GOVERNMENT PLEDGES SUPPORT

By Silvano Kibuuka

PHOTO BY SILVANO KIBUUKA



Muwanga (L) & Tashobya hands over the trophy to Masoro

Kateregga Memorial Table Tennis, winners

- **Men**

Primary - Mbogo Junior
Secondary - Kibuli SS
University - KIU

- **Women**

Primary - Nakasero P.S
Secondary - Kibuli SS
University - UCU

The return of the Kateregga Memorial Table Tennis Tournament has injected fresh life into the Uganda's schools circuit, drawing praise from Uganda Table Tennis Association (UTTA) president Cyrus Muwanga, who described the event as a turning point for the sport's revival.

Staged in honour of the late Francis Kateregga, a former national representative at the 1995 African Games, the three-day championship attracted 48 schools—signalling renewed enthusiasm for competitive table tennis across the country.

Kateregga challenged traditional powerhouses such as Nabisunsa Girls' School, Kisubi Mapeera Secondary School, Gayaza High School, Mount St. Mary's College Namagunga and St. Mary's College Nabbingo to reclaim their presence in the competition, noting that emerging institutions like Seroma Christian High School are now carrying the mantle with visible passion.

In a bid to bridge the gap between secondary and tertiary levels, UTTA introduced a university category this year, aiming to prevent talent from fading after school. The move was welcomed as part of a broader development strategy anchored in grassroots structures.

Government backing also featured prominently. The association confirmed that the national women's team will receive support through the National Council of Sports to compete at the upcoming World Championships in England this April. NCS chairman Ambrose Tashobya pledged full facilitation for the team and applauded UTTA for reorganising school competitions.

On the tables, standout performers lit up the event. Continental U-11 champion Patience Anyango of Nakasero P.S claimed the primary girls' title and MVP award, while Rahim Masolo of Mbogo Junior mirrored that feat in the boys' division. Kibuli SS dominated the secondary category through Parvin Nangonzi and Samuel Ankunda, both clinching titles and MVP honours. At university level, Shanita Namara of ISBAT University secured the women's crown, with Angela Amaniyo of Uganda Christian University named MVP.