

# UOC PEDIA

## — *Monthlu Insights* —

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## **DR. DONALD RUKARE BECOMES FIRST UGANDAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF COMMONWEALTH SPORT**

Uganda celebrated a historic moment on 26 November 2025 when Dr. Donald Rukare was elected President of Commonwealth Sport during the General Assembly in Glasgow, Scotland. His election made him the first Ugandan to lead the global Commonwealth Games body. The achievement highlighted his long-standing dedication to sports administration, integrity, and athlete protection, marking a major milestone for Uganda's influence in international sports governance.



*Dr. Donald Rukare president of Commonwealth Sport*

## GAME CONNECT TRIALS

The Game Connect trials took place at Mandela National Stadium, bringing together 100 talented refugee youth from Adjumani, Rwamwanja, Kyangwali, and Kampala. The event provided a platform for the young athletes to demonstrate their skills, discipline, and determination.

Organized as part of preparations for the historic 4th Summer Youth Olympic Games set to take place in Dakar, Senegal next year, the trials marked a significant milestone for refugees in Uganda. Through this initiative, participants aimed to secure a place on the national refugee team that will represent Uganda on the international stage.

The activity, driven by the vision of promoting inclusion and empowerment through sports, showcased how sports can serve as a unifying and transformative force for refugee communities.



*Participants during warmup*

## ISLAMIC SOLIDARITY GAMES 2025

Uganda Shines at the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh Uganda achieved its best performance ever at the 6th Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh, returning with a total of 13 medals: 3 gold, 4 silver, and 6 bronze.

Themed "One Nation," the championship featured standout performances, including gold medals for swimmer Anna Gloria Muzito in the 50m and 100m freestyle events and Rebecca Chelangat in the women's 10,000m race. Silver medals were won by Muzito in the 200m freestyle, Halima Nakaayi in the women's 800m, Samuel Simba Cherop in the men's 10,000m, and Charity Cherop in the women's 5,000m. Bronze medals were secured by boxer Alfred Ojok, Cherop in the 5,000m, Abel Chebet in the men's 10,000m, swimmer Jessie Ssuubi Ssengonzi in the 200m butterfly, the women's doubles table tennis team, and Shida Leni in the women's 400m.

Uganda ranked 16th out of 57 countries. Chef-de-Mission Hajji Sadiq Zaid Nasiwu commended the team's dedication and praised the thorough preparations supported by the Government and the Uganda Olympic Committee. Egypt participated in athletics, swimming, table tennis, para-powerlifting, wrestling, boxing, and weightlifting. The opening ceremony took place at the Jenadriyah Camel Racing Track, with representatives from all participant countries. Hon. Peter Ogwang represented the First Lady, Mama Janet Kataha Museveni, at the closing ceremony held at the Princess Nourah Bint Stadium. The next Islamic Solidarity Games will be hosted by Malaysia in 2029.



*Some of the athletes that participated in the Riyadh games*

## NADO TRAINING

The National Anti-Doping Organization (NADO) conducted a three-day training from 3rd to 5th November 2025 at the Uganda Olympic Committee (UOC) Headquarters.

The training aimed at equipping new Doping Control Officers (DCO) with essential knowledge on anti-doping policies, procedures, and best practices to strengthen the fight against doping in sports. Participants were taken through key topics including testing protocols, education frameworks, and the importance of clean sport in safeguarding athlete health and integrity.

The sessions were delivered by Mr. Christopher Oluk (DCO) through interactive presentations, practical demonstrations, and expert-led discussions, enabling participants to gain hands-on skills and a deeper understanding of anti-doping management.

This training plays a crucial role in ensuring that Uganda remains compliant with international anti-doping standards and continues to promote fairness, transparency, and ethical conduct in sports nationwide.



*The new Doping Control Officers with Ms. Beatrice Ayikoru and Mr. Christopher Oluk.*

## GED COMMISSION

The GED Mind Gap Validation Workshop was held at Nob View Hotel in Ntinda on 15<sup>TH</sup> November 2025.

The workshop brought together the Uganda Olympic Committee (UOC) and its Member Federations to review and validate the findings of the recent Gender, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (GED) assessment. The discussions focused on understanding the factors contributing to equity, gender, equality, and inclusion (EGEI) gaps within sports structures.

The aim of the workshop was to identify the root causes of existing deficiencies affecting women, refugees, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and special-needs athletes, and to develop actionable strategies to create a more inclusive sporting environment across Uganda.

The workshop concluded with a collective commitment to strengthen policies, improve practices, and promote inclusive sport and education systems throughout the country.



*Members that attended the workshop*



## UOC SECRETARY GENERAL HONORED WITH ANOCA GENDER AWARD

UOC Secretary General Ms. Beatrice Ayikoru was honored with the ANOCA Gender Award, recognizing her exceptional leadership and contributions to the advancement of sports on the African continent. She was among six outstanding women celebrated for championing gender equality and inclusion in sports.

The award was received on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025, following the ANOCA Gender Award ceremony that took place on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The presentation was held at the UOC/CGU Headquarters, where the award was handed to her.

The award was presented by the UOC/CGU President, Dr. Donald Rukare, on behalf of the Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA).

ANOCA recognized Ms. Ayikoru for her significant efforts in strengthening women's participation and leadership in sports. Her work has inspired many women across Uganda and Africa to engage more actively both on and off the field.

In her remarks, Ms. Beatrice expressed deep gratitude to ANOCA for valuing women's contributions to sports development. She emphasized that "the more women in leadership, the more women will be inspired to participate in sports."



*Dr. Donald Rukare handing over the award to Ms. Beatrice Ayikoru*

## SAC KYANGWALI

The three-day Game Connect Sport Administrators Course (SAC), designed for coaches and peer leaders under the Game Connect Project, officially concluded on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025. The training was held in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement Camp in Kikuube District, bringing together participants working directly with refugee youth and communities.

The participants included coaches, peer leaders, and community sport facilitators engaged in the Game Connect programme, which harnesses sport as a tool for empowerment, resilience building, and social development among refugees.

The training aimed to equip participants with the knowledge, values, and leadership skills required to deliver safe, structured, and impactful sports activities within refugee communities. The course further sought to strengthen their understanding of the Olympic Movement and promote the use of sport as a tool for peace, inclusion, and personal development.



*Participants during the course.*

# SAFEGUARDING FRAMEWORK AND ISSA 2026 ELECTION ROADMAP

The President of the Uganda Olympic Committee (UOC) and Commonwealth Sport (CGS), Dr. Donald Rukare , delivered key presentations on the Safeguarding Framework for the Islamic Solidarity Sports Association (ISSA) and the 2026 ISSA Executive Board Election Roadmap on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2025.

The presentations were made during an ISSA engagement session (insert date if available), where delegates convened to discuss governance, athlete protection, and strategic planning.

Dr. Rukare outlined *what* the safeguarding framework entails focusing on protecting athletes, strengthening reporting mechanisms, and promoting safe sporting environments across all ISSA member countries. He also detailed *how* the election roadmap will guide the transparent and well-organized process leading to the 2026 Executive Board elections.

These discussions are essential in ensuring *why* ISSA remains committed to good governance, athlete welfare, and accountability within the broader Islamic Solidarity Sports Movement.



*Dr. Donald Rukare during the presentation*

# G.I.R.L.S AGAINST GBV PROJECT

The Uganda Olympic Committee, together with the Uganda Rugby Union and Swans Sports Club, launched the G.I.R.L.S Against GBV project on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2025. The three-year initiative aimed to empower 10,000 girls and boys aged 12–18 years to combat Gender-Based Violence.

The project was set to run across 50 schools in Wakiso District and nearby areas, where it used Rugby as a tool to build confidence, leadership, and resilience among the youth.

The launch demonstrated the partners' commitment to creating safer communities and equipping young people with the skills and awareness needed to prevent and respond to GBV.



*Mr. Yayiro Kasasa, Mr. James Okot Owaraga, Ms. Harriet Ocheng, Mr. Moses Mwase and Mr. Isaac Lubwama*

## SAC SOROTI

The three-day Sport Administrators Course was successfully conducted at Soroti University. The course attracted sports administrators, coaches, and physical education teachers from across the Teso Subregion, with participants coming from Soroti, Kumi, Bukedea, Oyam, Kapchorwa, and surrounding areas.

The training aimed to equip sports stakeholders with essential knowledge and administrative skills to strengthen the development and management of sports within their respective communities.

The course ran for three days and was concluded on Friday, 21 November 2025, marking a significant step toward enhancing sports administration capacity in the region.



*Participants during the course*

## BUSIA OLYMPAFRICA CENTRE CELEBRATES ROAD TO DAKAR 2026

The Olympafrica Centre in Busia celebrated the one-year countdown to the Youth Africa Games on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2025, which will be hosted in Senegal in 2026. The celebration marked a significant milestone on the road to Dakar 2026 and brought together stakeholders committed to promoting youth development through sport.

The gathering highlighted the Centre's dedication to empowering young people and underscored the opportunities that lie ahead as the continent prepared for the Games. Participants reflected on the role of sport in inspiring future athletes and strengthening unity and competition across Africa.

The event reinforced the Olympafrica Centre's mission to nurture talent and build a strong foundation for youth engagement in the lead-up to Dakar 2026.



*During the celebration*



## ROWING



*Rowing athletes*

Uganda was represented by three athletes at the Commonwealth Rowing Association Beach Sprints Championships, which commenced in Bridgetown, Barbados and ran until November 23rd.

The national team was captained by Olympian Kathleen Noble, who competed in the Women's Solo event and in the Mixed Double alongside 23-year-old rising talent Elijah Namunyu. Namunyu also featured in the Men's Solo category.

The duo was joined by junior rower Marcel Otim, who took part in the Junior Men's Solo event, marking an important step for Uganda's emerging talent in international beach sprint rowing.

The participation highlighted Uganda's growing presence and competitiveness in the evolving discipline of coastal rowing at the Commonwealth level.

## NETBALL

The She Cranes delivered a dominant performance to clinch the Celtic Cup, completing the tournament with a perfect record of five consecutive wins.

The competition took place from November 26–30, 2025, at the Emirates Arena in Glasgow, Scotland.

Uganda sealed their title in style with a decisive 70–48 victory over Wales in their final encounter on Sunday. Their unbeaten run, achieved through exceptional teamwork, disciplined defense, and powerful attacking plays, showcased the She Cranes' growing dominance on the international netball stage.

The triumph marked a significant milestone for Uganda, reinforcing the team's reputation as a rising global force in netball.



*Netball team*

