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## INSIDE: CRANES NEED A LOCAL COACH?

By Michael Nsubuga

Expectations remain high for different sports federations/associations following the re-election of President Yoweri Museveni for another five-year term.

The need for sports facilities and an increase in the sports budget remains high on the agenda for many, and that is the wish for most; from government's sh45trillion budget running under the theme: "stimulating the economy to safeguard livelihoods, jobs, businesses and industrial recovery".

Because of the rampaging COVID-19 pandemic the sports sub-sector budget was reduced from sh26b to sh18b for 2019-2020 financial year.

Federations are now hoping COVID-19 notwithstanding, the sports budget can surpass the sh26b so that the pending sports infrastructure developments and new ones can be undertaken and or completed in the next five-year term.

The Uganda Athletics Federation (UAF), the Uganda Swimming Federation (USF), the Uganda Netball Federation (UNF), and the Uganda Woodball Federation (UWbF), all have infrastructure development plans amounting to over sh10b that they want to be implemented and completed in this five-year term.

### Athletics wait on Teryet

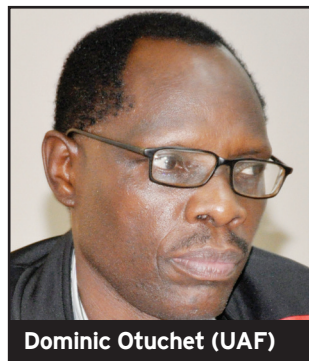
UAF's most pressing need is the completion of the National High Altitude Center in Teryet according to UAF president Dominic Otuchet.

"For us in this term government should first of all expedite work on the High Altitude Center in Teryet because it is not only going to serve athletics, although we are the biggest beneficiaries. So work on that facility should be finished as soon as possible," Otuchet said.

"Still regarding facilities there is a plan to renovate and upgrade regional stadiums like Buhinga and Akii Bua and Pece in Gulu and a stadium in the east, so we are looking at having tartan tracks all over the country.

"And for athletics, we strongly feel it is time for us to have our own home where

# SPORTS COUNTS ON MUSEVENI



Dominic Otuchet (UAF)



Mark Kayongo (UWbF)



Suzan Anek (UNF)



Moses Mwase (USF)

## SPORTS HEADS COUNT ON GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

we can build our offices and also have both competition and training grounds for our athletes. So in this, *Kisanja* we want to partner with government to assist us to acquire our own home. It is one of the big things we are thinking about and we want it implemented," Otuchet noted.

Otuchet also believes that athletics being one of the most productive and best-performing priority sports, it should get the lion's share of the sports budget because the sport does a lot of marketing for the country.

"Government also needs to implement that program of rewarding excellent performers. There is a document that was produced that we contributed to what we think is right for those who won and those who might win in future,"

Otuchet stated.

### Woodball need a course

The UWbF development plan also has a need for not only putting up a woodball course but also an administrative block and a woodball manufacturing plant.

"We need to establish a standard national woodball course and to construct an equipment production plant to manufacture our woodball equipment," UWbF president Mark Kayongo said.

"We have a donation of woodball manufacturing machines from the Chinese government but we don't have a plant and thirdly we need to have an administrative block beside the course which will house the offices, boardrooms and secretariat for the federation.

Sports hopes to benefit from government's sh45trillion budget running under the theme: "stimulating the economy.."

"Uganda has the mandate to host Africa Woodball Federation so we need space where we can also do this work," Kayongo stated.

### Netball pray for funds

Participating in the netball test series in South Africa in March is the immediate need for the Uganda Netball Federation and they are hoping government can fund this and many other build up tournaments lined up ahead of the Netball World Cup in Fiji in December.

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President Yoweri Museveni is passionate about woodball