

# UCA sets sights on reintegrating Namilyango into Schools cricket elite

PHOTO BY JOHNSON WERE

By Johnson Were

The Uganda Cricket Association (UCA), working alongside the Namilyango College Old Boys from the 1995-2000 class, has launched a fresh initiative aimed at restoring cricket's status at Namilyango College, a campus long associated with rugby dominance.

In the late 1990s, cricket was one of the school's standout sports, but its prominence faded over the years as rugby took center stage for nearly two decades. Now, former students are keen to reverse that trend and re-establish cricket as a key discipline.

As part of the revival efforts, the Old Boys on Tuesday handed over a range of equipment including bats, balls, stumps, and wickets to support the program's restart.

They have also brought in national team wicket-keeper Fred Achelam as head coach, tasking him with nurturing young talent and rebuilding a competitive cricket structure at the school.

During the handover ceremo-



Headteacher Mpuuga (L) unveils the cricket coach Achelam

ny, UCA chairman Jackson Kavuma expressed optimism about the development, noting that Namilyango has the potential to become a force in cricket once again.

"We are excited to see cricket return to Namilyango. The school is widely known for rugby, but we believe it can also grow into a powerhouse in cricket," Kavuma said.

He added that the long-term goal is to reintegrate the school into Uganda's tradi-

tional cricket circuit, alongside institutions such as Busoga College Mwiri, Nyakasura School, Jinja Senior Secondary School, and King's College Budo, through consistent participation in competitions like Cricket Week.

School headteacher Constantine Mpuuga welcomed the initiative and pledged full support from the administration.

"We are committed to giving our students opportunities to explore their talents. With the

facilities in place and now a qualified coach on board, we believe Namilyango can rise again in cricket," Mpuuga said.

The old boys delegation was led by former head prefect John Mpande, alongside Joseph Kawombe, Ivan Gitta, and veteran sports journalist Mark Namanya. Mpande emphasised their commitment to seeing the sport flourish once more.

"We played cricket here during our time and want to see it regain its former glory, just like rugby has big impact on the school," he noted.

Achelam, meanwhile, expressed enthusiasm about the new role and the opportunity to mentor young players.

"I am eager to get started. This is a great chance to pass on skills and instill a passion for the game in these young players," he said.

He added that his focus will be on identifying and developing grassroots talent, with the broader aim of strengthening cricket both at the school and national level.