

SACRED HEART, LIRA TOWN SET

By Gabriel Esiku

PHOTO BY GABRIEL ESIKU

Sacred Heart Secondary School in Gulu has intensified preparations as it gears to host the 2026 Uganda Secondary Schools Sports Association (USSSA) National Ball Games II and Athletics Championship, with officials expressing confidence that the facilities will be ready in time for the prestigious schools' event.

The school administration says work to upgrade and organize the required venues is progressing steadily as the institution prepares to welcome teams from across the country. According to headteacher Hellen Lamono, the opportunity to host the national games again has generated excitement not only within the school but also among the wider community in Gulu.

Lamono noted that hosting the competition for a second time is a major milestone for the institution, adding that the school is determined to ensure the facilities meet the standards expected for a national championship. She explained that the ongoing preparations are aimed at guaranteeing a successful tournament and providing a good experience for participating schools.

Her remarks followed a joint inspection carried out by officials from the Ministry of Education and Sports Uganda and the USSSA executive to assess readiness of the host venues



Lamono (R) poses for a photo with officials after the inspection

in Gulu and Lira. The two-day assessment, conducted from March 10 to 11, focused on confirming the preparedness of Lira Town College and Sacred Heart Secondary School, which will host the National Boys U-20 Football Championship and Ball Games II and Athletics respectively.

The inspection team, led by Sam Odong, the Assistant Commissioner for Physical Education, evaluated several aspects including the condition of playgrounds and competition venues, accommodation facilities for players and officials, administrative areas, security arrangements and the general safety environment.

Odong explained that the purpose of the exercise was to ensure that the host schools are capable of accommodating the large number of participants expected and delivering

a well-organized national competition.

Meanwhile, Gulu High School, another institution supporting the event, has pledged full cooperation to ensure the games are successfully staged. The school's headteacher Beatrice Nagudi said they are ready to contribute towards making the championship memorable and promised a lively atmosphere for the visiting teams.

Nagudi also called on the school's alumni, local leaders and other stakeholders to support the preparations to ensure that the region hosts a successful national competition. The championship will feature a wide range of sporting disciplines including girls' football, basketball for both boys and girls, hockey, rugby 15s, tennis, table tennis, badminton among others.