

WEEKLY RECAP | THU 20 AUG 2026

GoldenWagon

**Sewing
Life Back
Together**

Rotary Club Of Upper Kololo

New Members Induction



Brenda Atuhairwe
Procurement Services

Senior Procurement Officer at Birungyi, Barata & Associates (member, IPPU and CIPS). Founder of Hair Secrets Store (HSS), a premium hair and beauty brand. Interests: strategic sourcing, value for money, entrepreneurship, and building sustainable systems for communities.

Sponsor: Rtn. Dr Gilbert Asimwe
Mentor: Rtn. Christine Mukasa Mugerwa
Buddy Group: Bombardier



Manisha Singh
Business Services

Director of Amex Energy (renewable/ clean energy, LPG import and distribution under the Amex Gas brand). Chairperson of Raja Dairy Association, helping farmers sell milk directly to factories with timely payment. Provides employment to 50+ youth and supports the Food for Life programme through ISKCON.

Sponsor: Rtn. Patricia Ahumuza
Mentor: Rtn. Elizabeth Kyomugisha
Buddy Group: Boeing



Roushan Lal Singh
Business Services

Managing Director at Ramex Petroleum (import/distribution of petroleum products, RAMEX-branded fuel stations). Also runs a microfinance business supporting small traders and start-ups, employing 100+ people. Active in Gupt Daan — giving back quietly, without seeking recognition.

Sponsor: Rtn. Patricia Ahumuza
Mentor: Rtn. Elizabeth Kyomugisha
Buddy Group: Boeing



Rashid Senvuma
Procurement Services

Procurement Specialist at Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS). MBA holder and MCIPS member. Supports public procurement processes upholding transparency, value for money, and quality standards.

Sponsor: MD. Adrine Kobusingye
Mentor: Peter Ssenkungu
Buddy Group: Bombardier

“
When we grow
our numbers,
we increase our
ability to reach
and touch lives”

District 9213
Governor Obai



Sissy Ebong
Procurement Services

Learning and Development Coordinator (Shared Services), Human Capital Department at Old Mutual Insurance Uganda Limited. MBA in General Management, member of HRMAU. Interested in health camps, clean water access, youth mentorship, education, and sustainable community projects.

Sponsor: Rtn Sheila Tumugabirwe
Mentor: Gilbert Asimwe
Buddy Group: Gulfstream



Daisy Juliet Namono
Business Services

Businesswoman specializing in wholesale women's clothing, under the brand Amo's Fashion. Passionate about giving back to the community and building relationships with like-minded professionals. Married.

Sponsor: Rtn Joyce Sadoori
Mentor: Rtn Ambrose Rwabajungu
Buddy Group: Chopper



Godfrey Erukwaïne
Procurement Services

Commissioner / Head of Procurement at the Ministry of Defence and Veteran Affairs. Previously oversaw plane procurement for Uganda Airlines at the Ministry of Works and Transport; has also worked with the Office of the Prime Minister, and the Ministries of Education and Sports, Lands, and Health. Qualifications: MBA, PSCM-UMI, MCIPS-UK, PDPAM-UMI.

Sponsor: Rtn Rebecca Nakawesa
Mentor: Rtn Joseph Ndiho
Buddy Group: Boeing



“Be Unbeatable”

DG Obai Challenges Upper Kololo to Aim Higher

On 14th August 2026, Rotary Club of Upper Kololo hosted District Governor Gerald Obai for his official visit to the club.

The Governor commended Upper Kololo for its stellar performance over years, but was quick to remind members that the work isn't finished. “It's not enough to be the number one club in the district,” he said. “There is still space to grow into the best Rotary club world over.”

For Governor Obai, that growth starts with people. “Rotary is about people,” he told the club. “Prioritize issues of people. Allow moments when people speak out about what concerns them in the club, however minor.” It was a simple reminder, but one that landed: the numbers and the projects matter, but so does making sure every member feels heard.

He singled out Upper Kololo's culture of giving as something the club should be proud of. “Your giving has enabled many people out there to find meaning in life,” he said. “There are countless improved lives behind the giving of Rotary.” He went on to celebrate the members whose generosity continues to carry that culture forward:

Rtn. Brian Buhanda	MD Level 2	Rtn. Justine Katoto	PHF+2
Rtn. Esther	\$6,500)	Rtn. Christine Mugerwa	PHF+2
Rtn. Elizabeth Mushabe	PHF+5	Rtn. Daphne Ashemeire	PHF+1
Rtn. Joseph Ndiho	PHF+3	Rtn. Doreen Asimwe	PHF+1
Rtn. Annette Aryanyejuka	PHF+3	Rtn. W. Katunguuka	PHF

“When we grow our numbers, we increase our ability to reach and touch lives,” he noted; a reminder that every new member is, in effect, more hands doing the work.

He challenged the club not to grow comfortable in its current standing. “You can never take your current place for granted. Be unbeatable!” He urged the club to stay vibrant, united, and generous while making sure every member, new and old, finds real value and room to make their mark. Given the club's giving culture, Governor Obai encouraged Upper Kololo to make greater use of global grants, promising that District 9213 stands ready to support the club in doing so.

He closed on a lighter note, inviting Rotarians of Upper Kololo to Gulu for DISCON, with a promise that the left thigh, “the tastiest of all parts of chicken,” will be waiting for them.

Editorial

DG Obai's official Vist to UK





Sewing Life Back Together

The story of Irene, and the thread that found her again

“When I finish school, I will be a nurse. I will help pregnant mothers and their babies, like Aunt Jovanis,” Irene whispered to herself, smoothing the little cap she had just finished making.

She had built it from newspaper scraps that once wrapped the chapati her father brought home every Saturday for their Sunday treat, held together with sticky plant resin she’d gathered herself. It wasn’t much. But she wore it proudly for a few stolen minutes each night before bed, a small nurse in a small room, already certain of who she would become. “I want to be a nurse,” she would whisper, again and again, until sleep took her.

She did not know yet how many times life would ask her to build herself back out of scraps.

The commotion woke her first; wailing, voices tangled outside the window. Irene rubbed the sleep from her eyes and stepped

onto the veranda to find her mother collapsed in grief. “Ageenzee, affuddee. Daddy agenze. Boda boda has killed your father.”

She did not fully understand the words. She understood the sound of them.

Something in her chest went numb and heavy at once, the particular ache of a child who senses, before she can name it, that the world has quietly turned its back against her.

In the aftermath, Irene was sent to live with her grandmother in the neighboring village of Namasumbi. Jajja took her in without hesitation and kept her in school, selling roasted maize and cassava by the roadside to cover fees; her cough worsening with each dry season. “I want you to become a musawo,” she would say between fits of cough. “When you study hard, you will help me too.”

Jajja believed in her. That belief was, for a while, enough to live on.

But grief in Uganda rarely travels alone. It comes, as the saying goes, with its cousins. Jajja’s cough finally won, and Irene was orphaned a second time.

It was Uncle Musa, arriving from the city for the funeral, who made the next promise: he would take her to school, raise her properly, give her the life her parents couldn’t finish giving her. “I will be a nurse,” Irene told herself again, packing the little hope she had left into her bag along with her few belongings.

The promise was slow in coming. At twelve years, Irene’s days at Uncle Musa’s house began at five in the morning, preparing her cousins for school, and ended past eleven at night, after the last dish was washed and the house gone quiet. In the hour she stole for herself before sleep, she read her cousin Pamela’s schoolbooks by whatever light she could find, unwilling to fall further behind a classroom she was no longer allowed to enter. School, even imagined, was the one place she still felt like herself.

A year passed this way before she found the courage to ask. “Dear uncle, thank you for everything. When will you take me back to school? It has been a year since you brought me from the village.”

The answer came as a slap after supper. “You should be grateful you have something to eat and a mattress to sleep on. Have you never heard of children who sleep on the street?”

She understood, in that moment, exactly where she stood.

The letter was the beginning of the end of her welcome. Weeks later, on an ordinary Saturday spent doing the family’s laundry, Irene was called into the sitting room and accused of theft. Uncle Musa stood over her with a whip in hand. “Where is my money, you thief?” There was no evidence, only suspicion and a household that had already decided it no longer wanted her in it. The beating was long. The verdict came faster than any trial: a girl accused, unwanted, and unclaimed does not get the benefit of doubt. She was placed in a police pickup and driven to Naguru Remand Home.

Somewhere between the whip and the gate, the girl who once made herself a nurse’s cap out of chapati wrapping disappeared into a system built to hold juvenile offenders.

How do you sew back together the brokenness of 278 children like Irene — children failed long before they ever broke any law?

At Naguru, the road forward has traditionally narrowed to two outcomes: release, or continued incarceration. The Rotary Club of Upper Kololo has spent years arguing, quietly and persistently, for a third.



"For a young person at Naguru Remand Home, the path forward usually narrows to two outcomes: release or continued incarceration," says Stacey Nandudu, RC Upper Kololo's Service Projects Co-Director.

“We believe there should be a third — and for years, that belief has translated into action through Give Hope to the Youth, our ongoing project at the home. Most of the youth here are not inherently criminals. They were never guided at all, left to navigate poverty and a fraying social fabric alone.”

Through the project, residents train in a skill of their choosing — tailoring, poultry farming, hairdressing, horticulture, or aquaponics — inside walls that were never meant to hold much hope. The clearest measure of what the program does isn't found in a report. It's found in the young people who return years later, not as inmates, but as volunteers, choosing to come back and help the next child through the same gate they once walked through in fear.

Irene is, today, the most promising student in the tailoring class.

The way she once gathered scraps of newspaper into a nurse's cap, she now gathers offcuts of coloured cloth; a strip of yellow, a square of blue, a sliver or red and stitches them, piece by piece, into an apron of many colours. **Each patch, she says, holds something of the life she had before: her father's Saturday chapati, her grandmother's cough-worn voice reciting musawo, the version of herself that still believed the world owed her a classroom.**

The apron is not finished. But she already knows what she'll feel the day she puts it on. "Kijja kugwa," she says quietly — this too will pass. She is hoping the wheels of justice turn quickly enough that she can wear it out through the gate, not just around it.

"Jajja wanted me to be a musawo," Irene says. "I can still be someone useful as a tailor. I will help other girls."

It's the same promise she made to herself as a child, in a room lit only by certainty. Now it holds a needle instead of a stethoscope and she's closer to keeping it than ever before.

"My biggest challenge is parenting," says Mary Kyomugisha, caretaker at Naguru Remand Home. **"We have many absentee parents and teenage mothers. We have children who have grown up surviving on their own. Some girls come to Kampala to work as house maids, and while on duty, they commit a crime - or are falsely accused of one."**

The numbers tell their own version of Irene's story. Naguru was built to hold 120 children. It currently holds 278, six of them delivered during the very week Rotary's District 9213 Governor toured the Give Hope to the Youth project. The conveyor belt Ms. Kyomugisha describes does not pause for a visit.

She prays that the child court already gazetted at Naguru can be fully operationalized soon, with a magistrate dedicated to hearing juvenile cases so that children like Irene are not left waiting on a system that moves slower than their childhoods do.

District Governor Obai, addressing the project during his tour, commended Rotary Club of Upper Kololo for a program he called well thought out, and called on other clubs to join. "The job at hand is too big for one club to handle alone." He committed to sending District 9213's grants officer to assess how the work might be expanded.

"Thank you for allowing yourselves to learn while you are here," he told the young people gathered around him. **"Commit to improving yourselves, so that when you are released, you can use your acquired knowledge to help other young people. Rotary cares for you, and is committed to providing for your needs."**

Irene does not know yet when she'll walk out of Naguru's gate. But she knows what she'll be carrying when she does; an apron stitched from the pieces of everything that tried to break her, and a promise for a better future, that is unbreakable.

Kijja kugwa. This too will pass.



**CANCER
RUN 2026**

Rotary
Clubs of Uganda



GGWANGA MUJJE

LET'S RUN TO RESTORE HOPE



SUN 30TH AUG 2026



6:00AM



**KOLOLO INDEPENDENCE GROUNDS AND
MAJOR TOWNS ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

All proceeds go towards the completion of
the Cancer Centre at **Nsambya Hospital**



MANY CANCERS. ONE RACE.
STARTING POINT

Registration Fees

UGX 30,000

Comes with a vest



**PARLIAMENT
OF UGANDA**



**Centenary
Bank**



KRYSTAL
Natural Mineral WATER



nbs



Sumz
Quite The Difference



Afrimobile

MAVD McCANN



N

Gcare



**St. Francis Hospital
Nsambya**



vents
EVENTS