

BY MAKHTUM MUZIRANSA

KAMPALA. The Commonwealth Games Association of Uganda (CWGA-U) is convinced Uganda's commendable performances at the Commonwealth Games will continue when this year's competition gets underway between July 23 and August 2 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Uganda has won 19 gold, 16 silver, and 23 bronze medals at the Games since it started participating in 1954. All medals have come from boxing and athletics. Boxing usually bag at least one medal when they are part of Team Uganda while Uganda has been so dominant in long distance running that Moses Kipsiro (2010), Joshua Cheptegei (2018), and Jacob Kiplimo (2022) have all managed a Commonwealth 5,000m and 10,000m double.

In Birmingham Uganda also won men's marathon gold through Victor Kiplangat, women's 3000m steeplechase bronze through Peruth Chemutai, and women's light flyweight bronze through Teddy Nakimuli. However, for the 2026 Games Kiplimo and Cheptegei – the poster boys of the current athletics generation – are sure absentees as they are now focused on marathon running. There will be no marathon in

CWGA-U has confidence in federations



**Believe me.
Games boss
Donald Rukare
speaks to the
media.
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BATANUDE**

Glasgow as the Games were downsized. Such is the shredding that they will be hosted in a four mile corridor in four existing venues and teams will not stay in a village but rather hotels, where athletes are expected to checkout after their competitions rather than wait till the end of the Games. Uganda will hope 2020 Olympic steeplechase

champion Chemutai makes the Games. Otherwise new athletics stars are expected to emerge like has always been the case with boxing.

In netball, Uganda is ranked sixth and all top five nations; Australia, New Zealand, England, Jamaica, and South Africa are Commonwealth countries but federation president Jocelyn Ucanda says the club compe-

titions are giving the players the right preparations. In para-swimming, Husnah Kukundakwe is ranked among the top three entrants in the SB8 100m breaststroke but she still has to prove it in Glasgow. "Our (Uganda) target is several medals," Commonwealth Sport and CWGA-U president Donald Rukare said during a press briefing at their offices in Lugogo on Wednesday.

"The primary role of preparing the teams lies with the federations and we are confident of the work they are putting in. We also have some athletes on Olympic scholarships and we hope they will be selected by their federations (for Glasgow)," Rukare added as he spoke about Uganda's chances in Glasgow. CWGA-U's administrator Elijah Njawuzi also hinted that preparations to complete Visa acquisition are on and that "NCS (National Council of Sports) has been providing federations with funds for preparations."

"That commitment from government is crucial," Njawuzi added ahead of the Games where Uganda will field 53 athletes – including 35 women and five para athletes. There will be 16 athletes from athletics among others.