

SHE CRANES INSPIRE YOUNG PLAYERS AT GAYAZA JUNIOR SCHOOL

PHOTOS BY SILVANO KIBUUKA

By Silvano Kibuuka

Assistant She Cranes coach Ruth Meeme has praised the growing netball talent among young girls at Gayaza Junior School, emphasizing the importance of introducing children to sports at an early age.

Meeme made the remarks during the school's sports day, which featured an exhibition match by She Cranes players in front of pupils, parents, and invited guests. The showcase was part of the Future Stars Sports Program, an initiative designed to nurture young talent and promote various sports disciplines in schools across the country.

"I am glad the She Cranes players have showcased high-level netball to both pupils and parents. It gives the young girls role models to look up to and helps introduce them to the game early," Meeme said.

She reflected on her own journey, noting that she started playing netball in Primary Four at Makerere Primary



Gayaza Junior school headteacher Kizito (with the ball) plays netball with the She Cranes players

School before rising to national and international levels. She believes the program is already making a noticeable impact at Gayaza.

"There is clear improvement among the girls since the Future Stars Sports Program was introduced here," she added.

The event attracted several dignitaries, including the Bishop of Namirembe Diocese,

Rt. Rev. Moses Banja, who interacted with the players alongside other church leaders. Parents also embraced the occasion, with headteacher Sarah Kizito briefly joining the She Cranes players on the court.

In the days competition, Gayaza Junior School's Junjo Campus defeated the main campus 6-1 in one of the

exhibition matches. Angola House dominated the netball contests in both the upper and lower primary categories, with She Cranes goal attacker Linda Muzigo, coach Rashid Mubiru, and team manager Alice Alwenyi presenting awards to the winners. Kizito urged parents to support sports participation, noting that it complements academ-



Junjo campus player wins the ball against the Mother campus

ics. "Some parents have complained on social media, discouraging children from engaging in sports and instead urging them to concentrate only on academics. I want to remind you that sport is part of the school calendar and offers immense opportunities

for pupils who excel," noted Kizito. She also commended teachers and coaches under the Future Stars program for their guidance.

Angola House emerged overall winners with 1,440.5 points, followed by Zambia, Algeria, and Ghana.