

BY DARREN ALLAN KYEYUNE

## FIFA WORLD CUP

### 2026 Tournament Details

**Host countries:** Canada, Mexico, United States

**Dates:** June 11 - July 19

**Teams:** 48 (from 6 confederations)

**Venue:** 16 (in 16 host cities)

**KAMPALA.** To Patience Karungi, working and living in her home town of Fort Portal City of western district of Kabarole is more lucrative than relocating to Kampala.

She is a dedicated nurse at the famous Mpanga Secondary School in Fort Portal and together with a colleague, they mainly attend to respiratory tract infections, malaria, diabetic cases and some chronic illnesses of about 3500 students.

Against that background, Karungi visits Kampala about four times a year but her recent trip to the east was one full of mystery and anxiety.

A day after the day school broke off for first term holidays, she took a taxi at 3am and ended up at the Nile Brewer-

# Luck got school nurse Karungi World Cup slot

ies Limited (NBL) offices to confirm that she was a lucky winner of an all-expenses paid trip to the USA for the Fifa World Cup next month. "The sentiments are way too much," Karungi reacted in an interview after receiving her dummy ticket from NBL marketing manager Gitahi Wangechi and Nile Special brand manager Eric Malinga.

"I just can't wait to head to the airport and move out and sit with the other fans and watch the World Cup."

Karungi won the trip after she partook in a country-wide promotion by Nile Special which pulled in a total 6342 competitors, by virtue of buying two bottles at selected outlets, scratching a code and scanning to enter the draw.

But actually, Karungi wasn't picked at the publicized live draw conducted at Kyadondo Rugby Club early last month. Saul Mulindwa had been the first winner and then Betty Namunvu on April 20. However, NBL offices contacted Namunvu for the first mandatory 48 hours after the draw and she never returned



**Priceless.** Karungi (2nd R) and Mulindwa (2nd L) alongside Nile Special officials after both received their dummy air tickets. PHOTO: DARREN ALLAN KYEYUNE

calls. The same thing happened for the next seven days but she wasn't forthcoming.

### Excited & confused

Inevitably, Malinga conducted the draw again at NBL and Karungi turned out the winner. "I was excited, confused and thought maybe it was a lie. A part of me believed me, a part of me doubted it,"

she said. "Eric had called. My whole day was full of excitement. It was way too much. I kept asking if it were true. I called my mum then she was happy, she kept asking if it was real."

For Karungi, it felt like a prophecy had come to pass. "Last year, I was praying to move abroad. I prayed and I was commanding. When it came up, I knew final-

ly, it was my time. I am already drawing pictures," she stated with a bright face.

The 27-year-old only took part in the draw when she turned up with a couple of friends to attend the Re Leve Bar first year anniversary on April 11 in Fort Portal town.

"I saw some ladies putting on Nile Special t-shirts, and since I take Nile, I started. They talked of a promotion where you scratch a card and stand a chance of winning. I put it in and that was it. I moved on with the night."

She counts herself lucky to have won the opportunity where NBL will cover the costs to the East Coast where she will watch matches at the MetLife Stadium in New Jersey and then the Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia.

"I was told the one (Namunvu) who was called first declined. I went to the Nile Special X page to check if the promotion was there," Karungi reacted.

"I have been drinking Nile Special for two years, they usually say Nile is for the men, and I usually want that one. There were many people who were taking Nile before me but it wasn't their opportunity." Unlike Mulindwa, Karungi is not an ardent fan of football.