

WOMEN FIELD IN ROAD TEST

By Hope Ampurire

As Uganda prepares for the second edition of the International Women's Day Run on Saturday at Lugogo, an event organized by the Uganda Olympic Committee (UOC) and Uganda Athletics (UA) is evolving from a mere race to a national manifesto for success and systemic investment.

Last year, the inaugural celebration was a spirited display of relays and netball at the Mandela National Stadium, Namboole.

This year, however, the stakes have been raised and the geography has shifted with participants (men and women) taking part in 5Km and 10km events.

Under the 2026 global theme "Give To Gain," the event moves from the enclosed stadium grass to the open public spaces of the city, serving as both a literal and metaphorical reclaiming of the ground women walk and run.

According to AU executive board member Barbra Asiimwe and chairperson of the women's commission, the architecture of this event is rooted in tangible, long-term outcomes rather than fleeting ceremony.

Asiimwe outlines a rigorous set of objectives that move far beyond the finish line.

"We are here to raise awareness on gender equality and women's empowerment while promoting healthy lifestyles and women's participation in public spaces," Asiimwe explains.

However, the ambition does not stop at physical fitness.

Asiimwe views this as a National Event designed to unite a fragmented society under the banner of progress.

"The event will bring together women, men, youth, corporate partners, civil society, and government stakeholders to demonstrate a collective commitment to advancing women's rights and inclusion," she notes.

Crucially, Asiimwe reveals that this initiative is designed to strengthen partnerships and visibility for UOC-GED (Gender, Equity, and Diversity) initiatives and mobilize support for gender-responsive programming," she said.

Asiimwe further mentioned that this event to grow and become a charity that can support women's programs year-round.