

REPORT ON THE 3-DAY RYLA BOOTCAMP 2026

THEME: INNOVATE, ADAPT, IMPACT

VENUE: LWEZA CONFERENCE CENTRE

DATES: 20TH – 22ND FEBRUARY 2026

TO: THE ROTARY CLUB OF KITANTE

1. Introduction

This report presents a comprehensive overview of the 3-Day Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Bootcamp 2026 held at Lweza Conference Centre from 20th to 22nd February 2026 under the theme “Innovate, Adapt, Impact.”

The bootcamp was designed to equip emerging youth leaders with essential leadership competencies including innovative thinking, adaptability, ethical leadership, and community impact skills. The training brought together participants from various Rotaract Clubs across the Central Region, as well as distinguished Rotarians, guest facilitators, and international Rotary representatives.

Through a combination of mentorship sessions, physical activities, panel discussions, group projects based on human-centred design, and project development exercises, participants gained practical leadership insights aimed at enabling them to become effective change-makers in their communities.

The generous facilitation and sponsorship by our Mother Club, The Rotary Club of Kitante, enabled **ten (10) members** from the Rotaract Club of Kitante - **Bukoma Juma Moya, Atamba Elizabeth, Nankunda Natalie, Nabasumba Kevin, Kalule Michael, Luzze Carl, Namwase Elizabeth Patricia, Namono Ingrid, Santalucy Fungaroh, and Kiiza Marina** - to attend and benefit from this transformative leadership program.

2. Objectives of the RYLA Bootcamp

The bootcamp aimed to strengthen youth leadership and community engagement through the following objectives:

- Demonstrating Rotary’s commitment to youth empowerment and leadership development.
- Providing practical leadership training for emerging youth leaders.
- Encouraging peer-to-peer leadership and youth-driven initiatives.
- Recognizing and supporting young people actively serving their communities.
- Instilling Rotary’s core values of integrity, service, and ethical leadership.

The training emphasized the importance of ethical leadership, integrity and accountability, service above self, personal growth and professional development, collaboration, and innovation.

3. Activities Undertaken

Day 1: ORIENTATION AND LEADERSHIP FOUNDATIONS

The bootcamp commenced with participant registration, welcoming remarks, and an orientation session outlining the objectives, expectations, and code of conduct.

Morning sessions focused on stimulating innovative thinking and self-discovery with topics such as creative problem-solving, ethical and servant leadership, building sustainable careers, and strategic vision development. Afternoon panel discussions covered shaping digital influence in the modern age (including AI and digital marketing), the art of public speaking, and leadership communication skills.

Evening activities included team-building exercises and the start of group community impact project development using human-centred design principles. The day closed with a vibrant Cultural Night featuring traditional dances, songs, attire, and storytelling that promoted unity in diversity.

Day 2: ADAPTABILITY AND RESILIENCE

The day began with a 5-kilometre morning run led by Rotarian Simon Okwi to promote physical fitness and teamwork.

Key sessions included:

- Emotional Intelligence (EQ) facilitated by PAG Ronald Kawadwa – covering self-awareness, empathy, stress management, and the five capitals of emotional intelligence.
- Financial Literacy facilitated by MD Jane Kabugo – focusing on budgeting, saving, investment basics, and living within one's means.
- A panel discussion on "Youth Innovation in Africa Today."

A special highlight was the visit by the Rotary International President, Rtn. Francesco Arezzo, who inspired participants with encouraging words and reaffirmed Rotary's commitment to youth leadership. Participants continued working on their group projects and concluded the day with a Talent Night and campfire reflections.

Day 3: IMPACT – CREATE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

The final day focused on Personal and Professional Branding facilitated by Samuel Agaba. Participants learned to develop authentic leadership images, personal mission statements, and effective digital presence.

The highlight was the Project Pitch Competition where groups presented their human-centred community service projects (e.g., ideas addressing health, waste management, and other societal challenges). Projects were evaluated on creativity, feasibility, scalability, sustainability, and alignment with Rotary values. Group Next Gen led by Santalucy Fungaroh emerged as the winners of the pitch competition.

The bootcamp concluded with a certificate award ceremony officiated by the Rotary District 9213 Governor, recognizing all participants for their commitment and active participation.

Challenges Encountered

Although the bootcamp was highly impactful, minor challenges noted included:

- Limited time for extended project pitch feedback.
- Tight scheduling on the final day.
- Limited intra-group interaction time.

Key Lessons Learned

Our participants gained several important insights, including:

- Strong personal branding enhances leadership effectiveness.
- Leadership requires discipline, confidence, adaptability, and emotional intelligence.
- Financial literacy and digital skills are essential competencies.
- Innovation driven by service creates sustainable community transformation.
- Clear and structured pitching is critical for gaining support.
- Teamwork and collaboration are key to success (reinforced through group projects and activities).

Appreciation

We express our profound appreciation to the Rotary Club of Kitante for:

- Their generous and continued sponsorship of Rotaractors for RYLA programs, which has strengthened youth leadership capacity and empowered young leaders within the Rotaract Club of Kitante.
- Fostering mentorship between Rotary and Rotaract members through opportunities for leadership discussions, joint service activities, and professional guidance from experienced Rotarians.
- Providing support that enables the implementation of youth-led community projects developed during programs such as RYLA, allowing Rotaractors to apply their skills in creating sustainable community impact.
- Encouraging greater participation of Rotaractors in Rotary leadership programs to nurture a new generation of ethical, innovative, and service-oriented leaders.



Conclusion

The 3-Day RYLA Bootcamp 2026 held at Lweza Conference Centre under the theme “Innovate, Adapt, Impact” was an extremely impactful and transformative leadership experience. The program successfully combined leadership training, mentorship, innovation development, and practical community engagement, equipping our participants with essential skills to become confident, responsible, and innovative leaders.

On behalf of the Rotaract Club of Kitante, we extend our sincere gratitude to the Rotary Club of Kitante for the generous support and sponsorship that enabled our ten members to participate in this program. Your continued investment in youth leadership development is empowering the next generation of leaders who will innovate, adapt to change, and create lasting impact within their communities.

We look forward to applying the skills gained and implementing our project ideas to serve our community in line with Rotary values.

Prepared
Bukoma
Club President, 2025/26

Juma

by:
Moya