



Strong. Uganda's Nahia Nayiga (squatting left) alongside athletes from other countries at the IWUF African Youth Wushu Training Camp in Egypt. COURTESY/IWUF

Gombya hopes teenagers shine at African championship

BY A. NASSER SSEMUGABI

THE TEAM

Nahia Nayiga

Haitham Lubega

Coach: Robert Kizito

KAMPALA. Eddie Gombya, president Uganda Wushu Federation, is positive the two teenagers representing Uganda at the ongoing African Wushu Championship will flourish and qualify for the 2026 Youth Olympic Games in Dakar, Senegal.

Nahia Nayiga, 14 and Haitham Lubega, 15, under the watch of coach Robert Kizito, completed a one-week IWUF African Youth Wushu Training Camp in Ismailia, Egypt and will need to apply their newly-acquired skills in the continental championship this week to hit their main target—the Youth Olympics.

“We are delighted that our kids were familiar with most of the instructions and I believe the workshop improved them a great deal,” Gombya told Daily Monitor.

“We hope the kids will do well and qualify for the youth Olympics. But if they miss out, we hope to give them a second chance in China [next month] or in Italy in June.”

The 10th World Junior Wushu Championships (WJWC) is due March 23–31, in Tianjin, China, at the Tianjin Olympic Center Gymnasium while the 17th Spring Dragon Wushu International Tournament, a major European event, will happen in Catanzaro, Italy, from June 5–7.

Gombya is also happy that wushu is now part of the Olympic family. “And we are hopeful that Uganda makes its Olympic debut in Dakar,” he said.

“We are also proudly associated with the National Council of Sports but we humbly request for more support from the government.

The international body gave us three tickets. But these athletes need some allowances and upkeep, which we cannot provide,” Gombya said.

“Meanwhile, we are going to do our best to follow our events calendar, and strive to fulfill the compliance guidelines regarding the new sports Act. But where we fail, we request for clemency.” This premier event, organized by the African Wushu Kung Fu Federation (AFWF), showcases elite talent in Taolu (routines) and Sanda.