



SOUTHERN TIMES

ISSUE 10 - APRIL 2026



Theme:

PRESERVING OUR ENVIRONMENT

Appreciation for a Successful DISCON 101

Governor GK,

Thank you for the year you gave us.
Thank you for the miles, the speeches, and the sacrifices.
You did not lead District 9213 from a pedestal, but from beside us - in our clubs, in our projects, and in our communities.
The way you honored every club is how we'll remember your year. -
At several points, you were no longer our GK, but every club's GK
You didn't ask us to follow you. You invited us to serve with you.
You gave us belief and not instructions.
You introduced #RotaryEyamba to us, and it's now etched in history as a powerful expression of our great works - I hope it's registered with URSB
A Governor's year is heavy - I would imagine. The expectations are high, the calendar is relentless, and the weight of the chain is real. Yet you carried it with humility, excellence, and an unshakable

belief in Rotarians.

We are eternally grateful to your Executive Assistant our friend @ Allen Nambakire, for shouldering this load and burden with you.

On a selfish note, thank you for giving me a job - I am glad to have served on your team as Vice Chair - Community Service. This gave me the platform, which has further given me an opportunity to be elevated to Chair of the same committee in RY 2026-2027

Thank you for a year of servant leadership that looked like presence, excellence, and love for all Rotarians.

As you return to Busesa for rest, rest assured that you did not just finish a year, you powered the district.

We are grateful, Governor.

You served us well!
Rtn Richard Kalungi Kirumira
#RotaryEyamba

To: Kampala South Membership

An unstoppable force met what we thought was an immovable object... and we all know who won!

#Team Kampala South showed up with so much force that we've changed the DISCON numbers forever; from attendance, awards, fundraising to the pure glamour - we didn't just attend; we made a statement.

Thank you for turning up. Whether you were contributing, advising, or simply dancing the nights away. We proved exactly who we are.

Governor GK, thank you for taking us with you on the journeys around 9213, and for giving us a taste of integrity, hardwork and success.

You made us very proud!

Jospeh Baroraho and your team, including, Mr. Fix It! Asante sana!

Wajoli Gulu!
Apwoyo.
PP Antony Mwandha
#DISCON 101
#RotaryEyamba

To: RC Kampala South

Dear President @Faridah Namutebi and all members of Kampala South,

First, thank you for nominating me for the Governorship.

Second, thank you for supporting me throughout the preparations and my journey of Governorship.

Third, thank you for being a model club; it made my work easy, as I could afford to push targets for other clubs knowing that back home, all things were well.

Fourth, thank you for a wonderful 101st DISCON. I took the tough decision to have a Chair from my club, but I knew you guys would lead the team to deliver the conference.

Fifth, thank you for all the financial contributions through fundraising, giving to The Rotary Foundation, and supporting me personally, as well as towards the DG's Banquet; 108 members was a major statement!

Sixth, thank you for your time and visiting with me everywhere I went.

Seven, thank you for your prayers for journey mercies, for good health and provision of

resources.

Special thanks to @Allen KlaSth for managing my mobility team and administrative roles.

Indeed, Kampala South, you were my #RideOrDie guys, you United as a Club for the Good.

God bless you! God bless you!

And, last but not least, thanks to NRM represented by @Henry Mukisa for the enabling environment.

Geoffrey Kitakule (GK)

#RotaryEyamba#

To: Kampala South 101st DISCON Organising Teams

@All Friends, as your team leader, I couldn't have asked God for a better club than RC Kampala South.

Thank you so much for your unwavering support, teamwork, and dedication in keeping the Kampala South flag flying high.

We surely made our DG proud. DISCON 101 turned out to be more of a Kampala South affair than a District one.

Kudos to:

* Our incredible Onto DISCON 101 Officer @

Karo KlaSouth - 108 delegates is a record set!

* Our Awards Committee led by @Hannington Hakiza KlaSth - 13 awards still feels like a dream.

* The different directors and your committee members - for delivering on all set goals.

* To the rest of the club members of Kampala South - you showed up! and showed out!

* The DG's Banquet Chair@Joseph Baroraho KlaSth and the organizing committee - you showed the delegates what taste and class is.

* DISCON 101 Chair, Mr. Fix It! @Charles Odaga KlaSth - you set the bar so high. 2,500 delegates is a record that will be hard to break in the near future, not to mention the world-class experience

we got as delegates. You are such an inspiration to many of us through your energy, dedication, and commitment to serve.

* And, not to forget the silent heroes of this club who worked behind the scenes with you to ensure DISCON 101 was a super success.

* And, last but not least, to our cool #RideOrDie! DG @Geoffrey Kitakule D9213 - you really made us proud as a club. Thank you!

May the Almighty God open doors for you to the highest posting at Rotary International soon.

Faridah Namutebi
President
#RotaryEyamba

To: The 101st DISCON Chair

Thank You, Charles Odaga (CO), for a Phenomenal D9213 101st District Conference! It's not like we had any doubts anyway. You're CO! You're Mr. Fix it! You're Mr. Performer!

You didn't just organize a conference. You gave 9213 a mirror to see how great we can be when Kampala South is in charge. This District Conference was not an event, but a statement.

From the overflowing logistics to the inspiring speakers and fellowship that pulsed through

every session - You reminded us why we joined Rotary: The people, the purpose and the power of coming together.

The energy, the precision, the heart - you stitched Rotary's best into three days and made it look effortless. Yet, we all know it wasn't. We saw the sacrifice, and we felt the impact.

We know about the sleepless nights, the hard calls and the details nobody saw. That is the price of excellence, and you paid it with grace.

Thank you for carrying the weight so the rest of us could carry the great memories home.

You raised the bar for Gulu. The standard you set for #DISCON 101 has become a standard for future conferences.

We're proud to call you ours.

Apwoyo
Richard Kalungi Kirumira
#DISCON101
#RotaryEyamba

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Editorial Message

PP Esther Mwambu



Dear Rotarians and Friends,

As we turn the pages of this edition of our monthly bulletin, we find ourselves reflecting on a theme that resonates deeply with our mission and values: The environment. The year 2026 presents us with both challenges and opportunities in our unwavering commitment to fostering a sustainable future for our communities and the planet we share.

Rotary Club of Kampala South has always been at the forefront of community service, and it is imperative that we expand our vision to include environmental initiatives.

This edition of our bulletin highlights various projects and stories that showcase our members' dedication to protecting our environment. We will share successful endeavors, from tree planting campaigns to community clean-ups and educational outreaches on sustainable practices.

Read about these and more in our presidential message, and in the District Governor's (DG's) engagements of the month; as well as through our Rotary International (RI) President's message of the month.

This month's bulletin also showcases the usual club membership engagements in April - the Family of Rotary activities, fellowships held and more through the RC Kampala South lens. The bulletin also shares highlights of the 101st District Conference (DISCON) that took place from 16th to 18th April 2026, and much more of the activities that have graced the month of April 2026 as relayed through the club lens.

Enjoy the reading!
#RotaryEyamba



“

Faridah Namutebi

34th President
RC Kampala South

Call to action for environmental conservation and restoration

Dear Esteemed Rotarians and Friends,

As we gather in this month's edition of our magazine, I am delighted to share thoughts on a theme that is not only pressing but profoundly connected to our mission as Rotarians: The environment. In a world facing unprecedented environmental challenges, it is essential for us to reaffirm our commitment to sustainability and stewardship of the planet.

This month, we embrace the call to action for environmental conservation and restoration. Our natural resources - forests, watersheds, and biodiversity - are not just beautiful gifts; they are vital to our health, well-being, and prosperity as a community. In Uganda, we are privileged to live amidst stunning landscapes and rich ecosystems, yet these treasures are increasingly threatened by climate change and human activity.

As members of the Rotary Club of Kampala South, we have a unique opportunity to lead by example and influence positive change within our local communities. Our projects can serve as a model for collaboration and innovation in addressing environmental issues. Whether it is through our tree planting initiatives, community outreaches and service on sustainable practices, or partnerships

with local conservation groups and/or rotary clubs, every effort counts and can inspire others to join the movement.

In this edition, you will find inspiring stories of our recent environmental initiatives, witness the determination of fellow members, and discover actionable steps we can all take to minimize our ecological footprint. I encourage you to engage with these stories, share your own experiences, and spark conversations about how we can enhance our impact.

Together, let us foster an ethos of environmental responsibility that not only benefits our immediate communities but also contributes to the global fight for a sustainable future. Each small action taken with passion can lead to significant change. I am grateful for your commitment and enthusiasm, and I look forward to seeing the remarkable contributions we will make in this vital area.

Thank you for your dedicated service and for being part of this incredible journey. Let us continue to work hand in hand for a greener, healthier, and more sustainable world.

Let's make a difference, one drop at a time.

Faridah Namutebi
#RotaryEyamba

RC Kampala South promotes tree planting in secondary schools



The Rotary Club of Kampala South, in partnership with ASA International and the Rotary Club of Kabale University, donated 100 Hass avocado and 400 guava trees to Buranga Secondary School in Kigezi District.



The Rotary Club of Kampala South, in partnership with ASA International donated Hass avocado, mango, guava and eucalyptus tree seedlings to Bubulo Girls Secondary School in Mbale District.



DG'S MESSAGE:

Geoffrey Martin Kitakute

District Governor - Rotary District 9213

Green Hope in Action: We are Restoring Uganda's Environment

Across Uganda, a quiet but powerful movement is taking root - one tree, one community and one project at a time. Led by dedicated Rotarians, environmental restoration is becoming a defining pillar of Rotary's impact, transforming landscapes while uplifting livelihoods. Rotarians are stepping forward with a shared vision: To protect the environment today, while securing a sustainable future for generations to come.

Rotary and Rotaract clubs have mobilized communities, schools and partners to plant thousands - if not millions - of trees across the country.

These efforts are not just about numbers. Each tree planted represents:

- A step toward restoring degraded forests;
- A natural defense against climate change; and
- A boost to soil fertility and agricultural productivity.

In many communities, tree planting has become a shared responsibility, bringing together young people, local leaders and families in a collective act of environmental stewardship.

Uganda's wetlands and water sources are vital lifelines for both people and ecosystems. Recognizing this, Rotarians have taken active steps to protect and restore these fragile environments.

Through community sensitization, campaigns and conservation projects, such as, "Run For the Nile", Rotary is helping to reduce wetland degradation and protecting the Nile and Lake Victoria. These efforts not only protect biodiversity, but also strengthen resilience against climate-related challenges.

We are influencing everyday practices within communities. Initiatives promoting energy-efficient cookstoves in schools such as Ivnunamba by Rotary Club of Kira; and proper waste management in schools by Rotary Club of Acacia Sunset; are practical solutions that demonstrate that environmental conservation does not have to be complex; it begins with simple, sustainable choices that improve both lives and livelihoods.

At the heart of Rotary's environmental activities is education. By engaging schools, youth groups and community members, Rotarians are building a culture of awareness and responsibility.

Young people, especially through Rotaract, are playing a leading role in organizing clean-up drives, leading environmental campaigns like the "Rotaract Earth Initiative" and championing innovative ideas. Their energy and creativity are ensuring that the message of sustainability reaches far and wide.

Furthermore, Rotary's environmental success in Uganda is strengthened by collaboration. By working with local communities, government institutions and international partners, Rotary clubs are able to scale-up their efforts and ensure long-term impact. Together with Uganda Breweries Ltd and National Forestry Authority, we are restoring Namananga Forest Reserve. With EACOP we are Greening schools in over six districts along the oil pipeline.

These partnerships bring together resources, expertise and shared commitment, turning

ideas into sustainable solutions.

The environmental work executed by Rotary in Uganda is more than conservation; it is a commitment to life, health and future prosperity. Healthy ecosystems mean better food security, improved public health and stronger, more resilient communities. As we continue to take action, we are proving that meaningful change is possible when people "Unite for Good" with purpose and passion.

In every tree planted, every wetland restored and every community empowered, there is a story of hope.

Our work in environmental restoration is not just about healing the land - it is about inspiring a nation to care, to act and to build a greener tomorrow.

This is Rotary in action! This is hope growing!

And, not only is it rooted in service and rising toward a sustainable future, but it is also proving that indeed,

Rotary Cares.
#RotaryEyamba



RI President Francesco Arezzo plants a tree at the National Medical Stores (NMS) Grounds, Kajjansi during his visit to Uganda in February 2026

Message from:

Francesco Arezzo
President Rotary International
2025-2026



Count On Preparation, Not Luck

Not long ago, in a small health center in the village of Aaye in southwest Nigeria, a woman arrived in labor carrying twins.

The facility was short-staffed. The nurse midwife in charge was not present.

A community health worker stepped forward. She had participated in Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, a Rotary Foundation Programs of Scale initiative. And though she was not formally trained as a midwife, she was equipped with essential emergency obstetric skills.

Hours later, both babies had been delivered, one at the health center and the other at a general hospital, where the mother had been referred after complications were quickly identified. The newborns and their mother were alive and safe.

Women around the world face similar circumstances every day — moments when the difference between life and loss depends on well-trained medical staff and reliable systems and procedures.

Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria exists to increase the chances that those moments end in hope. By strengthening health systems and training frontline workers, this program helps communities protect mothers and children even when circumstances are difficult.

This work reflects the very heart of Rotary service. Service is not only what we do when conditions are ideal. It is what we do when systems are strained, resources are limited, and the need is urgent. It is the commitment to prepare people before a crisis arrives and to stand with communities when it does.

Maternal and child health is not an abstract goal. It is deeply personal. It is a mother

who survives childbirth. It is a newborn who takes a first breath. It is a family that remains whole because someone was trained, ready, and cared enough to act.

Rotary understands that service means investing in people and systems long before they are tested.

Programs like Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria show what is possible when Rotary brings together local knowledge, global partnerships, and sustainable solutions. By working alongside health professionals and local leaders, Rotary helps ensure that lifesaving care does not depend on luck or location.

The story of the mother and her twins is at its core a story of service. It is a reminder that Rotary's impact is measured in human moments when people step forward to help others in their most vulnerable hours.

When we Unite for Good, service becomes more than an ideal. It becomes a lifeline for families, a source of strength for communities, and a promise that Rotary will.

Francesco Arezzo
President, Rotary International.



RI President Francesco Arezzo watering a tree he planted at the National Medical Stores (NMS) Grounds, Kajjansi during his visit to Uganda in February 2026

101ST DISCON Highlights!

Rotary District 9213 | 101 DISTRICT CONFERENCE | Inspire • Serve • Impact | Rotaract District 9213

MEET THE SPEAKERS

Ntare Guma Mbayo Murene | Robert Burate

Ian Henry Stuart Rieley | Mary-Louise Parker | Steve Killelea | Raju Subramanian

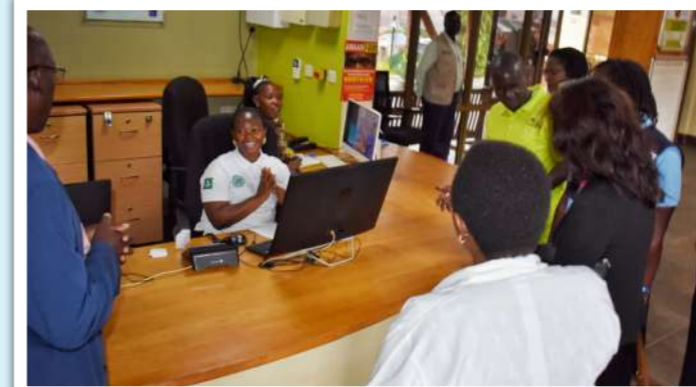
Francis Tusuira | David Alexander

16TH - 18TH APRIL 2026
IMPERIAL RESORT BEACH HOTEL, ENTEBBE

Partnership with: fireworks, Stanbic Bank, Ccil, PRUDENTIAL, VAAL REAL ESTATE, FOTOGENIX, GIC



“ One of the guest speakers at the 101ST DISCON - Mary-Louise Parker, an award-winning American actress known for her roles in productions such as R.E.D. and The West Wing; and recipient of Golden Globe, Emmy, and Tony Awards. She is also a writer and published author, with a strong interest in humanitarian work, was hosted at the Baylor College of Medicine-Bristol - Myers Squibb Children's Clinical Centre of Excellence at Mulago Hospital. ”



101ST DISCON Highlights!

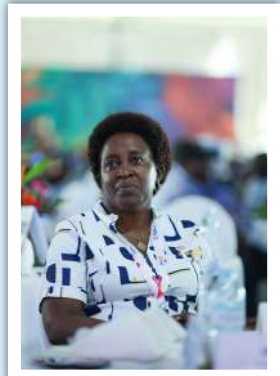
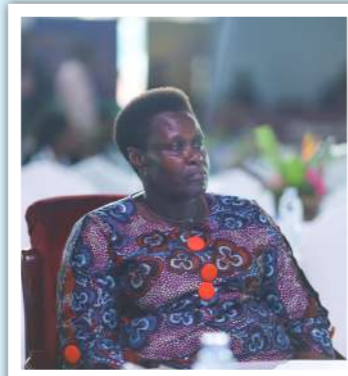
The Rotary International President's Personal Representative (RIPPR) Trichur. N. Subramanian and Ann, on arrival at Entebbe International Airport ahead of the flagship District Conference @101ST DISCON. Raju was welcomed by District Governor Geoffrey Kitakule and Rotaract President Abesage.

Day 1: The Opening Ceremony presided over by H.E. The Vice - President, Rt. Hon. Jessica Alupo



101ST DISCON Highlights!

Day 1: The Opening Ceremony presided over by
H.E. The Vice - President, Rt. Hon. Jessica Alupo as Guest of Honour



Opening Night & Award Giving!



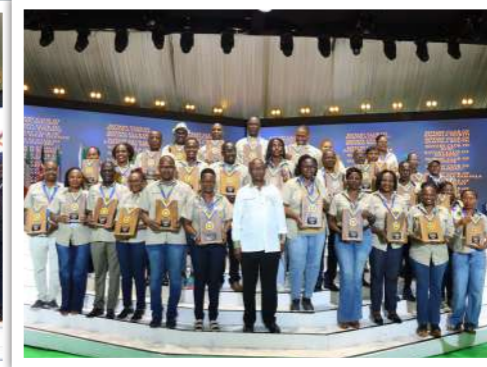
101ST DISCON Highlights!

Day 2: Award Giving & Rotaract Day



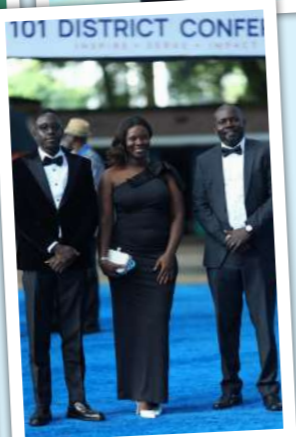
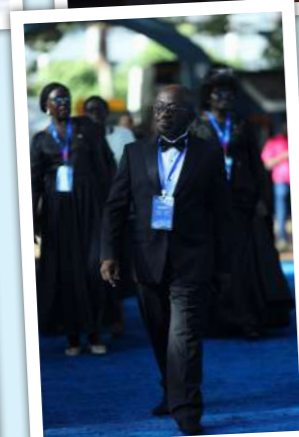
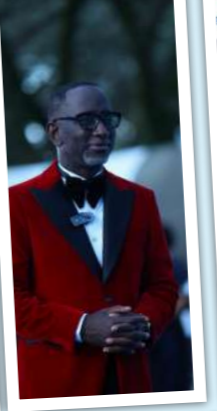
101ST DISCON Highlights!

Day 3: Award Giving and Messages from Keynote Speakers



101ST DISCON Highlights!

Day 3: Glitz & Glamour at the District Governer's Banquet



Kampala South Delegates Grace DISCON 101 with Pomp and Style



DG GEOFFREY MARTIN KITAKULE'S ENGAGEMENTS & OFFICIAL CLUB VISITS



101st Discon Awards

Summary of the Awards we won.

Winner

1. Best project supporting water, sanitation and Hygiene award
2. Central regional Discon Attendance
3. Public Image award
4. Social media award
5. Technology and innovation award
6. Over all Discon attendance

1st runner up

7. Global grants project award
8. Paul Harris society award
9. Family of Rotary

2nd runner up

10. Club Governance award
11. Rotary Eyamba award

District Governor's special awards

12. Family of Rotary fellowship award
13. Rotary Foundation award

#RotaryEyamba #Discon101



Membership Engagement



Serious twinning delegates representing



Here we were standing atop a 250,000 litre capacity underground water tank project by RC Milmani in the water-stressed Masai Mara



NEW BOARD BUDGET PRESENTATION

13th Apr 18:00 EAT
HOTEL AFRICANA

Zoom ID: 813 6954 3848
Passcode: klasouth

Buddy Group Incharge: Jaguar



KAMPALA SOUTH TOASTMASTERS CLUB

THEME: PERCEPTIONS: ARE FIRST IMPRESSIONS TRUE?

TUESDAY 28TH APR 2026
6PM - 7:30PM

TOASTMASTER OF THE DAY: HANNINGTON HAKIZA
GUEST SPEAKER: ODEKE PETER

"The kids at Missionaries of the poor are not able to speak, but their joy was tangible. Thank you to all who contributed and donated stuff for this visit"

Visit to the Mengo Dialysis Centre; bottom (left): District 9214 101st DISCON Representation by PP Charles Odaga & (right) DG Geoffrey Kitakule Visit to RC Kampala Metropolitan Neo-Natal Unit Unit Project

Join Fellowship with RC Kampala Metropolitan and Toastmasters Annual Conference 2026



District Announcements



In Memoriam

Rotary strict 9213 **END POLIO NOW**

POLIO CHAMPIONS

RCC AS OF 31ST MARCH.

1. Kampala Day-Break	11,913.03
2. Kira	11,468.09
3. Upper Kololo	9,901.71
4. Najjeera	7,500.52
5. Kampala North	7,110.00
6. Namugongo	7,000.00
7. Kampala South	6,100.23
8. Acacia-Sunset	5,816.39
9. Kampala Central	5,387.46
10. Kisaasi-Kyanja	4,852.87
11. Gayaza	4,753.29
12. Kampala City	4,645.05
13. Kitante	3,675.84
14. Manyangwa-Nakwero	3,638.40
15. Bulindo	3,028.50
16. Sunrise Kampala	2,899.12
17. Naguru	2,774.74
18. Kyadondo	2,737.13
19. E-Club of Uganda Global	2,472.59
20. Wakiso	2,427.82

FOR MORE INFORMATION +256773633942, +256704113175

Rotary District 9213

Congrats

RTN GERALD OBAI
RC GULU

DISTRICT GOVERNOR D9213 2026/27

#Unite4good9213 #RotaryEyamba <https://rotary9213.org>
Rotary District 9213

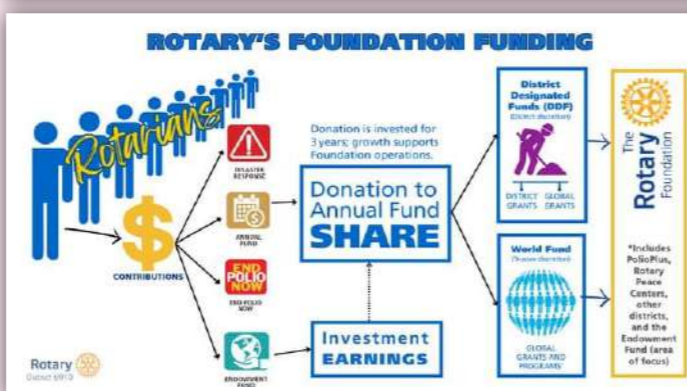
Rotary District 9213

Congrats

RTN. MD JANE KABUGO
RC SUNRISE KAMPALA

DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE D9218

#Unite4good9213 #RotaryEyamba <https://rotary9213.org>
Rotary District 9213



Rotary Kampala South

Congratulations

RTN. GEOFFREY NDUGWA

The Rotary Club of Kampala South wishes to congratulate Rtn. Geoffrey Ndugwa on his appointment as CEO of Bamburi Cement PLC

We wish you success in all your Endeavours!

@Kampalasouth f/rokampalasouth @klasouthrotaryclub

Rotary Kampala South

Death Announcement

The Rotary Club of Kampala South, with deep sorrow announces the death of Retired Justice Augustine Sebuturo Nshimye, the father to Rtn. Angella Nshimye and Rtn. Dr. Arnold Mulangira Nshimye and a father in law to Rtn Michelle Neza Nshimye of RC Kampala South.

May His Soul Rest in eternal peace!

@Kampalasouth f/rokampalasouth @klasouthrotaryclub

You don't have to have everything figured out to be enough. You're allowed to feel proud of yourself today—even as you're still learning, still healing, still becoming. Life isn't measured only by big milestones, but by the quiet strength it takes to keep going on the ordinary days.

intrepid quips

Rotary Club of Bugolobi

Remembering Our Dear Sister,

Rtn. Birungi Sarah

We deeply mourn the loss of Rtn. **Birungi Sarah**, who passed away early this morning, 10th April 2026. She truly embodied "Service Above Self" and leaves behind a beautiful legacy of warmth and kindness that our club will dearly miss.

Please keep her family in your prayers.

Funeral Arrangements:
Vigil: Today at 6:00 PM at her sister's home in Masooli. (Location pin: https://goo.gl/maps/WLyzJP6L2bcBrqWA8?g_st-awb)
Burial: Saturday, 11th April 2026 at 2:00 PM in Rutooma, Ibanda Road - Mbarara District

Rest in perfect peace, Sarah

Interact

Certificate of Organization

This certificate recognizes that

the Interact Club of St. Julian High School, S Campus

Club ID 234384 Established 30 March 2026

has been organized and has agreed, through its officers and members, to be bound by the constitution and bylaws of the Interact program of Rotary International.

Sponsored by

The Rotary Club of Uptown Kampala
The Rotaract Club of Bweyogerere-Namboole

PRESIDENT, SPONSORING CLUB(S)

DATE

PRESIDENT, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

DATE

Babies of April

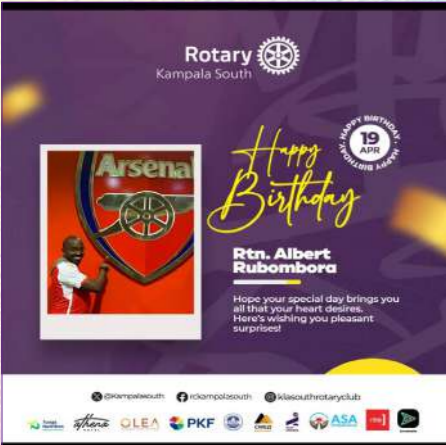


Family Of Rotary

DG Geoffrey Kitakule visits the Abigail Foundation A Centre for Children with Disabilities



Sheila Namara
Chair, Family of Rotary



Rotaract Kampala South

15TH PRESIDENTIAL INSTALLATION CEREMONY

VENUE: ATHENA HOTEL POOL PATIO
SAT. 27TH JUNE 2026 FROM: 3:00PM
DRESS CODE: SEMI-FORMAL/WHITE LINEN WITH A TOUCH OF BEIGE

CHIEF GUEST: RTN. GEOFFREY MARTIN KITAKULE, DISTRICT GOVERNOR, ROTARY DISTRICT 9213
PRESIDENT ELECT: CREVEN EMMANUEL MUKWENDA

FEES: 150K ROTARIANS & GUESTS, 100K ROTARACTORS
For Payments: airtel 6538792 (RAC KAMPALA SOUTH), 588533 (WINNIE)

Sponsors: Ndugu Capital, Athena, Conbigo, HWACHA



Rotary District 9213 and **Rotaract District 9213**

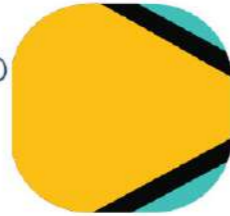
CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PROUDLY PRESENTED TO

In recognition of your participation in the District 9213 Awards Programme. This act reflects your club's dedication to accountability, innovation, and continuous improvement in service above self.

Thank you for being part of this important journey.

GEOFFREY MARTIN KITAKULE
DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2025-2026



Rotary
Kampala South

Southern BOAT CRUISE
— 2026 EDITION —

FEE: 300K
SAVE THE DATE

30TH MAY
ALL WHITE AFFAIR

PORTBELL, LUZIRA

FOR PAYMENTS: 0756 539 496, 0773 654 824
(Deus Dedit)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO KIKANDWA HEALTH CENTRE III

@Kampalasouth rckampalasouth klasouthrotaryclub

Tenga Nutrition, athena, OLEA, PKF, CWEZI, ASA, nbs

The Southern Boat Cruise is BACK-BIGGER-BETTER

Ladies and Gentlemen
The Rotary Club of Kampala South invites you for the biggest boat party in East Africa. This time, we are BACK with BIG things.

Music, Fun, Games, Nyama Choma! Imagine Ludo on a boat! This is an experience like no other.

And remember, while we are having fun, two things are going to be happening.

1. We are sending off our District Governor, Geoffrey Martins Kitakule with a Bang
2. All proceeds will go to the expansion of the Hospital Facility at Kikandwa Health Centre 3 in Kayunga District.

Book Your Tickets Now by Sending your Money to;

Muhumuza Deus Dedit
MTN - 0773654824

AIRTEL - 0756539496

For More Information Call
Pearl Karungi on - 0782172244

DON'T MISS THE BIGGEST BOAT CRUISE IN EAST AFRICA!



These Smiles: Chloe's Second Chance



Chloe is 14. Today, she's smiling. A few weeks ago, a team of heart specialists arrived in Uganda for a Rotary Global Grant project led by the Rotary Club of Entebbe, Uganda and the Rotary Club of El Tahrir, Egypt, with support from other clubs. Working

alongside the excellent team at Uganda Heart Institute, they performed life-saving closed heart surgery procedures for nine children with congenital heart disease — and Chloe was one of them.

Diagnosed with a Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD - hole in the heart located in the wall separating the lower chambers (ventricles)) when she was just one week old, doctors advised her parents to wait, hoping the hole in her heart would close on its own. For ten years, she seemed fine, but four years ago, fatigue and breathlessness stole her childhood. While other children ran and played, Chloe could only watch.

Her mother was told surgery was needed, yet the cost was impossible, and fear was even greater. "The God who has kept her till now will keep her for life," she said. A few months ago, Chloe's condition worsened. The breathlessness became constant, the fatigue daily, and this Senior One student could no longer concentrate in class. Then her mother heard about a free cardiac camp, courtesy of Rotarians, and this time, she came with open hands and an open heart. Today, Chloe is recovering well at Uganda Heart Institute. The hole in her heart is closed. She's on course to go home, return to school, and finally run with her friends. Her mother's message to Rotarians is simple: "Thank you for the lives you save. Thank you for your second chances." One global grant. Three countries. Nine children. A future restored.

Dr. Richard Kalungi
Chair, Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals