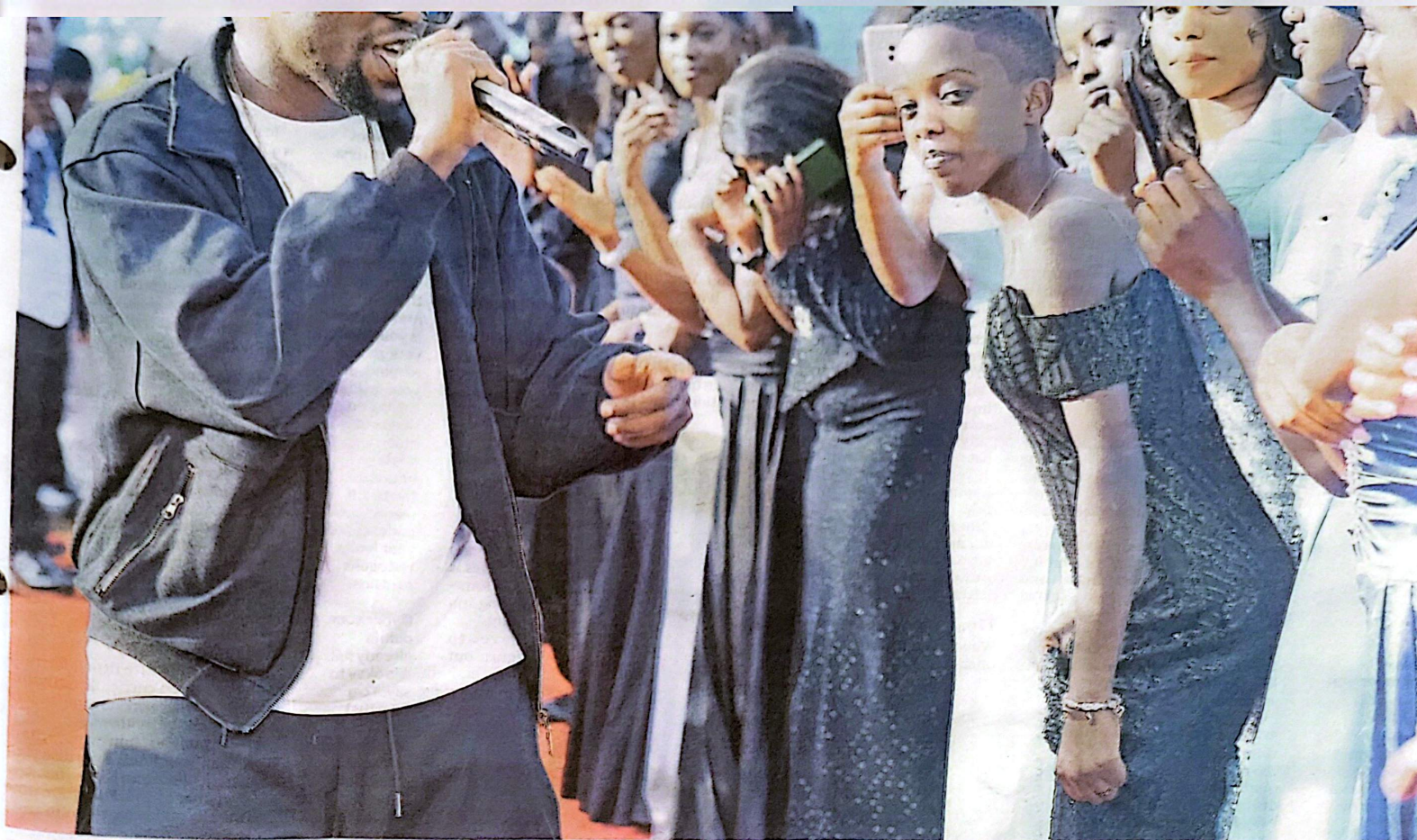




Candidates' luncheon at St Jude Katende

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BY PATRICK SSENTONGO

On Saturday, March 28, St Jude's Secondary School Katende hit pause on the usual prom hype and did something far more rare, a Candidates'

Luncheon that traded excess for effortless class. Think less pressure, more presence. In a school scene where socials are often criticised for going over the top and quietly dividing students along social lines, this felt like a reset: simple, inclusive, and actually

about the people in the room.

Instead of the usual prom culture that can turn into a show of who outshines who, the 2026 Candidates' Luncheon kept everyone on the same level. It wasn't about the flash; it was about the moment. A chance for candidates to mark a big milestone together, with intention, confidence, and a shared sense of belonging.

The day began on a reflective note with a Holy Mass led by Rev. Fr. John Paul Ssemaganda, whose message of gratitude and unity set the tone for the rest of the programme. It created a calm and meaningful start, reminding students of the importance of togetherness as they approach the next phase of their academic lives.

From there, the mood lifted into a vibrant yet controlled celebration. The red-carpet session brought colour and excitement, as students and staff confidently stepped out in style, capturing moments through

photography and a 360-degree camera experience that added a modern, interactive touch to the day.

The luncheon itself was lively and elegant, filled with conversation, laughter, and music that kept the atmosphere warm and engaging. Rather than focusing solely on the meal, the event created space for connection and enjoyment, with artiste Dax vibes performing for the candidates.

Among the standout moments was the selection of the Luncheon King and Queen, an anticipated segment that recognised confidence, style, and presence in a way that felt celebratory without being excessive. Later, the "Swag Phrase" session injected energy and creativity into the programme, as students danced all the way.

The luncheon was a carefully curated with a unique experience that blended spirituality, elegance, and entertainment, while staying grounded in values of inclusivity and moderation.

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