



## Redknapp replaces Zola as Birmingham City manager

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### NIGERIA: -

Birmingham City have appointed Harry Redknapp as their new manager following the resignation of Gianfranco Zola.

The ex-West Ham, Tottenham and QPR boss succeeds Gianfranco Zola, who resigned on Monday after a 2-0 defeat by fellow Championship strugglers Burton Albion.

Blues are 20th in the table, three points above the relegation zone with three games left, and travel to local rivals Aston Villa on Sunday.

"Birmingham are a proper football club but they are in a precarious position," Redknapp, 70, told Talksport.

Redknapp's appointment was announced just 16 hours after Zola's departure, and he says he will initially take charge until the end of the season.

He took charge of Jordan for two World Cup qualifiers last year, and worked as an adviser to Derby County last season, but has not managed in England since leaving QPR in February 2015.

An FA Cup winner with Portsmouth in 2008, he led Tottenham to the Champions League quarter-finals during a four-year spell at White Hart Lane.

In 2016, he was made a director at Wimbome Town and a football consultant for Australian side Central Coast Mariners.

Redknapp, who will be assisted by former Bristol City boss Steve Cotterill, said: "I got a phone call last night at 7pm from the people at Birmingham.

"I drove to London and had a 10-15-minute meeting with them and said: 'I'll come and do it.'"

"My wife said to me 'are you mad or what?' but I get fed up sitting around doing nothing."

Blues could be in the relegation zone by the time Redknapp takes charge of his first match.

BBC