



Uganda Woodball Federation

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Press Release

Woodball Bids Farewell to H.E. the Chinese Ambassador in Uganda

The outgoing Chinese Ambassador to Uganda H.E. Ambassador Zheng ZhuQiang has assured Uganda Woodball Federation of continued support from the Chinese Embassy. Zheng made the commitment during an online meeting on Tuesday (April 13, 2021) with the Uganda Woodball Federation Patron and Vice Chancellor of Ndejje University Prof. Eriabu Lugujjo, the federation President Paul Mark Kayongo and General Secretary Collins Ssemmanda.

In his remarks, Ambassador Zheng ZhuQiang felt time flies so fast having spent in the country 4 years and 4 months. He mentioned that he first learned of Woodball when he came to Uganda and he was honoured to participate in the various events of the Woodball federation.

He mentioned that the new Ambassador will also embrace the sport and assured the Woodball federation that his successor will continue working with them to grow the sport. The Embassy is very satisfied with the work of the federation and the Ambassador assured the federation that the friendship does exist forever.

In his remarks, the Patron of the Uganda Woodball Federation and Vice Chancellor of Ndejje University Prof. Eriabu Lugujjo thanked the Ambassador for all the support towards Woodball development in Uganda. Appreciated Ambassador's efforts to associate with a young sport like Woodball.

Mr. Kayongo Paul Mark, the President of the Uganda Woodball Federation alluded to the fact that the absence of Ambassador Zheng in Uganda will be missed especially by the Woodball Fraternity. He mentioned that this was not an ordinary farewell, but goodbye to a close friend and dependable partner. At the same time the Federation shared his excitement as the Ambassador prepares to say hello to his next adventure.

As the Vice Chancellor of Ndejje University, he expressed his pleasure having hosted the Ambassador to Ndejje University in 2019. Ndejje University is a platinum partner of the Uganda Woodball Federation. He proposed to have Ndejje University partner with the Chinese Embassy being a young institution that needs a lot of support for development especially in Education and sports.

The Uganda Woodball Federation will always be grateful for the Ambassador's partnership, leadership, and guidance during his stay in Uganda. With his support, we learned invaluable knowledge. His kindness, patience, and advice set us up for success, and helped us grow as a federation. The Ambassador has been an inspiration to the young, motivating many to take up the Woodball sport.

The Uganda Woodball Federation acknowledges the support of the Chinese government, which was the direct result of the Ambassador's favour.

Besides supporting the Uganda Woodball Federation host a number of domestic tournaments, the Chinese government played an integral role in Ugandan hosting the 2nd Beach Woodball World Cup in 2019.

The Federation appreciates his concerted efforts that helped the Uganda national team participate in several international tournaments.

Over the years, the Ambassador has fully supported the development of human capital, enabling the federation train its staff and improve their professional competencies.

The Ambassador has also invested in the infrastructural development of Ugandan Woodball, with the provision of world-class manufacturing machines producing equipment for our local and international players. These machines have sustained our mandate to produce Woodball equipment for the African market.

The Ambassador will always remember and cherish the moments he had with the federation and he pledged to always follow up the activities of the Woodball sport in Uganda through the Embassy while he is away.

In his concluding remarks, Ambassador Zheng assured the Woodball federation that the proposed multi-complex Woodball development project will be supported strongly by the Chinese Government through the Embassy in Uganda. He also invited the top leadership to Beijing, China for a site visit and an opportunity to exchange ideas on how to grow the sport. He believes that Woodball has a great potential of become an Olympic Sport.

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Notes

- *Woodball in one of the fastest growing sports in Uganda.*
- *The Uganda Woodball Federation was established in 2008 and has the mandate to grow and develop the sport in Africa*
- *Uganda is currently ranked 1st in Africa and 2nd in the World in the Sport of Woodball*
 - *The federation is currently seeking support to establish a Multi-Sport facility complex*