

CONTINENTAL SPORTS LEADERS RALLY TO TACKLE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

COURTESY PHOTOS



Former MP Maria Matembe



Former athlete Margaret Kigozi



Athlete Immaculate Chemutai



Basketball player Yusef Aziz



UBC's Maurice Mugisha



Rally driver Pauline Sheghu

By Hope Ampurire

The inaugural African Women In Sports Initiative (AWISI) Summit (Uganda Edition) promises to unite over 600 women from 35 African countries athletes, administrators, legal advocates, policymakers and media personalities under the theme "Mission to End Gender Based Violence" in Sports.

The three-day event at Hotel Africana aims to move beyond conversation, delivering concrete policies, protective frameworks, and safer sporting spaces across the

continent.

This inspiring event will have 20 plus speakers, below are some of the keynote speakers, women and men whose journeys reflect resilience, leadership, and the spirit of change.

Prof Margaret "Maggie" Kigozi

A devoted sportswoman, she represented Uganda in tennis, table tennis, hockey, and squash, and today chairs the Makerere University Endowment Fund, combining leadership with a lifelong passion for sports. She is also business

leader and Industrialist.

Dr Miria Matembe

Dr Matembe is a lawyer, former Ugandan Member of Parliament and the country's first Minister of Ethics & Integrity. She also served in the Pan African Parliament, championing accountability and good governance. A fierce advocate for women's rights, she co-founded organisations to advance gender equality and continues to inspire legal reform across Africa.

Yusef Aziz

Yusef Aziz built a remarka-

ble career playing professional basketball across five continents for 14 years. Though born in the United States, his work now centers on mentorship and youth development in Africa through his organization, Azomco Global using sport as a vehicle for character building, leadership, and opportunity.

Immaculate Chemutai

Ugandan marathoner and Olympian Immaculate Chemutai has broken national records and competed at world-class level. She founded the Immaculate Chemutai

Foundation, mentoring the next generation of long-distance runners and promoting athletics development in Uganda.

Pauline Sheghu

A trailblazer in motorsport, Pauline Sheghu led Kenya's first all-female rally crew, making history in the World Rally Championship. Her grit and skill challenge gender norms, making her a powerful symbol of what women in African motorsport can achieve.

Maurice Mugisha

Maurice Mugisha is Deputy

Managing Director at Uganda Broadcasting Corporation (UBC). Today, he helps shape national media policy, amplifying voices that matter especially those of women in sport.

This summit will have a range of topics such as breaking the silence, power, patriarchy and protection and survivor testimonies and lived experiences.

Through these stories and many more, AWISI is laying the foundation for safer, more equitable, and empowering sports environments across Africa.