

**WELCOME SPEECH FOR THE INAUGURAL ANNUAL SCHOOL LOOFBALL
COMPETITION IN FCT DELIVERED ON 30TH JUNE 2022 BY THE EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR, LOOFBALL SPORT DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE, ENGR. WINNER
VIDIYENO MATAHULA**

Ladies and gentlemen, with great excitement I welcome you to this auspicious occasion being the grand finale of the Inaugural Annual School Loofball Competition in the Federal Capital Territory. I trust everyone present here is doing well and super-excited with keen interest about today's event.

There is no doubt that sport has become a universal language and a unifying tool even in the most remote societies. The academic, social and health significance of sport in particular cannot be overemphasized.

I believe for physical fitness and strength, sport is an integral part of an active life. Sports in general make our lives interesting, teach us hard work and push us beyond our individual limits to new heights. Sport teaches discipline, teamwork, respect, friendship, leadership, resilience and overcoming adversity. This on its own is a crucial part of students' growth and development. Schools are not being established to only improve students' mental abilities but also help them learn a good sense of sportsmanship which to a larger extent translates to the society.

It is in light of all these that we began this noble project about six (6) years ago with the vision to develop and promote an indigenous sport in loofball that will become one of the top youth sports in the country and beyond. And I believe that this event not only marks an important step towards realizing this vision, but also highlights our commitment to the course.

Let me seize this opportunity to specially thank the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development, the FCT Universal Basic Education Board, our patrons and other stakeholders for their continued guidance, support and encouragement. This is as we also ask for more collaboration and support from the government, private and non-governmental organizations, sports enthusiasts and other well-meaning Nigerians in our bid to continually shape the lives of young people through sport.

On behalf of the management of Loofball Sport Development Initiative, I also express our sincere gratitude to the Principal, the Vice Principals and other staff

members of Junior Secondary School Garki for giving us all the necessary support in the build up to this event and in ensuring that we have a colorful finale.

The love the parent is indescribable. No one can love us more than our parents. Behind the hard work and success of any child, is an inspiration and vision of a disciplined parent. I reachout a warm welcome to all parents who defied odds to share this moment with us.

To our distinguished invited guests, we thank you for sparing time out of your busy schedules to grace this pioneering event. May God reward you abundantly.

This address would not be complete without acknowledging the presence of the media and men of the press. We sincerely thank you for honoring our invitation.

And on this note I wish the athletes a wonderful performance and goodluck.

Thank you and God bless you.