

FR. GRIMES CHESS RETURNS

PHOTO BY SILVANO KIBUUKA

By Silvano Kibuuka

All is set for the 2026 Fr. Grimes National Schools Chess championships which is expected to attract over 1,000 players at Ntare School in Mbarara on May 2-7. This will be the first time for the event to be held outside the central region.

The 35th edition of the event will feature school teams in the primary and secondary categories (boys and girls) with promising intense competition and a celebration of youthful brilliance on the chessboard.

The prestigious championship, organized under the Uganda Chess Federation calendar, remains Uganda's biggest schools' chess competition, a platform that has consistently nurtured talent and produced future national stars.

This year's edition returns to the historic Ntare School in Mbarara, one of Uganda's most respected academic and sporting institutions, known for their strong tradition in both education and co-curricular excellence. The school has been among the top 10 in the past five events.

UCF official in charge of school's development, Calvin Ntumwa says they have



Budding chess stars battling it out during the previous Fr. Grimes chess championship

extended the registration deadline from April 21st to 27th to allow more competitors to take advantage of the last window for entries.

The championship is played by teams of four players and one non-playing captain for each team.

"Any school is allowed to enter as many teams at a cost of sh500,000 each. We

expect to have over 150 teams for this event because many schools in the western have shown interest to compete," noted Ntumwa.

The venue is expected to host a large contingent of teams, with participation numbers in past editions reaching over 150 school teams, underlining the tournament's growing popularity.

The defending champions in the boy's secondary category, St Mary's College Kisubi, Ndejje SSS, and Ntare School itself are expected to be among the top contenders, following strong performances in recent editions.

The event will also serve as a scouting ground for national youth teams.