



# UOC PEDIA

## Monthly Insights



**APRIL 2026: Issue 4**

# INSIDE

***Game connect***

***Team Uganda preparation***

***Consultative and information session***

***Olympic Day-Tooke Run launch***

***UOC president meets Diplomats***

***Courtesy call to Antigua & Barbuda Governor***

***Courtesy call to Barbados President***

***Olympic Study Diploma***

***Federation's Corner***

## GAME CONNECT SUMMIT 2026

The Game Connect Summit 2026 was held at Hotel Africana from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> April 2026, bringing together participants to share evidence-based insights and practical strategies on using sport to enhance psychological wellbeing and resilience.

The summit featured engaging activities across two days. Day 1 (Youth Day) brought together refugees and young people from Kyangwali, Rwamwanja, Adjumani, and Kampala for interactive sessions and sports such as Dance Sport and Indoor Rowing, highlighting how physical activity supports mental health, builds confidence, and fosters social connection. Day 2 showcased exhibitions from different settlements, where participants demonstrated activities and shared how they survive and build resilience within their communities.

Through personal testimonies, including that of Otim Ambrose, participants highlighted how the program transforms lives by creating opportunities, leadership pathways, and global exposure. Experts also emphasized sport's role in restoring dignity, addressing mental health challenges, and promoting community cohesion.

The summit demonstrated how sport can be used as a powerful tool to unite communities, empower youth, and strengthen resilience, reinforcing its role in driving social change, education, and peacebuilding.



Game Connect Summit Panelists

## TEAM UGANDA PREPARATIONS FOR GLASGOW 2026 MEETING

Commonwealth Games Uganda held a Commonwealth Games preparation meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at the head office. Uganda confirmed participation in nine sports at the Commonwealth Games, including Athletics, 3x3 Basketball, Boxing, Track Cycling, Netball, Swimming, Para Swimming, Judo, and Para Powerlifting, with Weightlifting pending final qualification expected by the end of May 2026.

In preparation, the Commonwealth Games Chef de Mission, Godwin Kayangwe, met with heads of federations to assess readiness and strengthen coordination among stakeholders. The meeting focused on ensuring athlete preparedness, effective support systems, and alignment under a unified Team Uganda approach.

Federations were urged to review athlete readiness, confirm eligibility requirements with their respective international bodies, and address any gaps early to avoid setbacks. The engagement aimed to ensure a well-prepared and competitive Team Uganda for Glasgow 2026.



During the meeting

## CONSULTATIVE AND INFORMATION SESSION ON SAFEGUARDING AND TEAM SELECTION POLICIES

The Uganda Olympic Committee / Commonwealth Games Uganda conducted a consultative and information session with federation heads to present and review the Safeguarding Policy and Team Selection Policy aimed at strengthening athlete welfare and governance on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

The Team Selection Policy, presented by Moses Benon Mwase, outlined a transparent and accountable framework covering athlete selection criteria, roles of team officials, dispute resolution mechanisms, compliance requirements, and safeguarding integration. The process emphasized inclusivity through continuous federation input to ensure fairness and build trust in national team selection.

The Safeguarding Policy was presented by Seyson Meya, aligning with Strategic Objective 6 to strengthen athlete wellbeing across all levels of sport. It addressed risks such as physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, bullying, doping, and online harm, while establishing safe reporting channels, response systems, and ongoing education.

The session reinforced the importance of compliance, collaboration, and shared responsibility among federations to ensure safe, fair, and transparent sporting environments for all athletes in Uganda.



*Federations, Commissions and Excom members*

## OLYMPIC DAY–TOOKE RUN LAUNCH

The Uganda Olympic Committee / Commonwealth Games Uganda, in partnership with Banana Industrial Research Development Center (Tooke), met with key stakeholders at Sheraton Hotel to launch the Olympic Day–Tooke Run on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

The initiative, set to take place in Bushenyi, aims to bring together athletes, communities, farmers, and nutrition advocates to celebrate sport, health, and Uganda’s banana as a symbol of nutrition and economic empowerment.

Through collaboration between sports and agricultural stakeholders, the run seeks to promote healthy lifestyles, strengthen links between rural communities and international platforms, and create opportunities for youth and farmers. Beatrice Ayikoru, Secretary General of UOC, emphasized that the initiative reflects a shared mission of building healthy athletes and communities while addressing malnutrition.

The Olympic Day–Tooke Run highlights the power of sport to unite communities, promote Olympic values, and drive social change by bridging gaps between nutrition, culture, and opportunity across Uganda.



*After the launch*

## UOC PRESIDENT MET DIPLOMATIC OFFICIALS

Donald Rukare, President of the Uganda Olympic Committee, met with Uganda’s High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Nimisha Madhvani, Deputy High Commissioner Phillip Matthew Rukikaire, China’s Ambassador to Antigua & Barbuda Jiang Wei, and Antigua’s High Commissioner to the UK Karen Mae-Hill to discuss preparations for upcoming international engagements.

The meeting focused on briefing Uganda’s diplomatic leadership on the Commonwealth Games scheduled for July 2026 in Glasgow, as well as a planned sports side event during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting set for November.

Through this engagement, stakeholders aligned on collaboration, coordination, and support mechanisms to ensure Uganda’s effective participation and representation at both events. The meeting underscored the importance of diplomatic partnerships in advancing sports development and strengthening Uganda’s presence on the global stage.



*During the meeting*

## COURTESY CALL WAS MADE ON ANTIGUA & BARBUDA GOVERNOR

A delegation led by Donald Rukare, President of the Uganda Olympic Committee, paid a courtesy call on Sir Rodney Williams at Government House in Antigua and Barbuda to discuss key upcoming Commonwealth Sport engagements.

The meeting provided an opportunity to brief the Governor General on planned activities within Commonwealth Sport, including preparations for a sports side event during the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting scheduled for November.

The engagement strengthened diplomatic and sporting relations, highlighting the importance of collaboration in advancing Commonwealth values through sport and ensuring successful delivery of upcoming international events.



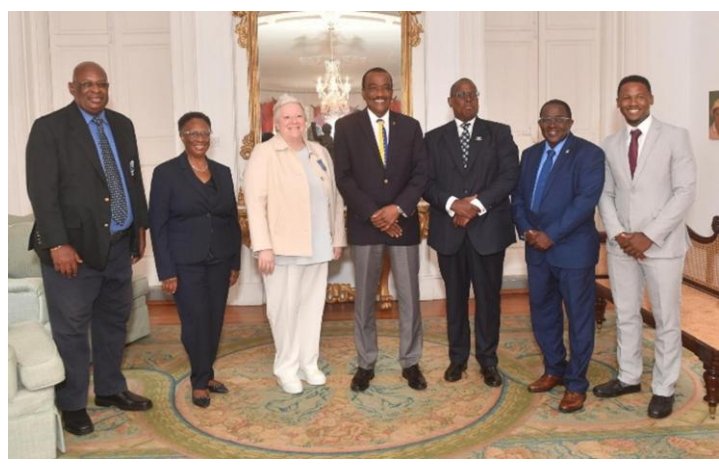
*Dr. Donald Rukare with the Sir Rodney Williams*

## COURTESY CALL WAS MADE ON THE PRESIDENT OF BARBADOS

A high-level delegation from Commonwealth Sport, including Vice President Sandra Osborne, CEO Katie Sadleir, RVP Ephraim Penn, RDM Ryan Brathwaite, and Erskine Simmons, alongside Donald Rukare, President of the Uganda Olympic Committee, paid a courtesy call on Jeffrey Bostic, President of Barbados.

The meeting, held during the Commonwealth Sport Executive Board engagements in Barbados, provided an opportunity to brief His Excellency on key sports activities and ongoing initiatives within the Commonwealth.

The delegation also expressed appreciation for the warm hospitality extended to Executive Board members, highlighting the importance of collaboration and strong partnerships in advancing sport and Commonwealth values globally.



*During the meeting*

## OLYMPIC STUDIES DIPLOMA AT SAUDI OLYMPIC ACADEMY

Donald Rukare, President of the Uganda Olympic Committee, participated in Day 2 of the Diploma in Olympic Studies at the Saudi Olympic Academy, which successfully concluded with engaging and insightful discussions.

The session focused on the history of the Olympic Movement and the evolution of the Games, bringing together participants to deepen their understanding of Olympic values and global sports development.

Through interactive learning and knowledge sharing, the program aimed to strengthen leadership capacity and promote appreciation of the Olympic ideals, with participants actively contributing to discussions and exchanges.



*Dr. Donald Rukare during a presentation*

## CDM MEETING IN DAKAR

Ms. Lydia Dhamuzungu, the Assistant General Secretary of Uganda Olympic Committee, represented Uganda at the Chef de Mission (CDM) meeting held in Dakar, where key action points were outlined to strengthen Team Uganda’s readiness for upcoming international competitions.

The meeting focused on critical preparation areas including fast-tracking team apparel (official, ceremonial, competition, and out-of-competition kits), processing passports and travel documents, ensuring parental consent and adherence to codes of conduct, and enhancing medical management and accreditation processes.

Discussions also addressed team composition, training, and athlete preparation to ensure optimal performance. The engagement aimed to align stakeholders on timely planning and coordination, ensuring a well-prepared, compliant, and competitive Team Uganda.



During the CDM’s meeting in Dakar

## WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY 2026

The World Intellectual Property Day 2026 celebrations brought together leaders and stakeholders to explore the role of intellectual property (IP) in driving innovation, creativity, and impact across sectors, including sport.

The event featured engaging discussions with speakers such as Moses Benon Mwase, Senior Legal Practitioner and Sports Administrator, who emphasized the need to strengthen awareness and structures for IP protection in Uganda. Shadir Musa Bwogi, Chairman of the Uganda Olympic Committee Athletes Commission EXCO, highlighted the need for sports groups to actively promote branding and maximize opportunities within the IP ecosystem.

Through shared insights and real experiences, the discussions underscored the importance of building stronger systems, empowering stakeholders, and enhancing collaboration to unlock the full potential of intellectual property in Uganda’s creative and sports industries.



Mr. Moses Mwase (upper) and Mr. Shadir Musa Bwogi (lower)

## Federation's

## ATHLETICS



*Jacob Kiplimo during the Marathon*

Uganda's Jacob Kiplimo delivered a historic performance at the London Marathon in London, finishing 3rd with a time of 2:00:28 to set a new Ugandan national record.

The race showcased elite international competition, where Kiplimo competed among the world's top marathoners, demonstrating exceptional endurance and speed. His performance not only secured a podium finish but also marked a significant milestone for Ugandan athletics.



*Participants*

The Uganda Athletics conducted the 4th National Trials on 25th April 2026 at Mandela National Stadium, bringing together athletes from across the country to compete and showcase their performance.

The trials featured competitive races marked by grit, passion, and outstanding performances, with athletes, coaches, officials, and fans contributing to a successful event. Through these competitions, athletes were assessed and prepared for upcoming challenges on both national and international stages.

## UGANDA AQUATICS



*Tendo Kaumi and Gloria Muzito*

Uganda’s Gloria Muzito delivered an outstanding performance at the Hungarian National Swimming Championships in Sopron, achieving three personal bests and setting three new national records.

Competing in multiple events, she clocked 25.29 in the long course 50m freestyle, 2:07.63 in the 200m freestyle, and 28.02 in the 50m butterfly, demonstrating exceptional form and progress at the international level. In the same competition, Tendo Kaumi also delivered a strong performance, finishing sixth in the semi-finals of the men’s 50m freestyle with a time of 22.63.

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## ROWING



*Ms. Batenga Nakisozi*

The Uganda Olympic Committee congratulated national rowing coach Batenga Nakisozi upon successfully completing the International Coaching Enrichment Certificate Program.

The program, delivered with support from Olympic Solidarity, the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee, and the University of Delaware, equipped coaches with advanced skills to drive sustainable sports development. As part of the program, she presented a national talent identification framework for rowing in Uganda to World Rowing and the International Olympic Committee in Lausanne.