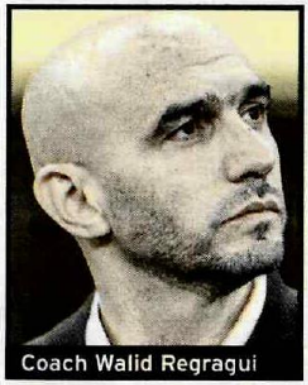
OUAHBI TAKES CHARGE OF MOROCCO



Coach Walid Regragui

By Fred Kaweesi

In a bid to consolidate Morocco's place among the best football nations in world football, Morocco have appointed Mohammed Ouahbi as the new head coach of the senior team, the Atlas Lions.

Ouahbi replaces coach Walid Regragui, who led the Atlas Lions to the World Cup semi-finals in 2022 and to the final of the Africa Cup of Nations at the beginning of this year.

The change is part of the "Morocco 2030" roadmap that was presented by the President of The Royal Moroccan Football Federation Fouzi Lekjaa, with one goal in mind: to raise performance standards in a sustainable manner and consolidate the momentum of progress in Moroccan soccer at all levels.

"This announcement is not just a simple change: it is a strategic transition. Our goal is to continuously advance Moroccan football with a roadmap that is part of an enlightened royal vision, linking the A team, training, youth, and women's football.

By appointing Mohamed OUAHBI and welcoming top-level reinforcements, we are strengthening our standards and our daily requirements, with a view to harmony and complementarity. Morocco 2030 is a motivating goal: our ambition is to consolidate our place among the best nations in the long term and to perform well this summer, as we will in 2030," said Lekjaa.



Royal Moroccan FA president Fouzi Lekjaa welcomes Atlas Lions new coach Mohammed Ouahbi

By appointing Ouahbi, the FRMF is reaffirming a principle: the sporting project remains under Moroccan leadership.

A recognized coach in the national league, Ouahbi made a name for himself by leading the Moroccan U20 team to the FIFA World Cup title in 2025, demonstrating his ability to build a team, develop players, and set high standards.

The Moroccan football academy thus reflects, on an international scale, a way of working—high standards, discipline, structure, talent development—and continuity in ambition.

"I am honored by the trust placed in me by the FRMF. We will work with dedication and humility, relying on a clear method and a collective ambition: to progress match after match, set high standards on a daily basis, enable the team to reach new heights in the coming games, and live up to the ambitions of His Majesty the King, may God assist him, and the Moroccan people," said Ouahbi.

Sacramento joins Atlas Lions

To accelerate this momentum and reinforce the high standards demanded on a daily basis, the FRMF is strengthening the coaching staff of the A team with leading international figures, chosen for their complementary skills.

As part of this initiative, a number of high-level professionals are joining the A team's staff.

Joao Sacramento Joins the technical staff after gaining experience at tthe highest level, notably as assistant coach at Paris Saint-Germain, AS Roma, and Tottenham. He will bring a working methodology developed in highly demanding environments to the team's daily preparation and execution.

A respectful transition: recognition for Walid Regragui

Lekjaa and the FRMF commended Regragui for his commitment and for the work accomplished at the helm of the national team. The federation expressed its appreciation and gratitude to him.

For his part, Regragui thanked His Majesty the King, may God assist him, the federation, and all Moroccans who supported him throughout his career.

"I leave my post with loyalty, gratitude, and the certainty that I have served my country," he stated recently.

Morocco will be in Group C at the World Cup along with five-time winners Brazil, Scotland and Haiti. They begin their campaign against Brazil at the MetLife Stadium just outside New York City on June 13 and will be hoping to make a big impression at the tournament before co-hosting the 2030 edition with Spain and Portugal.