

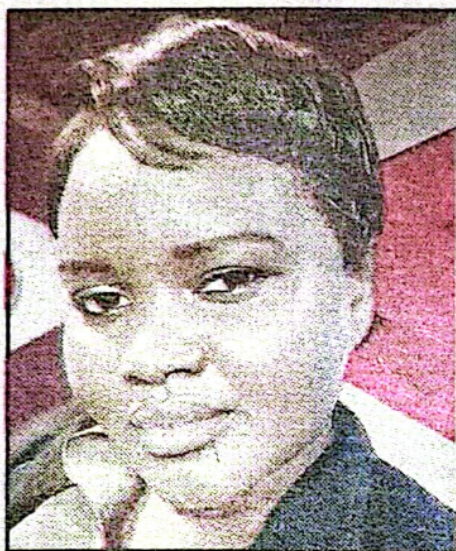
SHE CRANES FLYING HIGH, BUT GROUNDED BY LIMITED SUPPORT

The She Cranes emerged the 2025 female team of the year at the Uganda Olympic Committee awards, an achievement they earned after qualifying for the World Cup and Commonwealth games.

While awards like these naturally make people happy it's about time the team received first priority funding ahead of the Commonwealth Games. It is a nice feeling when the She Cranes receive awards and accolades that they have duly earned but realistically so many players have not seen the benefit of staying in the squad in the long term.

International engagements are few and far between, which makes it hard for the girls to feel motivated enough to hang around for just one or two international engagements every year. With the UOC in charge of the Commonwealth Games, I hope that they can give the girls the opportunity to prepare well for the games in comfort and over a long period of time.

We need the She Cranes to look their best for now and the foreseeable future because as women they are the epitome of 'Women excellence' in Uganda. Netball Uganda cannot afford to beg



*FAITH
KIAI*

or receive scraps because they have achieved so much on the global stage to play second fiddle to some underperforming federations.

The She Cranes have for years proven that pouring into a women's team is never a bad decision and when things do come together it is a magical experience that has led to some very memorable results and performances. Four years ago, Uganda experienced their best ever performance at the games in Birmingham which was not by mistake. So many things worked for the team starting with their long training schedule that lasted

about three months followed by a robust desire to fundraise and of course the support of the UOC courtesy of the Government of Uganda made for a positive playing experience.

If you have been around the She Cranes, they are a group of girls who prioritise positive mindset and hard work which in the last few years has blessed the country with so many great results. This is why this team and federation in particular deserves an early release of funds just to allow the players to get back to training and also work towards a situation where the top players can be put on contract with the national team.

If those particular issues can be handled, there is no doubt that the best players would not pick and choose which national team engagement to partake in or altogether make the decision to go and play in much weaker league competitions in Asia. From the scouting perspective, the commonwealth games are second only to the World Cup so every player with potential and the ability to play netball will be more interested in national team activities. The onus is on the leadership to help them thrive.