

Confident. Anna Gloria Muzito has only got better since winning a bronze medal at the 2023 African Games in the 100m freestyle in Ghana, thereby setting a national record. PHOTO/ COURTESY

Muzito medals lift Uganda in Oran

BY MAKHTUM MUZIRANSA

KAMPALA. Gloria Anna Muzito's two gold medals, one silver, and one bronze pushed Uganda to rank in a rare sixth position at the Africa Swimming Championships in Oran, Algeria.

The competition, which was supposed to be hosted in Ghana before they belatedly pulled out, attracted 1,311 swimmers, including 620 women, from 43 nations in Africa. These competed in the junior (14-18 years) and senior categories (19 and Over).

It is technically in the latter category that Uganda ranked behind Egypt (11), Algeria (10), South Africa (nine), Tunisia (three), and Zimbabwe, which also had two gold ones but added four silver and three bronze medals.

Uganda's prodigal daughter, who gave her teenage years to Sweden is fast making up for lost time with medal and national record performances for Uganda over the last two years. She topped

the women's 50m freestyle (25.35) and 100m freestyle (55.65) in Oran after qualifying as the top seed from the preliminaries of both events with 25.78 and 56.66 respectively. She then bagged silver in the 50m butterfly (27.61), and bronze in the 200m free where her 2:03.75 is a new national record. It lowered the 2:04.99 that she managed at the Islamic Solidarity Games in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia last November.

Fourth seed

In the 200m free, she qualified as fourth seed in 2:13.65 then finished third behind Egypt's Abdallah Lojine (2:03.26) and Zimbabwe's Anje Van As (2:03.68) in the final. In the 50m fly, she qualified as second seed (27.93) and finished behind Senegal's Oumy Diop (27.03) in the final.

"It has been a crazy week and I am glad to end it with some medals," Muzito said as she thanked her teammates and coaches for the support. Her gold medals saw her amass the highest World Aquatics points of all

swimmers at the event and she was rewarded with \$1,200 (about Shs4.5m) by Africa Aquatics for her efforts.

Counterpart

Her senior female counterpart Avice Meya finished 14th in the 50m fly (29.67), 10th in the 50m backstroke (32.07), and 15th in the 50m free (27.81).

Tendo Mukalazi clocked 27.86 to qualify for the senior men's 50m back finals, where he finished eighth with a time of 27.75. He also clocked 23.57 to make the 50m free final, where he finished 7th with a time of 23.39, as Pendo Kaumi ranked 25th (25.77). Mukalazi ranked 11th in the men's 50m breaststroke with a time of 30.17 and ninth in their 100m free (52.21) as Kaumi finished 26th (56.46).

Mukalazi also ranked 13th in the 50m fly with a time of 26.09 while Kaumi tied in 18th with Guinea's Amara Camara Fode (27.45). Kaumi also ranked 14th in the 100m fly (1:02.20). Kaumi and Mukalazi did the butterfly and breaststroke legs.

