FUFA cracks down on refereeing errors

By Chrispus Baluku

The quality of refereeing in the Uganda Premier League has come under renewed scrutiny after FUFA suspended match officials over controversial decisions. The incidents involved the Kampala derby between SC Villa and Express FC last Saturday and the Buhimba United Saints versus Police FC match on February 17.

In a statement on March 9, FUFA said the Referees Standing Committee (FRSC) had referred the officials to the FUFA Referees Disciplinary Panel (FRDP) for further review. Assistant referee Immaculate Ongiera was suspended for disallowing Hassan Mubiru's goal in the Villa versus Express clash, despite replays showing he was onside.

For the Buhimba versus Police fixture, referee Henry Musisi, assistants Samuel Mbabali and Fred Kinyera, fourth official John Semakula, match assessor Hillary Kimbugwe, and general coordinator Christopher Kugonza were suspended. Errors included allowing substitute Eric Nyonyintono onto the field in a mismatched jersey; he later scored the equaliser.

No action was taken against assistant referee Julius Mukasa, who missed seemingly an offside in KCCA's 2–1 win over Police.