

BY MAKHTUM MUZIRANSA

KAMPALA. Uganda Aquatics (UAq)'s dream of having a home is more than likely to come to life after they were granted a renewable 49 year lease to develop five acres of land at Seroma Christian High School.

For years, Seroma were regular participants in swimming competitions. Over the last two years, they have become regular hosts of competitions, especially the Uganda Secondary School Sports Association (USSSA) ones.

However last year, Seroma's external lawyer Asuman Nyonyintono requested and urged the school to become the new home of Ugandan swimming following his election into office as UAq's executive committee member representing the northern region.

It was a merging point of interests as UAq have also been grappling with the issue of finding a home for eternity.

"Of course, I know of the need of the executive to find an aquatic centre but I also know of Seroma's interest in the sport," Nyonyintono - who was part of a select committee from the federation which included vice president (technical) Tonnie Kasujja, Erick Kisero (central region representative), and Vivian Namale (eastern region representative) visited the site last June - told Monitor at the time.

Suffice to note that when World Aquatics president Husain Al-Musallam visited Uganda in March 2022, he made a commitment that Uganda would get a standard 25m pool from the body.

Al-Musallam also set no timelines as he passed the ball back to government and then Uganda Swimming Federation (USF) to make some guar-

Seroma, UAq bank on each other to develop swimming infrastructure

PROMINENT

Seroma Christian High School is highly involved in competitive sports, dominating in swimming and rising in badminton within the USSSA. They are a prominent sports school that competes in football, basketball, netball, and volleyball, and were selected to host the 2026 National Ball games.

antees that included the latter having control over the facility for at least the first five years and the former ensuring that there would be no taxes involved in bringing and installing the pool, which would be manufactured out of the country. UAq has tried partnering with various universities on this project to no avail.

"This is huge as we signed a partnership (in December) with Seroma, where they lease the land to us at no cost," UAq president Moses Mwase, said at their AGM last Saturday.

Plans to find money

However, as the executive committee shared their 2026 budget of up to Shs1.6 billion at the AGM, Mwase revealed there would even be more money that will be needed to meet construction works at Seroma.



Getting ready. Seroma prepare to host Ball Games. PHOTO / AMINAH BABIRYE

"There are some pending consultation but they (Seroma) need us to do some preliminary works. When these consultations are done, we will need to raise funds, probably externally, to bring the project to life. We will find the money."

Daily Monitor understands that Seroma would have loved to have a 50m pool on site but Uganda Aquatics likely negotiated for the World Aquatics offer to be considered first. Seroma's resident director Amelia Kyambadde said the school "is gifted with a board of directors and board of governors who believe in holistic education," as she commented on the generosity of her parents and directors Lt Col (Rtd). Canon Robert Ssekidde and

Dr. Margaret Ssekidde. Dr. Margaret Ssekidde insisted that he is not driving for the title.

"I don't drive to win the Nation-

al title. I was disqualified from the event after receiving outside assistance which is prohibited by the rally regulations.

"Governments has sunk a lot of money into other sports, so we thought we too can partner with swimming, which is mostly parent and federation funded, to develop the athletes," Kyambadde said.

Kyambadde believes the project will benefit the general Mukono community as Seroma will be given priority of access to the facility and skills development programmes.

"Our school is strategically located as Mukono is a hub of many schools but very few have pools.

Like we see athletics developing well in the eastern corridor, we believe we can be a main attraction for all schools to come and train here as we focus on making good swimmers in the central corridor."

USSSA Games

Meanwhile, USSSA have also endorsed Seroma to host their National Ball Games I from May 1 to 10 and Kyambadde believes they are more than ready.

"In bidding for these Games, we relied on the strong relationship we have with Uganda Christian University, Namityango College, Mukono Bishop, and recently Seeta University.

"There will be over 7000 students at the Games - there is no way we can host all of them but our partners will help. Football alone needs eight pitches, so we need this kind of cooperation.

"We shall focus on hosting the opening and the closing ceremonies plus some finals. Cricket, lawn tennis, rugby, and hockey can be hosted at UCU and Namityango. UCU and Seeta are also important for athletes to see, aspire, and know which universities to go to after secondary school," Kyambadde said.