

UBASA in need

By Silvano Kibuuka

Following a triumphant victory against the South Africa U-15 girls' baseball team, the Uganda Baseball and Softball Association (UBASA) is now faced with the challenge of raising at least sh260m to facilitate the national senior women's team's participation in the final 2027 Women's Softball World Cup qualifier due in Peru in July.

The immediate hurdle for the association is the need to clear a participation fee of \$5,000 and a confirmation fee of \$2,000, both payable to the World Baseball and Softball Confederation (WBSC) before the January 30 deadline.

"The total budget stands at \$72,000 (about sh260m). However, we urgently need \$7,000 (about sh25m) for the confirmation and commitment fees, especially since we failed to meet the early deadline of December 17," noted UBASA president John Bosco Ssempa, as he appealed to sponsors and stakeholders to support the team's 2027 World Cup pursuit.

Ssempa explained that the budget covers a delegation of 20 players and five officials, including air tickets, accommodation, meals, internal transport, and the mandatory commitment and participation fees.

Uganda and South Africa are the two African representatives qualified for the 2027 Women's Softball World Cup.

The final qualification round will be held in Peru, where the groups have already been drawn.

Ssempa further revealed that Uganda is currently under close watch by WBSC after failing to send the U-15 girls' team to the 2023 World Cup in Japan, although the fine imposed was later waived.

Uganda has been placed in Group B, alongside Great Britain, Japan, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, and hosts Peru, with matches scheduled for July 14-18.

The qualification has three groups where Australia, Canada, Cuba, Czechia, Italy and Chinese Taipei are in group A due to compete on June 18-20 in Czechia.

Group C has China, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Africa and USA that is due to host the event on September 12-16.