

IS MAGOGO SAFE?

By Yekoyada Saaka

As investigations into the wealth accumulation of outgoing Speaker of Parliament Anita Annet Among intensify, scrutiny has also shifted increasingly to her husband, Moses Magogo, the Budiope East Member of Parliament and president of the Federation of Uganda Football Associations (FUFA). On Sunday, State Minister for Youth and Children Affairs Barugahara Balaam (pictured top right) launched calls for investigations into both the federation president and the entire FUFA administration.

Through his official X account, Barugahara accused the football federation hierarchy of lacking transparency in the management of government funds allocated to football.

"As mentioned earlier, the sharp ones had wrongly inserted sh290b into the FUFA budget. Who authorises such allocations without proper accountability? This and much more must be stopped. Public funds are meant to serve Ugandans, not hidden interests. Transparency, discipline, and responsibility in government spending must prevail," Barugahara posted.

Budget fracas

The minister referenced an incident earlier this year during a parliamentary session in which representatives from the National Council of Sports (NCS), led by State Minister for Sports Peter Ogwang, appeared alongside FUFA officials before the Committee on Education and Sports to present the 2026/2027 sports budget.

The meeting reportedly turned tense after Ogwang and Magogo clashed over documents presented to the committee. Ogwang accused Magogo of failing

to share his budget presentation in advance with him, NCS officials, and committee chairperson, contrary to established procedures.

It is against this backdrop that Barugahara alleged that Magogo and his team had irregularly inserted sh290b into FUFA's proposed budget.

Magogo, who has led FUFA since 2013 after replacing Lawrence Mulindwa, has become a high-profile citizen since his marriage to Among.

Some sports stakeholders feel FUFA has since received preferential treatment compared to other federations, especially during sports budget allocations, allegedly due to Magogo's proximity to the Speaker's office.

Critics have repeatedly accused him of entrenching himself in office by creating systems that make it difficult for challengers to contest for the presidency, with some alleging that delegates are often influenced to secure his re-election.

Beyond
Barugahara's
demands for

investigations, other critics argue that despite football being Uganda's most funded sport, the state of the domestic game remains troubling across the country.

Several football clubs across different divisions continue to struggle financially, with some failing to pay their players and coaches or even honour league fixtures. Critics blame FUFA for not doing enough to create sustainable funding mechanisms for clubs.

Magogo's score card

That said, Magogo is still credited for transforming the league and football competition systems in the country and particularly the FUFA Big League and Regional Leagues. He is also responsible for launching the players contracting regulations and system in Uganda, negotiating and concluding improved sponsorships in football with huge partnerships with MTN and Nile Breweries.

Magogo championed the 2023 National Sports Act, which resolved FUFA's legal identity issues and established principles for good governance.

During his leadership, Uganda Cranes qualified for the Africa Nations Cup for the first time since 1978.

With the 2027 Africa Cup of Nations (AFCON) set to be jointly hosted by Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania under the Pamoja bid next year between June and July, concerns are mounting that the ongoing controversies surrounding him could dent Uganda's football reputation in CAF and FIFA.



FUFA boss Magogo