

Dr. Donald Rukare

Candidate for President of **Commonwealth Sport**

Integrity . Passion . Transparency



The Pledge:

To serve the commonwealth sporting family with full commitment, integrity and professionalism in advancing the values of Commonwealth Sport.

Meet the Candidate

- Interim President of Commonwealth Sports 2025 – to date
- Vice President Commonwealth Sports 2023- 2025
- World Aquatics Bureau Member
- Executive Committee Member Association of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA)
- Vice President Africa Aquatics
- President Commonwealth Games Uganda
- CAS Arbitrator
- Advocate of the High Court of Uganda and Sports Lawyer



Looking to the Future of the COMMONWEALTH SPORT

On 26th November 2025, the Commonwealth Sport (CS) family will elect its President in Glasgow. I am vying for the position of President CS. Looking back over my sports administration experience and footprint, I believe that I possess the requisite resolve, integrity, experience, commitment and skills to take up the leadership mantle of President of our movement. This is complimented by vast networks and contacts at national, regional and international level which I will be able to leverage to strengthen sports in our commonwealth domain. This is complimented by my over 30 years of experience that cuts across the public, private, development cooperation, diplomatic, academia and sports worlds.

Looking to the future, together with executive board and team at the office, we would like to focus on the following areas/activities. Support to our athletes from across our 74 members, to be able to realize their full potential will be a central pillar of our tenure. Putting athletes at the center of sports made in the Commonwealth will be one of our key priorities. Athletes are why we sports administrators exist and we should ensure that they are supported through programs that facilitate their identification, preparation and eventually participation in inclusive competitions. We are intent on building on the positive momentum

that will arise from the Glasgow 2026 games that are barely one year away.

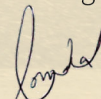
Related to this is the need for a flexible games hosting model. To this end, we shall support the reset and refresh agenda that would inter alia enable potential countries to host the games in a fully sustainable manner. The games need to be made more attractive and relevant for our athletes going forward. We are happy to see islands like Malta step up to host the Youth Games in 2027. Exploring making our games qualification a pathway for World and Olympic Games is one possible pathway. Furthermore, support to national commonwealth games associations will be solicited and provided to ensure that the system is able to operate and deliver sports in our domain. Building on and expanding our flag ship programs of GAPS and Equip will be high on our agenda as well.

Leveraging and fostering strategic partnerships will be another feature of our tenure. We intend to promote mutually beneficially partnerships at national, regional and international levels to enable us attained our envisaged activities mentioned above. Commonwealth sport needs to engage more intentional actors such as the Commonwealth Secretariat, the corporate world, regional and international bodies to advance our objectives and shared visions.

Together with the executive board we shall focus on the following areas in line with our strategic plan Commonwealth United:

- Deliver inclusive and sustainable games
- Create distinctive, attractive relevant sport programmes
- Lead, support and develop thriving member CGAs
- Empower our athletes to be champions on and off the field
- Reach and engage more fans across the commonwealth
- Advocate for and support values and causes we believe in

We should never forget as the CS family where we have come from and our history. We need to maintain our family unity, cohesion, solidarity and the best of who we are as a sports family. We should build on the gains made so far, improve on our weak areas, scale greater heights and together commit to making sports made in the Commonwealth a force to reckon with on and off the field of play. Join us on this exciting journey over the next two years and let's accomplish great things together.


Dr. Donald Rukare
September 15 2025

