



**Making an impact.** Guests and coaches join athletes for a group photo after the Unified Sports competitions at Kinakyeitaka Primary School in Kyangwali Refugee Settlement. PHOTOS/GEORGE KATONGOLE

# Kyangwali refugee settlement lit up

**Big Congregation.** The programme brought together more than 800 learners across 10 schools in Kyangwali.

BY GEORGE KATONGOLE

In Kyangwali Refugee Settlement, sport brought together more than 800 learners from 10 schools as Special Olympics Uganda concluded its Unified Champion Schools programme at Kinakyeitaka School. The one-year initiative paired students with and without intellectual disabilities on the same teams, promoting inclusion through football played in two divisions. Nguruwe and Kentomi emerged champions. The tournament unfolded in a setting where over 120,000 refugees face irregular school attendance due to household demands, language barriers and survival pressures.

The games created moments of unity, joy and belonging. Teachers, coaches, and learners shared celebrations as medals were awarded at the closing ceremony. Organisers say the programme has helped improve school participation, confidence and social inclusion, while also revealing emerging talent. Special Olympics Uganda called for continued support to sustain inclusive sport in refugee schools.



**Parity.** Girls in action during the event.



**Lighting hope.** Joel, a Special Olympics athlete, and his coach carry the Flame of Hope during the Unified Sports event, symbolising inclusion and unity.

**Still pushing.** Special Olympics Country Director Genevieve Bamwidukire has called for greater inclusion and support for learners with intellectual disabilities.



**Rewarded.** Richard Achidri, Commandant for Education in Kyangwali, awards medals to athletes at the close of the Unified Schools tournament.