



## **UWbF President's Speech at the 12<sup>th</sup> AGM**

**8<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

## Communication from the Chairperson

The Government Representatives and Officials from National Council of Sports, Representative from the Chinese Embassy in Uganda.

Fellow Executive Members, members of the Congress and representatives of different Clubs and Institutions, the Media personnel present, distinguished invited Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen. I greet you in the name of the Almighty God and Happy New Year!

In a special way I would like to recognise and welcome all of you to the 12<sup>th</sup> UWbF Annual Congress, and in a very special way I welcome the Representative of the Chinese Embassy, the Representative of National Council of Sports to this Annual Ordinary Congress. It is my pleasure to have you all members of the assembly at this congress as we account for the activities of the previous year 2019 and also present to this year 2020 and beyond.

I would like to thank the **Government of the Republic of Uganda and the Government of the Peoples' Republic of China** for all the support extended to the Uganda Woodball Federation most notably the support given to us when we hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Beach Woodball World Cup and 6<sup>th</sup> Uganda International Woodball Open Championship. I wish to make a fresh request to His Excellence the Ambassador for support to UWbF Budget for this year 2020. Through such support, our athletes have exhibited great talent, skill and hard work by engaging in over 20 calendar events.

The Chinese Embassy has promised to continue supporting federation staff to develop their capacity this year. Uganda is the pioneer country to play Woodball in Africa and has the mandate to spread the sport in Africa. It is also the first African country to organize a Woodball World Cup. We shall continue with our strategy of motivating our players by allowing them a platform to compete at national, regional, continental and international level.

The continued Government support through the National Council of Sports as well as a healthy working relationship with the Chinese Embassy greatly supported the successful hosting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Beach Woodball World Cup, and 6<sup>th</sup> Uganda International Open 2019. With such support, Uganda emerged 2<sup>nd</sup> Overall in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Beach Woodball World Cup 2019.

**H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni** recognized excelling National sports federation and athletes for the year 2019 and Woodball was among, also the Speaker of Parliament **Rt. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga** who paid a courtesy appearance during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Beach Woodball World Cup Championship at Spenah Beach Entebbe.

We are very grateful to the **First Lady Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni** for honouring our invitation as Chief Guest of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Beach Woodball World Cup Championship by sending Hon. Mary Karoro Okurut as her representative.

The continued support from IWbF, Ndejje University, CPA Uganda and Coral Coating (U) Ltd has made us grow the sport day by day in the different regions of the country.

Winning the Inaugural Africa Woodball Championship hosted by Kenya on November 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> at United States International University Africa in Kenya and have seven (7) of our Ugandan athletes attaining IWbF World ranking for 2019 really calls for appreciation; **Adupa Joel** in the 9<sup>th</sup> position, **Kedi Thomas** in the 21<sup>st</sup> position and **Towongo Geoffrey** in the 25<sup>th</sup> position while for the ladies **Nanjeru Denise Pulkeria** in the 8<sup>th</sup> position and **Mukoya Florence** in the 28<sup>th</sup> position.

The UWbF President elected as IWbF Vice President for Africa for the next 4 years and this did happen last year in November 2019. We as a Federation have had all year round publicity in the different media stations and we commit to strengthening this trust.

Dear members of this august Assembly, I would like to remind you that the Federation manufactures its own equipment thanks to the support, from the Chinese Embassy that has donated 2 new state of the art Woodball manufacturing machines and our target this year is to enhance talent development in schools from the different regions of Uganda and we shall need at least 300 sets of Woodball equipment, and we seek the Government support for this equipment. The Chinese Embassy has once again pledged to add us another machine this year to boost equipment production.

I would also like to inform you that we are preparing our National Woodball team for the Woodball World Cup scheduled to take place on **24-30 July 2020 in Perlis,**

**Malaysia and I wish to officially make appeal to Government to support this activity.**

Many thanks to the role played by the sponsors in our developments to mention; the Chinese Embassy in Uganda, the National Council of Sports and Ndejje University particularly the Vice Chancellor Prof. Eriabu Lugujjo for hosting the National Federation offices and the Woodball Manufacturing Plant. We are very grateful for this partnership because without him, we would find a challenge to develop this fast growing sport. Other partners include Coral Coatings Ltd, ICPAU, Mandela National Stadium, Entebbe Municipal Council etc.

Above all, it is you, the members who have made Woodball what it is; an inclusive model sport. Currently we have over 4,000 active Woodball players of differing age, gender and origin. Hence I would like to appreciate the role played by the Woodball playing Clubs for enduring and supporting their athletes throughout the calendar year.

**Our Strategic road map for the year 2020**

- Enhance engagement of our strategic key partners to support establishment of a standard Woodball course.
- Enhance and strengthen the Governance structure at the UWbF, Member Clubs and Commissions.
- Enhance quality of Woodball equipment produced to match the world class standard.

On behalf of my entire Executive Committee and the Commissions, I would like to conclude by thanking all of you as stakeholders for having attended this Congress I call for your active participation. I wish you a pleasant stay and I look forward to fruitful deliberations.