

BY INNOCENT NDAWULA

## QUICK GLANCE

**Player:** Marvin Kibirige

**Country:** Uganda

**Age:** 23

**Home Course:** Marylouise Simkins Golf

Club, Namulonge

**Local Ranking:** 4th in Uganda

**Sponsorship:** Equity Bank Uganda

**Support Value:** \$2,000 (Shs7.2m)

**Target Event:** 2026 Q-School

**Destination:** India

**KAMPALA.** Marvin Kibirige is quietly positioning himself for a leap Ugandan professional golf has learned to respect—the long, unforgiving road to global relevance. Like Ronald Rugumayo, the current flag bearer on the Sunshine, Big Easy and DP World Tour, Kibirige believes his game, discipline and patience are ready for golf's toughest classrooms.

That belief received a timely lift on January 10 when Equity Bank Uganda handed Kibirige a dummy cheque of \$2,000 (Shs7.2m) at Uganda Golf Club (UGC) Kitante, support earmarked for his participation in the 2026 Q-School tournament in India.

The sponsorship targets one of golf's most decisive gateways. Q-School—

# Equity backs Kibirige's Q-School world dream



**Cash Support.** Professional golfer Marvin Kibirige (L) receives a dummy cheque of \$2,000 (Shs7.2m) from Equity Bank's Head of Marketing and Communications, Clare Tumwesigye at Uganda Golf Club Kitante on Saturday January 10, ahead of his participation in the Q Schools Golf Tournament in India later this month. PHOTO/ INNOCENT NDAWULA

short for Qualifying School—is where careers are either accelerated or delayed. Kibirige took his flight yesterday.

## Equity boost

A strong showing opens doors to competitive regional and global tours, steady competition and world ranking points, something Ugandan professionals rarely enjoy consistently.

Equity Bank says the investment fits its broader mission of transforming lives through opportunity.

"As a Bank, our promise is to transform lives, and we are doing this with Kibirige," said Clare Tumwesigye, Equity Bank's Head of Marketing and Communications. "He has a dream of playing at the top golf events in the world, and we want to journey with him."

## From caddie to contender

For Kibirige, the moment carried deep personal weight. He grew up at the Marylouise Simkins Golf Club in Namulonge, learning the game as a caddie and shaping his swing through observation and persistence when formal coaching was out of reach. His grind paid off in 2018 when he earned a permanent place on the national team.

Now among Uganda's top-ranked professionals, Kibirige has tested higher-level competition on development tours in South Africa and Kenya, experiences that sharpened his belief that he belongs beyond domestic circuits.

## The Q-School test

India, however, presents a different challenge altogether. It is golf without mercy—long travel, unfamiliar conditions and intense pressure where a few poor holes can undo months of preparation. Yet it is precisely the environment Kibirige believes will shape him for the better. "This is a dream come true," Kibirige said. "Q-School gives hope to local players. It shows that with hard work and the right support, a Ugandan golfer can compete anywhere."

Beyond the cheque, Equity Bank also offered logistical and equipment support, underlining a partnership built more on belief than branding. For Ugandan golf, the implications stretch wider. With Rugumayo already active in Kenya on the Sunshine Development Tour, Kibirige's India push signals depth—not dependency on a single trailblazer.

Behind the grin is a silent worker with swagger suited to the modern game. If the envelope must rip for Ugandan golf to move forward, Kibirige looks ready to push it.