

# USSSA brace for athletics, basketball revamp

BY M. MUZIRANSA

**KAMPALA.** Leaders from the 19 zones of the Uganda Secondary School Sports Association (USSSA) gathered last week on Friday at their offices in Old Kampala to start preparations for the 2026 National Championships.

There were formal discussions of guiding rules and regulations as USSSA prepares to have their Ball Games I at Seroma Christian High School, Mukono in the first term School holiday and Ball Games II at Sacred Heart Gulu midway through the second term. But there will be more competitions culminating or superseding the main competitions - especially in athletics and basketball. "Because we are doing badly as a country, there are some athletics reforms that are dear to the Ministry (of Education and Sports)," USSSA president Justus Mugisha, said.

"School sports thrives on bursaries and there have been few for athletics because schools barely take any credit for performance of athletes in competitions. It all goes to the districts.

"So we have resolved that every zone will have two athletics meets, funded by USSSA to the tune of Shs2m per meet (a total of Shs76m for all 19 zones), before the National Championships," Mugisha said as he committed that each zone would leave with an advance Shs1m after the meeting.

"After that, we will have a camp for each zone in April. But for this first one, no money has been assigned. The money will come in the next financial year but before that, we want you to show your commitment and capacity." After the zonal camps, we will have one national camp before the Feasssa (Federation of East Africa Secondary School Sports Associa-

tion) Games and then after that, a third joint camp for primary and secondary schools," Mugisha explained.

USSSA, which run U-15, U-17, and U-20 championships, are under the realisation that their main games alone are not enough to develop athletes but rather offer a testing ground for that talent. They have therefore established weekend leagues

for schools close to each other to minimise transport and refereeing costs. They have also established minimum guidelines per discipline. For example in football, a school cannot play more than two games a day and the minimum time allowed per half is 30 minutes. Also the minimum measurements of a pitch for an U-20 category game is 105x68m.

**Engaging.**

USSSA's top leadership meet zone leaders.  
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