NETBALL UGANDA PASSES SH5.4B BUDGET

By Faith Kiai

PHOTO BY JOHNSON WERE



Ucanda (3rd right) pose for a photo with delegates and NCS official after the assembly

Netball Uganda delegates convened last Saturday for the long-awaited Annual General Assembly at Copper Chimney Restaurant, Lugogo with the executive setting an agenda heavily focused on compliance and constitutional amendments.

"Today we presented all the items that needed to be ratified by this AGM, and because members are very keen to ensure full ratification so that the government can fully fund us, they were able to pass all the motions that were presented. Right now, we are very excited as we wait for our licence to be delivered," stated Netball Uganda president Jocelyn Ucanda.

Ucanda and her executive have had a tricky start, considering they have not yet received their certificate of recognition, which meant they could not access their full allocation of funding while the querying process was underway.

They had a number of queries to settle during the Assembly especially with constitutional amendments that the assembly was rushed into agreeing to due to time constraints and once that was done, the executive was confident they should be good to go.

Netball Uganda will also look to realign the makeup of the delegates in accordance with the national act. It was strongly suggested that the winners of the Netball Super League be awarded at the AGM, but the executive decided against doing so, believing that the champions, KCCA, deserve a better setting for such a momentous achievement.

"We are not in a position to award our champions today. The executive is planning a well-organised function in a suitable environment to honour them," Ucanda stated.

As is well known, AGMs can be highly charged, so presenting KCCA with their trophy in such an environment would have been unfair to the team and all involved if their finest hour came in such a tense moment.

The other notable item of discussion was the fact that the Assembly passed a sh5.4 b budget to support the sport during the upcoming season, especially with the Commonwealth Games set for July in Glasgow, Scotland. This was a bit contentious because so many of the attendees were surprised at that budget without a trusted income source and constant revenue generating stream.

Ucanda also confirmed Netball Uganda would not try to open a secretariat because the sport is bankrupt and doing so would be counterproductive for the sport. For now, there is an air of optimism among stakeholders in netball, with many believing that the struggles of the previous year have finally come to an end. As long as they secure that certificate of recognition from the National Council of Sports (NCS), half of their problems will be resolved, and perhaps the sport can finally begin to breathe easy. But there are no guarantees that this will improve things instantly in the future.