

# USSSA steps up

By Gabriel Esiku

The Uganda Secondary School Sports Association USSSA is running a five-day volleyball Capacity Building Coaching and Refereeing Course with an aim of growing volleyball in the Teso sub region.

The training that runs from January 5 to 10, 2026, at Kumi Township Primary School, marks a major milestone in the development of volleyball in Teso.

Patrick Okanya, the head of capacity building at USSSA said the training is a continuation of the previous training they had been conducting in various areas in the country,

"The purpose of this training is to be able to give skills to the teachers and to the learners, we want learners in schools to learn skills when they are still younger." Okanya said.

He said the course is aimed at equipping coaches with modern coaching skills which involves understanding what they're going to do and understanding how to manage volleyball. Some of the areas we focus on are leadership, coaching methodologies and how to develop volleyball players."

"These are very important if you want to develop the game of volleyball and these coaches at the grass roots are key stakeholders in terms of development."

Stella Akello who is among the female trainees shared her idea saying,

"I came here to learn more about volleyball refereeing, I am a girl but I love volleyball, there are ladies I saw officiating and admired them, so I decided to come here to learn and copy what is required in coaching and refereeing volleyball," said Grace Akello.

Joseph Opio Ekodeu, the course Coordinator expressed appreciation to the teachers who turned up in big numbers, describing their presence as a clear demonstration of commitment to professional growth and volleyball development. Ekodeu also thanked Kumi district Local Government and Kumi Municipality for their support, noting that their backing was instrumental in making the training possible.

USSSA president, Justus Mugisha asserted that their target before the end of 2030 was to have more than 30,000 participants trained in all the areas of coaching and refereeing.