UOC hold 10th sports management graduation

BY MAKHTUM MUZIRANSA

KAMPALA. On Thursday, the Uganda Olympic Committee (UOC) held the 10th graduation for their Sports Administration Course (SAC) and Advanced Sports Management Course (ASMC) at their offices in Lugogo.

What started as a step into the deep waters in 2016 has culminated into the graduation of over 4,500 sports administrators over the years.

This year, 662 participants completed the three-day SAC programme across Kampala (310 learners), Jinja (20), Mityana (84), Soroti (189), Kamwenge Refugee Settlement Camp (28), and Kikuube Refugee Settlement Camp (31).

Badminton player Angella Nankinga and Jonathan Mungufeni were named the best students from the eight-month long diploma programme (ASMC) at a function graced by NCS's senior legal officer Diana Kwesiga and head of compliance Leslie Okot. Going out to the regions has been a masterstroke according to UOC's programme director George Wagogo.



For better. L-R: UOC Asst. GS Lydia Dhamuzungu, rugby supporter Edward Kiwanuka, badminton ace and best student Angella Nankinga, UOC president Donald Rukare, NCS head of compliance Leslie Okot and senior legal officer Diana Kwesiga, and UOC programme director George Wagogo cut the graduation cake. PHOTO/COURTESY

Commitment

"Many community clubs, from various disciplines, started by people studying this course are coming up in upcountry areas and they are well run," Wagogo said. "But after 10 years, I am also happy with the commitment of my colleagues, the facilitators and coordinators of this course. The environment they have created to ensure the learners are always in a conducive atmosphere, and then the seriousness with which we handle the course as it requires 100 percent attendance," Wagogo added.

The ASMC, according to students, is very intense and demanding as it has six modules and an extra one for assessment. "The course allows you to learn from people involved in various sports and it also gives you a detailed way of managing an entity. In fact it creates an immediate impact. At our club, we have developed strategic and human resource plans among others," women's football club She Corporate's chief executive officer Mathias Kakuru, said.

"But it is intense and requires focus. It has not been easy because sometimes you have matches during class hours but attending classes also gives you the opportunity to delegate authority in the club and groom new leaders," Kakuru added.

More needed

Wagogo revealed that "numbers usually drop drastically after the first two or three modules." "We usually admit high numbers but people fall out because of commitments. The people we train are employed elsewhere and some are athletes so, it is understandable that they might have games on some weekends. "But there are three different frameworks set by IOC that we can implement and I believe Uganda chose the most conducive one, which is one weekend a month. We believe all serious students can work around that," Wagogo said. For the UOC, the budgets are becoming a concern as they have had to "work with the same budget for the past eight or so years. Times have changed, there is inflation, and requirements cost more now. But we continue to lobby for more funding and hopefully that will work out for us."

The future

Funding for the courses comes from the IOC's Olympic Solidarity NOC initiatives' docket but the demand for the course and its requirements have pushed UOC into improvising.

"Within the current model, we cann charge students but we have partner with institutions like MUBs (Mak ere University Business School), wh we are looking at having short cou which students can pay for. But we also trying to make the curriculum evant to wider scope by looking sues like sports competition mani tion, AI, and antidoping among ot UOC president Donald Rukare, sa

"Previously, our focus was on f tions but the catchment area has wide as we now have participan administrations including NCS."

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