

BY GEORGE KATONGOLE

2026 AIRTEL BIKA FOOTBALL

Champions: Mmamba Kakoboza

Runners-up: Nkima

Third place: Kkobe

Final: Mmamba Kakoboza 0(4)

Nkima 0(3)

MVP: Nicholas Kabonge (Mmamba K)

Top scorer: Nelson Ssenkaatuuka

(Mbogo) – 6 goals

Winners' prize: Shs9m

Runners-up prize: Shs7m

Third-place prize: Shs3m

Participating teams: 40 clans

KAMPALA. Mmamba Kakoboza finally joined the Airtel Bika Tournament's roll of honour after defeating former champions Nkima 4-3 in a dramatic penalty shootout to claim their maiden football title at Muteesa II Stadium, Wankulukuku.

After a tense final ended goalless over 90 minutes, goalkeeper Mathias Kigoonya emerged the hero, saving two penalties to hand Mmamba their first championship and the Shs9m winners' purse before a packed crowd of Buganda Kingdom faithful.

Mmamba end 50-year wait to lift first Bika crown



Winners
Mmamba
Kakoboza.
PHOTO/GEORGE
KATONGOLE

The victory sparked emotional celebrations among the champions, with captain Duncan Sseninde paying tribute to the collective effort behind the breakthrough triumph.

"This victory means a lot to us all as Mmamba Kakoboza clan. This is our first shield. We worked so hard as a

clan after so many years," Sseninde said after lifting the trophy. The triumph ended a wait stretching back more than five decades for one of Buganda's most prominent clans and added a new name to a competition traditionally dominated by established clans. In re-

cent years, Ngabi Nsamaba, Mmamba Namakaka, Ngo and Nkima have all lifted the coveted trophy. For Nkima, champions in 2018, the defeat denied them a second title despite another resilient campaign that saw them eliminate Mutima Musa-

gi and Ngo en route to the final. Mmamba's route was equally narrow, edging Kasimba and Kkobe by single-goal margins before holding their nerve from the spot in the decider.

Well-deserved

Nicholas Kabonge was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player while Mbogo's Nelson Ssenkaatuuka finished as the tournament's leading scorer with six goals. Nkima collected Shs7m as runners-up, while Kkobe secured third place after defeating Ngo 1-0. Speaking after the final, David Birungi said the tournament continued to demonstrate the power of sport to unite communities while nurturing talent. "Congratulations to Mmamba Kakoboza for a well-deserved victory. The Bika Tournament continues to celebrate culture, inspire young people and bring communities together. Airtel remains committed to supporting initiatives that preserve heritage while creating opportunities for talent development," Birungi said.