

2009/2010 Rotary Year by PP Antony Mwandha

President Mwandha of the Rotary Year (2009 – 2010) was ushered in amidst despondency in the club population and but in a heightened spirit of service.

The Presidency could have gone to either Noah Kanzira or Geoffrey Ndugwa but as fate would have it, both answered urgent calls in pursuit of their classifications a result that saw them leaving for lengthy periods.

Three months before the June installation that year, as PE, I requested the VP then, Donnan Byabazaire to take office before me since my classification had been blessed with higher challenges. The answer from the in-coming board was a resounding NO.

The Board, I later learnt, begun our year with a hollow feeling of a promise that might not be.

My focus was to enliven the fellowship with specific focus on attracting new members, among them, Rotaractors. I prepared a target list of potential club members and started to work on recruiting them, if not before I assumed the Presidency, then during my year as President.

I remember especially the “Dancing Fellowship” when we had a dance troupe performing in our midst during normal fellowship, sober! The graceful pairs were quite a sight and they truly awed those in attendance. That fellowship led to Kampala South members joining the dance class. We went on to win the Annual Rotary dance competitions.

I was privileged to attend the District Conference in Dar-es-salaam which turned out to be a great move in achieving my plans. I met many Rotaractors who were unsure of which club to join. I made it my objective to sell our dear club to them as an option among others they had.

We recruited 25 members that year. In an unprecedented move, our club broke the 35 numerical mark barrier, hopefully forever.

The hall mark of my year as president was the massive recruitment that we enjoyed.

We had very interesting and topical fellowships. We had heated debates during the business fora and the club assemblies. I enjoyed especially, the harsh assessments from Rotarian Aggrey, my president at my induction. It was pleasing to hear him call me Mr. President.

I had a structured fundraising plan which I had hoped would rake in Ugx 20 Million that year. With regret, the Rotary open day which would have been at Hotel Africana did not take place; the reasons for that shall be discussed another day. I held the position of fundraising chair for two terms since my presidency with a view to perhaps, achieving what I never did as President.

I attribute most of my success as president to Jane Okot P’Bitek Langoya. Without her, I fear to imagine how we would have turned the year.

Projects,

We held hands with Miles to Smiles and saw the children at the day care center receive toys and other play things in addition to foodstuffs and funds for utilities. I must add that the club withdrew from this project without option of renewal.

Obituary

My year enjoyed frequent visits from PDG Colin James RIP. We shared many memorable moments with him. He was passionate about he did.

Over the same period, we were fortunate to close two successful projects; the Miles to Smiles Project and the Golden Christian College, both of which witnessed unreserved attention and focus from late PDG Colin.

During his last visit at our Club, Colin carried a message from the Rotary Clubs of Bala & Pennlyn and of Deeside in Wales. It was with these Rotary Clubs and through Colin that we partnered to provide reading materials, toys, mats, food and medicines among other supplies, to the joint project of Miles to Smiles. We further provided safe water to Golden Christian College and the neighbouring community.

During that last meeting Colin carried a special thanks to our club from Wales; they not only appreciated our effort in alleviating the challenges of the toddlers at Miles to Smiles Day care center, but they also bestowed the cherished title of PHF on one of our club members. In moving speech that wet our eyes, and his as well, we learnt what it means to wear your heart on your sleeve and help, even those you have not known or seen before. It is a special quality that we shall miss in Colin.

The future

Whereas It remains a pain to me personally that the results of vote to redistrict remain a mystery, Rotary has made me a better person and I wish that all eligible people can join in the communion of service. I hold my dear club in high esteem because it has continued to be innovative almost effortlessly. As we celebrate 20 years of Kampala South, I would have liked to see us hitting 50 members. Numeric strength enables greater support from within and enjoys the collective synergy. I wish to see a spotlessly clean Rotary and I know it is achievable.



Left to Right

Mrs. Maureen Mwandha, IPP Mike Ojok, Guest of Honour, Mr. Peter Kahiigi, PAG, PCC, Philip Mike Katamba.