



Address by President Vivian-Anne Gittens delivered at the 33rd Installation of Officers

The Rotary Club of Barbados South

At The Accra Beach Hotel and Spa – Friday July 6 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

Introductions

The Hon. Sir Marston Gibson, Chief Justice of Barbados and Patron of
Rotary Club of Barbados South,

Senator Lisa Cummins, AG of District 7030

Dr. Akhentoolove Corbin, Senior Lecturer, UWI, Our Guest of Honour

Deputy Chair of RI Membership Committee and PDG, David Edwards

Immediate Past President Hiranand and other distinguished members of
the Head Table

Colleague Rotary Presidents and Past Presidents,

Fellow Rotarians and Guests

Members of the Media

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Good Evening...



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I must, at the very outset, express our collective thanks and appreciation to our Patron, Sir Marston who consistently supports our club in its various initiatives.

I also take this opportunity on behalf of the Board and Members of the Rotary Club of Barbados South, to congratulate and warmly welcome our new Assistant Governor, Lisa. We at Rotary South look forward to collaborating with you for a very successful and productive Rotary Year.

Let me take this opportunity as well to place on record our deepest appreciation for the guidance of Immediate Past Assistant Governor , Peter, for his ready support, his leadership, and guidance to our club over the past three years of service to Rotary in that capacity.

I am also exceedingly proud to report that, for the first time in Rotary 100 plus years of history, the current President of Rotary International is from the Caribbean: President Barry Rassin and his Partner in Service, Esther, are from the Rotary Club of East Nassau, New Providence, the Bahamas,



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District 7020. We were delighted to join with attendees from District 7030, who shared in the grand celebrations of District 7020 of our new Rotary International President Rassin at the just concluded Rotary International Convention in Toronto, Canada.

RI President Barry Rassin has challenged clubs around the world “to be the Inspiration” for this Rotary year. He said: “I want you to inspire in your clubs, your Rotarians, that desire for something greater. The drive to do more, to be more, to create something that will live beyond each of us.” He has specifically chosen as his theme “Be the Inspiration” for the Rotary International year 2018 -2019.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it a distinct honour for me to have this opportunity to serve as President of Rotary Club of Barbados South as our club actively embraces President Rassin challenge.



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Our club has a record of distinguished leadership for over thirty-two (32) years. I warmly congratulate our Immediate Past President, Hiranand and his Board for maintaining Rotary International's high standards of service, both to the club and within our community, of professional and personal integrity, and of fellowship within our local Rotary family.

As I accept this baton of leadership, I commit to continuing to build a strong and vibrant Club. In accordance with Rotary International guidance, initial changes in the structure of the club leadership are being introduced. Greater emphasis will be given to Membership and Public Relations.

Rotary is its members: Rotary comprises the persons who commit to the Object of Rotary and who serve together to make the world a better place. To do even more, we need more members while maintaining Rotary's core values of service, leadership, integrity, diversity and fellowship. The thrust is to expand membership by attracting those persons who are



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passionate about ‘doing good in the world’ through their exemplary service to humanity – through “Service above self” in their personal and professional lives.

In addition, the role of Public Relations, like Membership, will be raised to the highest prominence within the club. Specific emphasis will be on the use of social media to promote public awareness of the club’s activities and its main projects in the community led at the Director level in our club.

In making these initial changes, I have drawn heavily on the enthusiasm and commitment of many of the leaders of the outgoing Board. I have sought and secured their participation on the Board for the new Rotary Year. I sincerely appreciate their ready commitment to continue to serve Rotary at this level.

Our Club will continue those projects that over time have proven to be successful, and more importantly, which serve the urgent needs of our



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community. For example, projects like:

The Classroom to Boardroom project which is the primary Vocational Service project for the year, and which is implemented in collaboration with the Entrepreneurship Foundation. This project includes the Business Challenge. Over recent years our club has expanded this project to draw participants from the Samuel Jackman Prescod Institute of Technology and the Barbados Community College along with the other secondary schools. Our club is considering doing more with this project by including an additional development session for participants focused on job applications and work-related soft skills.

The Andy & Elmer Project which is a literacy project designed to promote Rotary's Four Way Test, , will recommence in this Rotary year, and in that regard it is our intention to reach out to a number of additional primary schools. This project will help support our District Governor's



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objective of highlighting Literacy within our District whilst teaching our youth about truth, fairness and building better friendships.

We will continue the Model United Nations project, the MUN, which is implemented with the generous support of UNDP and many expert volunteer presenters and trainers. This annual exercise prepares young adults to develop communication and presentation skills, and poise in a model United Nations forum.

Each year we present Vocational Service Awards to persons in our community who have exemplified outstanding professional service while maintaining very high ethical standards.

The Feeding of the Needy and the Meals on Wheels programs will continue. Year-by-year, the club finds ways to serve more and more needy persons. Thanks to the cooperation and assistance of our sister club, Rotary West (RCBW), the pressure on any one Rotarian to prepare and present the meals for the monthly feeding of the needy in Independence



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Square has been reduced. We continue to offer a balanced meal to more needy persons on the evenings.

The Christmas Hamper project will continue to be expanded to serve more needy families at the festive season, and we also intend to expand the Back-to-School program to facilitate more needy families in our community. These Community Service projects are heavily supported by our club members, family and friends along with the business community who we are indebted to for their continued monetary support.

. Our club will also continue to provide hampers for Mother's day and Fathers' day to deserving recipients in our community..

Over the years, our club's two youth arms, the Rotaract Club of South Barbados and the Interact Club of Queen's College have been exemplary and innovative in their service to Rotary. We commend the respective club leadership and members, unreservedly. During my year both clubs can rely on the support of myself and my Board in the delivery of their



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programmes.

Revised Rotary International rules for membership and club participation have provided opportunities for us to review our By-laws in creating greater membership flexibility. Priority consideration will be given to greater involvement and collaboration with our Rotaract Club of South Barbados. In this regard, we have already agreed that Rotaractors will be involved in our regular weekly meetings. Efforts to achieve this in accordance with the flexibility provided by the new membership rules are already in train.

Our District Governor, Dominique Veneres of the Rotary Club of Basse Terre, Guadeloupe, has highlighted literacy for special attention during this Rotary year. In response, our Club will be undertaking a new project which involves reading to children at regular intervals, especially those children in children homes and similar facilities.

Meanwhile, we are working closely with AG Lisa to look jointly with the



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Rotary Barbados (RCB) and Rotary West (RCBW) to do more and so increase the impact of promoting and advancing literacy in our community.

During my year we wish to look outside our immediate community and look at international service as an extension of our Rotary service and fellowship. To this end, having raised funds for Dominica Hurricane Relief we wish to get more involved by visiting the members to our sister club in Dominica.. We wish to see and hear firsthand how we can assist our fellow Rotarians in providing further relief for that country ... and to effect that assistance to the extent we can - physically and financially - in building friendship and fellowship between our clubs.

With regards to fellowship at the International Service level, two years ago we agreed to twin with the Rotary Club of Huntresville Ontario and it is our intention to reestablish this link to promote better international understanding and goodwill with our fellow Rotarians.



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The training and development of our club members will also be given special focus during this rotary year. Particular emphasis will continue to be placed on understanding the operations of Rotary International, the role of The Rotary Foundation, and the mandates for International Service.

Our Club will be looking to draw on the recently developed Rotary International's Strategic Plan and Vision Statement in developing an updated Strategic Plan and Vision Statement for our club.

The declared Vision Statement of Rotary International is that “Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.” This points us all to utilising our talents, expertise and leadership skills as Rotarians to serve in unity with each other and to the fullest extent.

Keeping the Ideal of Service in focus, we can draw on the strength of our united front to assist in transforming the lives of the less fortunate in our



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community in lasting ways that in turn, transform and develops our understanding of ourselves.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I close by calling all members of the Rotary Club of Barbados South to provide exemplary, selfless service to mankind which serves as inspiration to each other and to others in our community.

Even as we push to do more and more, let all be done consonant with the Object of Rotary. Let others feel and see the fellowship and goodwill in our club and in how we serve together to better our community.

Remember that: “The things you do for yourself are gone when you are gone, but the things you do for others remain as your legacy.”

Let us therefore “**Be The Inspiration**” to the world through our commitment to the enduring ideal of service.

Thank you.