

# THE COMPASS

Navigating Regions, Celebrating Impact

Volume 1 | Issue 1



# THE IMPACT HAS BEEN FELT

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# Editor's Note

**Rtn. Julie Kamuzze-Musoke**  
District Regional Magazine Coordinator



Welcome to the maiden edition of The Compass, the official District 9213 regional newsletter celebrating the vibrant first quarter of the Rotary Year 2026–2027!

In East Africa, “upcountry” is a term that carries deep meaning. It describes the spirited, resilient rural areas and towns bustling far beyond the capital city. This quarterly publication was born out of a desire to bring that unique upcountry impact directly into the spotlight. Our mission is simple yet profound: to celebrate the tireless dedication of our upcountry clubs, share their vivid visual stories, and inspire deeper collaboration across our entire sisterhood of clubs. To everyone who submitted their stories and photographs for this edition, you have our heartfelt gratitude.

The birth of any new venture is always thrilling, and launching this inaugural regional newsletter is

no exception. Excitement is buzzing across the Northern, Eastern, and Central Western regions as we congratulate the dedicated individuals who have stepped up to support our District Governor. We extend our sincere thanks to District Governor Gerald Obai for entrusting us with this vital publication. We are fully committed to living up to his high standards and bold vision.

In this issue, we proudly introduce the new leadership teams guiding our three regions. We encourage all Rotarians in these areas to leverage this regional support and treat The Compass as your personal canvas—a place to showcase the creative, grassroots solutions you are applying to local challenges. As you dive into these pages, you will quickly notice that District Governor Gerald has a deep passion for what he calls “crazy ideas”—those bold, unconventional innovations that spark real change.

Our cover serves as a powerful reminder that this newsletter is dedicated entirely to our clubs in the North, East, and Central West. Inside, you will find special highlights from the energy of the Rotary Cancer Run, the camaraderie of the Rotary 5-A-Side activities, and the meaningful connections made during the Road safety campaigns.

Please keep in touch, share your feedback, and most importantly, enjoy this inaugural issue! Let this edition remind us that distance is never a barrier to making a difference. Our footprint in the community remains loud, clear, and permanent.

**Cheers to the journey ahead,  
The Editorial Team  
The Compass Magazine**



# Thank You Note!

On behalf of the editorial team, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Rotarians listed below who contributed to the publication of our very first quarterly district regional newsletter. Your inspiring stories, insightful project updates, and captivating photographs beautifully captured the vibrant spirit of service and fellowship across the Eastern, Northern, and Central-Western regions of District 9213.

Launching an inaugural edition is no small feat. It would not have been possible without your time, dedication, and willingness to share the incredible impact your clubs are making in our communities. Thank you for bringing this magazine to life and for helping us celebrate our shared achievements.

We look forward to your continued support and brilliant contributions in the upcoming quarters as we keep sharing our stories of impact.

## EASTERN REGION

- Rtn. Felix Ndimwiho – RC Source of the Nile
- Rtn. Rose Akullo – RC Elgon Maisha
- Rtn. Clare Nattabi – RC Mbale
- Rtn. Alex Wandera – RC Bugiri
- Rtn. Juliet Namansa – RC Jinja City

- Rtn. Jonathan Ongodia – RC Serere
- Rtn. Francis Owundo – RC Busia Lumino
- Rtn. Florence Tushabe – RC Soroti Central

## NORTHERN REGION

- Rtn. Florence Lora Atim – RC Gulu City
- Rtn. Stella Amandru – RC Koboko
- Rtn. Jessica Onduru – RC Arua
- Rtn. Keronga Odongo – RC Greater Nebbi
- Rtn. Gilbert Karokwera – RC Arua Eco City

## CENTRAL WESTERN REGION

- Rtn. Timothy Kayondo – RC Kyengegwa
- Rtn. James Ssematimba – RC Mubende

## DISTRICT OFFICIALS

- Maureen Birungi – RC Kasangati
- Maureen Kawombe – RC Kampala Naalya Estates

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL NEWS

# SHAPING THE FUTURE OF ROTARY IN AFRICA: THE 7TH ALL AFRICA ZONE INSTITUTE 2026

**AFRICA RISING**  
Grow to serve

**Rotary**  
Zone 22

**7th ALL AFRICA ZONE INSTITUTE**  
UGANDA 2026

**VENUE:**  
SPEKE RESORT  
Munyonyo Kampala

**26th - 28th**  
November 2026

**GRAB THIS  
INCREDIBLE  
EARLY BIRD RATE**

**Rotarians - US\$500**  
**Rotaractors - US\$250**

**LAST DATE**  
**31st**  
October 2026

**Secure your seat NOW!**  
Register On: [africazoneinstitute.org](http://africazoneinstitute.org)

Follow Us

The 7th All Africa Zone Institute 2026 is officially coming to Kampala, Uganda. From November 24–28, 2026, the prestigious Speke Resort Munyonyo will serve as the epicenter for Rotarians across the continent to connect, learn, and amplify their impact. Here is everything you need to know about this landmark event and why your presence is vital.

### What is the Zone Institute?

To understand the Zone Institute, it helps to look at the structure of our global network. When Rotary clubs combine, they form a District; when Districts combine, they form a Zone; and when Zones combine, they form Rotary International. Out of the 34 global Zones, Africa comprises Zone 22.

Just as clubs hold Club Assemblies and Districts host District Conferences, a Zone hosts a Zone Institute to evaluate its trajectory. It is a critical forum designed to discuss core values, foster fellowship, expand our reach, and increase our collective impact—ultimately transforming how the world perceives Rotary.

### Who Attends?

Historically, Zone Institutes served exclusively as training grounds for District Governors-Elect (DGEs), District Governors-Nominee (DGNs), Past District Governors (PDGs), and past Rotary International Officers.

Times have changed. Today, the Zone Institute has officially opened its doors to all Rotarians. Whether you are a club president, a new member, or a seasoned leader, this event is designed for you.

### Compelling Reasons to Attend

- **A Historic Presidency:** The event will be presided over by Rotary International President Olayinka (Yinka) Ha-keem Babalola—marking a historic moment as the continent welcomes an RI President from Africa for the first time in over two decades.
- **Visionary Leadership:** Meet the event Convener, Rotary International Director Emmanuel Katongole, who championed African representation on the Rotary International re-zoning committee.
- **Distinguished Guests:** Two esteemed African Trustees—Trustee Pearl Ijeoma and Trustee Francis Tsubira (Tusu)—have officially confirmed their attendance.
- **Elite Networking:** Connect face-to-face with past and present world leaders of Rotary International, building relationships that span the globe.
- **Capacity Building:** Gain intensive, hands-on training. The tools and insights offered will empower you to build stronger, more vibrant clubs back home.
- **Unbeatable Value:** Hosting the Institute within the region dramatically reduces travel and accommodation complexities, making it a highly cost-effective opportunity for regional members.
- **Celebrate Impact:** Join your peers in celebrating major milestones and achievements in Foundation Giving.

### Event Schedule at a Glance

| Date                 | Event Details                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| November 23, 2026    | Arrival Day: Welcome and registration for delegates arriving from across the Zone and beyond.                                                                                                                                          |
| November 24–25, 2026 | Leadership Training (Invitation Only): Intensive sessions dedicated exclusively to DGEs, DGNs, and their spouses or partners.                                                                                                          |
| November 26, 2026    | General Session (Open to All Rotarians): Focused training tracks covering The Rotary Foundation, Membership, Polio, International Service, Council on Legislation, and Rotaract. Fellowship activities will continue into the evening. |
| November 27, 2026    | Official Opening: The formal opening of the Institute, followed by the Africa Peace Concert later in the evening.                                                                                                                      |
| November 28, 2026    | Closing and Fellowship: Business Breakfast Meeting, culminating in the grand finale Gala Dinner in the evening.                                                                                                                        |

### Secure Your Spot Today

Don't miss this opportunity to help write the next chapter of Rotary's legacy in Africa. Delegates are strongly encouraged to pre-register and submit payments on: [www.africazoneinstitute.org](http://www.africazoneinstitute.org)

### Yours in Rotary Service



RID Emmanuel  
Katongole  
Convener



PDG Geeta Manek  
Co-Convener



PDG Mike Sebalu  
Co-Chair



PDG Peace Tarembwa  
Co-Chair

Coming together is a beginning.  
Keeping together is progress.  
Working together is success.

— Henry Ford



## DISTRICT 9213 NEWS

# DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

**Rtn Gerald Obai**  
District Governor, District 9213

**I**t is a profound honor to address you in this inaugural edition of our magazine, dedicated to the vibrant and committed clubs of our Eastern, Northern, and Central Western regions.

As we look back on the first quarter of this Rotary year, we reflect on a period defined by purposeful action, massive regional mobilization, and deep community impact. Together, we are writing a magnificent final chapter for Rotary District 9213, ensuring that every project, every hand extended, and every new member leaves an indelible mark on the lives we serve.

Strong clubs do not grow by accident—they flourish because they deliberately engage every individual. During our August focus, we shifted our growth paradigm to ensure our expansion is both sustainable and deeply meaningful. I challenge every club across our region to focus less on simply growing “bigger” and more on magnifying our community impact. Growth is meaningful only when it enhances our capacity to serve.



True Rotary expansion requires foresight. Therefore, I call upon our established clubs to intentionally sponsor new clubs in areas where Rotary's presence is critically needed, bringing hope and vital resources to unreached communities.

September marked Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, a period demanding our collective focus on unlocking human potential through learning. Because literacy is the foundation of self-reliance and community transformation, I have issued a directive to all clubs: every single club in our district is requested to undertake at least one high-impact literacy project this Rotary year.

Let us turn this directive into reality. I urge clubs to actively equip school libraries, conduct career guidance and mentorship sessions, donate essential reading materials to rural schools, and support local teacher training initiatives.

Our first quarter witnessed historic milestones that required extensive regional club mobilization. We have shown what is possible when we unite for a common cause:

- **Maternal Health Support:** We successfully flagged off UGX 2.1 billion in critical maternal and newborn equipment at the Ministry of Health, a milestone that will save countless lives across our nations.
- **Cancer Awareness:** Through your incredible mobilization, the 2026 Rotary Cancer Run was executed with immense success.

I urge all clubs to ride the momentum of these grand achievements to continuously drive community significance at the grassroots level.

Rotary is built on fellowship, but it is cemented by solidarity during times of grief. Our quarterly jour-

ney has also called for deep reflection and shared empathy as we navigate regional hardships together.

On behalf of District 9213, I extend our official and heartfelt condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Tooro following the tragic passing of His Majesty Omukama Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV. We stand in absolute solidarity with the region during this period of national mourning.

As we close this remarkable first quarter, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the clubs in the Eastern, Northern, and Central Western regions. Thank you for keeping your momentum alive, for stepping up when your communities called, and for leading this final chapter of District 9213 with maximum intention, compassion, and care.

Let us carry this fiery energy into the next quarter, creating hope and lasting change in the world.



# DISTRICT ROTARACT REPRESENTATIVE MESSAGE

**Rtr. Alex Muwanguzi**  
District Rotaract Representative  
District 9213

## Unifying Our Strengths: A Vision for Growth and Impact

### NORTHERN REGION

The Northern Nexus holds a unique place in the story of Rotaract District 9213. I am deeply encouraged by the commitment, collaboration, and service I continue to see from our Rotaractors across the region. I particularly commend the Northern Region for the outstanding collaboration demonstrated over the years during the investiture ceremonies. The decision this year to look beyond the celebration and incorporate community service—specifically through the support extended to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Arua Regional Referral Hospital—was a meaningful demonstration of what our leadership can inspire. An investiture becomes truly significant when it

leaves a lasting impact beyond the ceremony itself.

As we move forward, I challenge the region to take this spirit of collaboration even further. Let us not limit our partnerships to installations. Instead, let us see the various Rotaract clubs working hand-in-hand on professional and leadership development, community projects, membership growth, mentorship, and other initiatives that create enduring value.

Membership must remain a top priority. With eight Rotaract clubs, the Northern Region has immense room for expansion. I encourage every club to focus not only on attracting new members but also on creating an engaging experience that inspires them to

stay, contribute, and grow. At the same time, let us explore opportunities to establish new Rotaract clubs across the region and extend the reach of our service.

The hosting of DISCON 102 in Gulu presents an extraordinary opportunity to accelerate this growth. I urge you to look beyond simply hosting a successful conference. Use this milestone to introduce more people to Rotaract, strengthen existing clubs, build strategic partnerships, and leave the region with a stronger, more vibrant Rotaract presence.

As we document the six-year story of D9213, I want to see the Northern Region tell its own story. Our impact should never remain unseen. Let us intentionally document our projects, celebrate



our members, and consistently showcase the difference we are making through all available digital platforms. The work we do today forms the legacy we leave behind.

Furthermore, let us invest heavily in leadership development. We must identify, mentor, and prepare more members to serve at the club, regional, and district levels. The strength of our region tomorrow depends on the leaders we intentionally nurture today.

Finally, let us deepen our relationship with our sponsor Rotary clubs. There is so much we can achieve when Rotary and Rotaract transition from working alongside each other to working intentionally together. This year, let us grow our numbers, strengthen our clubs, deepen our collaborations, develop our leaders, and make our impact visible. Let us not simply participate in the story of District 9213, let us make the Northern Region's chapter one worth remembering.

## EASTERN REGION

The Eastern Link continues to be an integral part of the Rotaract District 9213 story, and I commend the region for the steady growth recorded over the years. With more than 20 Rotaract clubs, the Eastern Region has demonstrated immense potential for membership, service, and leadership.

I particularly appreciate the region's role in developing leaders for both Rotary and Rotaract. The number of district leaders emerging from the Eastern Region reflects the deep leadership potential within your clubs and the

willingness of members to step forward and serve. I also commend the various clubs for their impactful community projects. These initiatives prove that our clubs are not just spaces for fellowship, but powerful platforms for meaningful community transformation.

As we advance, I invite the Eastern Region to strategically leverage its numbers to drive both impact and purpose in membership. Having more than 20 clubs means our opportunity is not just to grow in quantity, but to ensure those numbers translate into stronger club dynamics, enriching member experiences, and greater community impact.

I challenge the region to embrace collaboration beyond traditional frameworks. Imagine the impact we could create if at least five clubs united to identify a need and implement a project together. Such synergy would scale our reach while allowing clubs to learn from one another, share resources, and build stronger inter-club relationships.

Mentorship must also become a deliberate priority. I encourage our clubs to take mentorship seriously, focusing on both prospective members and the numerous new members joining our ranks. Bringing someone into Rotaract is only the beginning; we must intentionally help them understand the organization, discover their purpose, develop their skills, and find meaningful avenues to contribute.

To the clubs currently facing operational difficulties, I encourage you not to struggle in isolation. Embrace collaboration, seek

mentorship, learn from thriving clubs, and allow yourselves to be supported as you rebuild. As a district, we should never be comfortable with struggling clubs when there are abundant opportunities to uplift one another.

Eastern Region Rotaractors, you possess the numbers, the leadership talent, and the experience to achieve even more. This year, I challenge you to turn numbers into impact, membership into purpose, and collaboration into lasting change. Let us grow together, serve together, and ensure that every club in the Eastern Region thrives.

## CENTRAL WESTERN REGION

The Central Western Region continues to demonstrate the profound strength that flows from unity, collaboration, and a deep-rooted sense of community. Effectively guided by the Regional Committee, the region's signature hospitality remains a defining trait. Central to this success is the Western Retreat—a vital platform that brings Rotaractors together for mentorship, collaboration, and genuine personal connections. Moving forward, the region must continue to cultivate these spaces where members can actively learn and grow together.

Growth in the Central Western Region is highly commendable, particularly through the chartering of new Interact, institution-based, and Rotaract clubs. This expansion is further reinforced by robust relationships with sponsor Rotary clubs, creating a powerful synergy for service and leadership. To unlock the next phase of expansion, the Western Region is encouraged to

pioneer the establishment of Rotaract E-Clubs. By breaking down geographical limitations, E-Clubs offer flexible pathways for young professionals who cannot attend traditional club structures, extending the reach of Rotaract further than ever before.

As the region advances, the strategic focus must shift toward uniform growth to ensure clubs thrive equally across all areas, rather than just in select pockets. Furthermore, clubs must intentionally support members transitioning into Rotary, transforming their Rotaract journey into a lifelong foundation for leadership. By elevating public visibility, sharing impactful stories of transformation, and embracing corporate engagement, the Central Western Region can leverage its proven unity into stronger partnerships and a wider footprint of service. The Central Western Region stands as a vibrant hub of growth within Rotaract District 9213,

excelling remarkably in new club development. By expanding the footprint of Rotaract, the region has opened doors for more individuals to experience the power of Service Above Self. Several clubs have made deliberate, admirable investments in strengthening their internal systems and structures. This focus on solid foundations has allowed them to mature into some of the largest and most resilient clubs in the district, a practice all clubs across the region should emulate.

However, sustainable success requires balancing raw growth with deep community substance. While many clubs execute impactful projects outside Kampala, there is a critical need to deepen connections with the immediate communities where these clubs are physically based. Service must go beyond executing short-term projects; it must build lasting, trusted relationships.

Similarly, while digital visibility and online storytelling have improved significantly, this digital strength must be mirrored on the ground. Clubs must prioritize the physical membership experience and club administration to ensure their online presence accurately matches their internal operational reality.

With a high density of clubs, the Central Western Region holds an unprecedented opportunity for intra-district collaboration. Clubs are urged to look beyond individual initiatives and intentionally pool their resources and networks. When large numbers unite with a shared purpose, the scale of impact multiplies. For the Central Western Region, the ultimate goal is clear: turn raw growth into operational strength, digital visibility into community substance, and individual numbers into collective, lasting change.



# THE EASTERN LINK

## *District Stars: Eastern Region*



**Rtn. Peter  
Dhamuzungu**

District Governor  
Nominee D9213  
Vice-Lieutenant  
Governor  
Rotary Club of  
Bugiri



**Rctr. Alex  
Muwanguzi**

District Rotaract  
Representative  
D9213  
Rotaract Club of  
Njeru



**Rctr. Vincent  
Onyango**

District Treasurer  
Rotaract Club of  
Jinja



**Rtn. Michael  
Bazira**

Pime Chair  
Rotary Club of  
Iganga



**Rtn. Oscar  
Rwigyema**

Regional Learning  
Coordinator  
Rotary Club of  
Mbale

## Leadership in Action: Introducing Peter Dhamuzungu as District Governor Nominee

**Rtn. Peter Dhamuzungu**  
District Governor Nominee  
District 9217



Rotary District 9217 proudly announces Peter Dhamuzungu as the official District Governor Nominee for the 2028–2029 Rotary year. Hailing from the upcountry network, Peter represents a monumental milestone for the Rotary Club of Bugiri, where he has been a dedicated and deeply involved member since 2015.

Over the last decade, he has consistently inspired the district with his clear vision, tireless leadership, and passionate humanitarian service. Peter's exemplary journey through Rotary is marked by active participation at every level of the organization. He has held numerous leadership roles within his club and across the district, ensuring that projects translate into sustainable local change.

His deep commitment to the global Rotary community is demonstrated by his extensive track record:

- **International Presence:** Attended four Rotary Interna-

tional Conventions.

- **District Alignment:** Participated in eight District Conferences.
- **Financial Stewardship:** A proud member of the Paul Harris Society and a Major Donor (Level 2) to The Rotary Foundation, actively investing in global peace, health, and development.

Beyond his dedicated Rotary service, Peter serves his nation as an Assistant Commissioner at the Ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries. His day-to-day professional life demands a high level of strategic precision, turning large-scale agricultural goals into nationwide realities. Peter brings a robust toolkit of professional expertise directly to his upcoming governance role:

- **Strategic Planning:** Crafting long-term visions that scale effectively.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Building

bridges between diverse public and private groups.

- **Public Advocacy:** Championing community needs and driving sustainable resources.
- **Large-Scale Team Management:** Guiding complex networks of personnel toward a unified mission.

District 9217 anticipates a vibrant future built on the strength, professionalism, and inspiration that Peter brings to the organization. His nomination marks a proud moment not just for him, but for the entire upcountry community.

Warm congratulations to the Rotary Club of Bugiri for producing an exceptional future leader!



# Grand Homecoming: District Governor- Nominee Welcomed in Style at the Crane Hotel

By Correspondent

The atmosphere at the Crane Hotel in Jinja was vibrant on August 15, 2026, as Rotarians gathered for the homecoming of District Governor-Nominee (DGN) Peter Dhamuzungu. Laughter, clinking glasses, and a shared sense of purpose filled the room as the Rotary family came together to celebrate a major milestone in leadership.

Yet, amidst the celebration, the evening's most resonant moment came when Trustee Tusu and PDG Stephen took the podium, shifting the room's energy from festive to deeply reflective. With the poise of seasoned leaders, Trustee Tusu and PDG Stephen delivered powerful addresses that served as both a compass and a catalyst for the journey ahead. They challenged the audience to rethink the essence of service, urging them to look beyond titles and focus entirely on the human impact of their work. Their words weren't just a congratulatory speech; they were a masterclass in modern leadership that left an indelible mark on everyone present.



**PDG Francis Tusubira (Tusu)**  
Rotary Club of Kampala North

## Connect and Inspire

Opening his address with a traditional Lusoga greeting and song, Tusu set a warm, communal tone. He smiled as he explained the cultural origin of the name “Dhamuzungu” in the Lusoga dialect, jokingly noting that the district has a very “rich” Governor in the office.

While previous speakers, including PDG Stephen, outlined what Rotary must accomplish in the coming years, Trustee Tusu shifted the spotlight to how leadership must be executed. According to Tusu, impactful leadership boils down to two profound words: *Connect and Inspire*.

For Tusu, connection is not a logistical milestone; it is a mindset rooted in radical humility. “I might be a Trustee,” he shared honestly, “but I am no different

from any of you.” Throughout his decades-long journey, Tusu acknowledged experiencing the good, the bad, and the ugly of leadership. He challenged the audience to look inward rather than criticizing external flaws, reminding everyone that a title like “Governor” does not grant perfection. Rotarians, regardless of rank, face the same daily pitfalls and challenges.

The secret to true connection, Tusu argued, is empathy. This means accepting people exactly as they are and prioritizing individual club members over rigid club tasks. He urged leaders to embrace the true definition of “love” within service—simply caring about the well-being of another person. When leaders focus on character and well-being over performance metrics, trust is established, and the actual work naturally follows. Connection shifts our focus out-

ward, which Tusu defines as the pure essence of *Service Above Self*.

Turning to the official vision of Rotary—uniting to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves—Tusu emphasized that the most inspiring story a Rotarian can ever tell is their own transformation. He shared his own candid origin story: when he joined Rotary years ago, he knew absolutely nothing about the organization. He initially joined the Kampala North club purely to hang out with friends, driven by personal

benefit rather than a passion for community service.

His trajectory changed because his club trusted him. Appointed as District Treasurer, he was given the space to learn, grow, and take ownership. This personal evolution highlights the power of institutions like the Rotary Leadership Institute, where continuous learning shapes who we are so that we can pass that knowledge down to others.

Tusu closed his remarks with a call to discard the shield of titles.

“What do they add to who I am?” he asked, urging leaders to connect through simple humility. By remaining open to learning from every single Rotarian met along the way, leaders can naturally elevate those around them.

In a world focused on targets and metrics, Trustee Tusu’s message was a timely reminder of Rotary’s true engine: connect deeply, inspire authentically, and let human relationships drive the change.



**PDG Stephen Mwanje**  
Rotary Club of Mukono

## The Seed We Sow

Over the last 20 years, the world’s population has grown by 12 percent. In contrast, Rotary’s overall membership has declined over the last five years. In Africa, however, we have grown, courtesy of strong numbers in Uganda and Nigeria. Because of this growth, Africa has now transitioned into having two distinct zones. We will undergo redistricting starting next year. District 9217 is being viewed—rightly or wrongly—as the weaker district. However, it is simply a matter of looking at a glass as half empty or half full. This redistricting can be viewed as a tremendous opportunity to grow Rotary in our country. To illustrate this, consider the story of two shoe salesmen sent to a new region:

- **The first salesman said:** “In Africa, they don’t wear shoes, so there is no one to sell shoes to.”
- **The second salesman said:** “There are no shoes in Africa, so we have a massive market for shoes!”

Therefore, how do you choose to view District 9217? Eighty percent of our region currently has no Rotary Club, no Rotaract Club, and no Rotary Community Corps (RCC). How do we support our leader, DGN Peter Dhamuzungu, to champion our district? The “Gang of Four” did it in the past; we can do it now.

We must begin by increasing our numbers. All of us are here voluntarily, and we can never truly maximize our fun unless that fun is shared. Let’s grow our membership through both retail and wholesale strategies:

- **Retail:** Each one of us can commit to personally inviting two new people.
- **Wholesale:** Each established club can sponsor and start a new Rotary Club, Rotaract Club, or Interact Club.

Let’s be intentional. We need to engage young people because there is no true success without succession. Therefore, we must focus heavily on starting Rotaract Clubs. Recall a training session

for Governors-Elect where they were asked if they would attend the upcoming RI Convention; every single person said yes. When asked how many would still attend in 15 years, only about 30 percent raised their hands. When asked who would attend in 50 years, not a single hand went up. If you love Rotary so much, what are you doing about its future right now? If we do not bring young people into Rotary, the organization will not survive. Let's proactively establish Rotaract clubs, Interact clubs, and RCCs.

However, simply increasing our numbers will not automatically expand our impact. A club of 80 members can easily have less impact than a club of 20 members. The deciding factor is leadership. How do we maximize our assets to deliver better results and greater impact in our communities? Since we are all leaders, we must remember that leadership is never about a position or a title; it is entirely about action, impact, and influence. Yet, many leaders still

fight for titles and positions. A positional mindset creates a toxic sense of entitlement. Some presidents constantly remind us, "I am the President." So what?

### What Do We Do as Leaders?

- **Create a welcoming environment:** Ensure your club offers members excellent experience. You cannot attract new members if there is no peace in the club, and you cannot grow without genuine fellowship. People must be happy.
- **Accept imperfection:** Nobody is perfect, so expecting perfection from your members is unrealistic. As leaders, focus on bringing out the best in people rather than searching for their mistakes.
- **Offer opportunities:** Give members a positive experience so they want to attend, and above all, give them meaningful opportunities to serve. Even when well-led,

too many of us tend to step back and remain passive. We must all accept the need to change our habits. Right now, our membership includes various classifications like "RINOs" (Rotarians In Name Only), "submarines" (who stay hidden underwater), and "kites" (who only show up when the wind blows right), alongside those who are always active.

### Reflections

- What type of Rotarian are you?
- Why are you truly in Rotary?

### Public Image: Our Collective Responsibility

What is Rotary? We are Rotary. How we behave and how we speak represents the entire organization. Airing internal disputes and wrangles in newspapers and public forums deeply damages how Rotary is perceived. What we do and how we conduct ourselves is the public image of Rotary.



# The Story We Wrote Together

## Rotary Club of Bugiri

By Rtn. Kapaska Eusther  
Club Trainer  
Rotary club of Bugiri



Every community has a story. Ours is a narrative of hands that serve without asking why, hearts that answer distant cries, and ordinary people choosing every day to create extraordinary change. It is a journey where hope is not merely spoken about but actively lived.

The Rotary Club of Bugiri, chartered on June 15, 2015, and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Jinja, is located in eastern Uganda. The club brings together members, partners, and communities united by a shared purpose: creating a lasting impact.



*Commissioning WASH Global grant project in Buwunga sub-county. Buwunga primary school and Health centre acquired pit latrines and underground solar pumped water.*

## Our Impact in the Community

Guided by this spirit, our club has transformed lives by addressing critical local needs:

- **Clean Water:** Extending access to clean and safe water.
- **Girl Empowerment:** Equipping vulnerable girls with practical, sustainable livelihood skills.
- **Healthcare Support:** Strengthening maternal and child health services.
- **Disease Prevention:** Treating and preventing widespread illnesses like malaria and jiggers.
- **Medical Equipment:** Supplying local health facilities to better serve those in need.

Each of these initiatives serves as a powerful reminder that lasting change is possible when people unite around a common purpose.

## Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders: The Youth Alive Project

One of the most transformative milestones for the Rotary Club of Bugiri has been the realization of a bold dream: the Youth Alive Project. Driven by the belief that every young person deserves an opportunity to thrive, this initiative empowers underprivileged youth, young mothers, and people with disabilities. Through vocational training, soft skills development, and mindset transformation, we prepare participants to become productive, self-reliant contributors to their communities. The early success of these activities laid the foundation for the Youth Alive Skilling Center, a dedicated hub where individuals acquire practical skills, embrace entrepreneurship, and build sustainable livelihoods with dignity.



*1st Edition of the Youth Alive Run. The main goal is to construct a Youth Alive Hub for vulnerable youths in Busoga to equip them with mindset change trainings, acquire hands on skills for self-reliance and productivity thus reducing high levels of crime rate in the area.*

### A Historic Milestone

Another defining chapter in our history is celebrating our first District Governor. The election of Rtn. Peter Dhamuzungu as District Governor of Rotary District 9217 for the 2028–2029 Rotary Year stands as a testament to the unity, consistency, and servant leadership that define our club. It is a proud reminder that when a club remains committed to its values and invests in its people, it produces leaders who inspire far beyond their own borders.

### Building Legacies Together

Looking back on this remarkable journey, we celebrate more than just completed projects; we celebrate the friendships strengthened, partnerships built, and lives deeply touched. Every milestone tells the story of a club that chose action over comfort, hope over despair, and unity over division.

This is the story we wrote together—a legacy of compassion, resilience, and purpose. It reminds us that when we choose to create lasting change, ordinary acts become extraordinary legacies.

## Eastern Region Clubs Directory & Meeting Schedules

| Day              | Club                | President        | Contact    | Venue                       | Time           |
|------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Monday</b>    | Njeru               | Fredrick Kirabo  | 0774836534 | Nile Hotel                  | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Iganga              | Kassim Ssimbwa   | 0776360155 | Ntinda Valley Resort Hotel  | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Jinja City          | Fazira Kawuma    | 0782242352 | Speke Courts                | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Mbale               | Clare Nattabi    | 0700709177 | Mt. Elgon Hotel and Spa     | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Soroti Central      | Joseph Opul      | 0752999346 | Country Inn Hotel, Soroti   | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Jinja               | Drake Magara     | 0776557874 | Crested Crane Hotel         | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Mbale City          | Geoffrey Kakuuma | 0773711677 | Mbale Courts View Hotel     | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Tororo              | Francis Emokol   | 0701155234 | Piedmont                    | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Bugiri              | Juliet Amaculang | 0782187138 | Gilgal Guest House          | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Busia               | Robert Nalwenge  | 0786759132 | Busia Goldstar Resort Hotel | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Mbale Metro-politan | Agnes Nabirye    | 0772608567 | Courts View Hotel, Mbale    | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Serere              | Jonathan Ongodia | 0772439044 | Serere Country Resort       | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Source of the Nile  | James Taliwaku   | 0772682317 | Ci Sands Hotel Jinja        | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Bukedea             | Joseph Omutoj    | 0704018570 | Pride Motel                 | 5:00–6:00 p.m. |
|                  | Busia Border-line   | Edrine Mangeni   | 0779765851 | Busia Gold Star Hotel       | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Jinja Metro         | Aloysius Kawooya | 0704998582 | Ci sand Hotel Jinja         | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Tororo Sam Owori    | Joel Wabulo      | 0705713663 | Rock Classic Hotel-Tororo   | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |



*Rotaract and Rotary Club of Soroti Central*



*Rotaract and Rotary Club of Bugiri*



*Rotary Club of Source of the Nile*



*Rotary Club of Elgon Maisha*



*Rotary Club of Busia Lumino*



*Rotaract and Rotary Club of Mbale*



# CENTRAL WEST CONNECT

*District Stars: Central Western Region*



**Rtn. Milton Tusingwire**  
Vice-Pine Chair D9213  
Rotary Club of Kabarole



**Rtn. Esau Rogers  
Muhumuza**  
Pine Chair  
Rotary Club of Hoima  
Kitara



**Rtn. Dennis Mugarra**  
Regional Learning  
Coordinator  
Rotary Club of Kabarole



**Rtn. Jack Stanley  
Onvua**  
Regional Learning  
Coordinator  
Rotary Club of Masindi

# Are You Proud of Rotary?

By Correspondent

That seems like an easy enough question, and we can guess that for most people, it will be answered in the affirmative. However, the more poignant question to ask is: “Is Rotary proud of you?”

How do we live in a way that makes Rotary proud of us? The formula is based on the 5 Cs. You can remember them easily by assigning one to each finger.

**1. COHESION:** When you join as an individual, you join a family. You are no longer just an individual; you are a member of a large family that spreads across the globe. You all wear a lapel pin that unites you just like DNA unites blood relatives. But down in your own club, have you fitted in like a family member, or are you a recluse defying the sticky call of cohesion? Do you know your club members? Do you interact with them? Make it an intentional choice to sit next to someone different at every meeting. Give up that “puloti” you have assigned yourself—the same location everyone knows you will always sit in. Sit with someone outside your usual

buddy group and get to know all your fellow members.

**2. COMMITMENT:** Are you committed to Rotary and its ideals? Do you attend meetings and participate in club projects? Rotary is not just for a select few. Take every opportunity to participate in Rotary activities: service projects, Rotary programs, and home hospitalities. And when you attend, don’t go alone. Encourage a member of your buddy group or invite a friend.

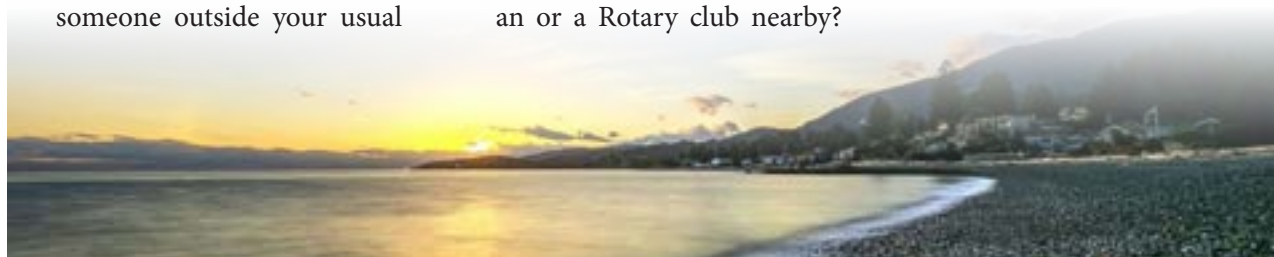
**3. CARE:** Many join and indeed benefit from “friendship and fellowship.” As a good Rotarian, go beyond simple friendship and actually CARE. Care about your club members; care about the people in your buddy group. Is one of your club members ill? Visit them either at home or in the hospital. Do you care enough to miss someone? Did you notice if someone was absent during the last fellowship? Do you care about those in the community who are less fortunate than others? Does your community feel the impact of having a Rotarian or a Rotary club nearby?

**4. CONTINUITY:** Rotary has outlived its founder, Paul Harris. It is our hope that Rotary will outlive you, too. Do you recruit new members? New members are the lifeblood of Rotary. As an outgoing official, are you available to help or guide the incoming team? As a member, do you support your club’s leadership?

**5. COOPERATION:** Rotary is all about team effort. Your contribution, however small, is vital to the success of the organization. Cooperate with club leadership to achieve your club’s objectives. It is only when you act as part of a team that you truly create a lasting impact.

Yes, you might be a part of Rotary, and you may wear the lapel pin with pride. But Rotary can only be proud of you to the extent that you exhibit its core ideals:

**Service Above Self, The Four-Way Test, and the Object of Rotary** in your daily life. It is time to finally look at these Rotary norms as more than just a few lines to recite. It is time to look at them as a LIFE CODE.



## Central Western Region Club Directory & Meeting Schedules

| Day              | Club               | President            | Contact    | Venue                        | Time           |
|------------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Kabu-lasoke-Gomba  | David Mwanje         | 0758472211 | Makanhill Hotel - Wabigalo   | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Kiboga             | Ambrose Agaba        | 0774205797 | Atikon Hotel                 | 7:00–8:00 p.m. |
|                  | Kyenjojo Metro     | Everest Niyonzima    | 0772970842 | Topical Gardens – Kyenjojo   | 5:30–6:30 p.m. |
|                  | Masindi            | Janet Katwesige      | 0704708430 | High Court View Hotel        | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Kabarole           | Doreen Kakyio        | 0773132468 | Toro Golf Course Club        | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Mubende            | Florence Nanyonjo    | 0781650014 | Nakayima Hotel               | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Mubende Metro      | Bruce Kanzira        | 0704684472 | Panaroma Suites              | 7:30–8:30 p.m. |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Fort Portal        | Judith Nyakaisiki    | 0778267604 | Night Rose Hotel Fort Portal | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Hoima Kitara       | Mark Kunihira        | 0779260925 | HB Hotel                     | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
|                  | Singo Mityana      | Joshua Ssali         | 0782416334 | Enro Hotel Mityana           | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Kyengegwa Pioneers | Lambert Kamangi      | 0774307373 | AMAC Suites – Kyengegwa      | 6:30–7:30 p.m. |
|                  | Mityana            | Viola Biryomu-maisho | 0773294880 | Enro Hotel Mityana           | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |



*Rotary Clubs of Mubende, Mubende Metro, Rotaract Clubs of Mubende Metro and Mubende*



*Rotary Club of Kyengengwa Pioneers*



*Rotary Club of Kyengengwa Pioneers*



*Rotary Club of Singo Mityana*

# NORTHERN NEXUS

## *District Stars: Northern Region*



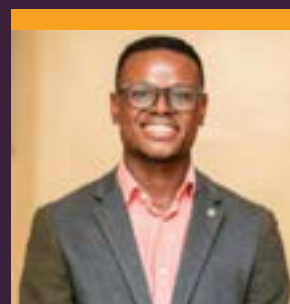
**Rtn. Gerald Obai**  
District Governor  
D9213  
Rotary Club of Gulu



**Rtn. Gladys Ayot Oyat**  
Vice-Pime Chair D9213  
Rotary Club of Kitgum



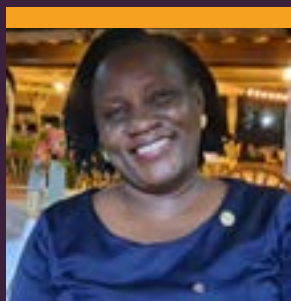
**Rtn. Lillian Ayikoru**  
Vice-Lieutenant  
Governor  
Rotary Club of Arua



**Rtn. Dennis Okwir**  
District Area of Focus  
Champion Disease  
Prevention & Treatment  
Rotary Club of Gulu



**Rctr. Alpha M. Anguzu**  
Pime Chair  
Rotaract Club of Arua



**Rtn. Harriet Laker**  
Regional Learning  
Coordinator  
Rotary Club of Gulu



**Rtn. Proscovia Arima**  
New Club Development  
Director  
Rotary Club of Arua



**Rtn. Safina Naggayi**  
District Programs  
Coordinator  
Rotary Club of Gulu

# The Rotary Club of Gulu: A Journey of Resilience, Service, and Leadership



By Rtn. Akademia  
Wandibba



Rtn. Harriet Laker

There are clubs whose histories are told through records, minutes, photographs, and lists of past presidents. Then there are clubs whose stories are carried out in the lives they have touched, the communities they have stood with, and the courage of members who continued to serve even when circumstances made service difficult.

The story of the Rotary Club of Gulu belongs to the latter. Chartered in 1985 as the first Rotary club in Northern Uganda, the Rotary Club of Gulu was founded by a group of professionals, business leaders, and community-minded citizens who believed that fellowship could be transformed into a force for positive change.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Jinja, the club brought together individuals committed to using their skills, influence, and resources for the benefit of their communities. Over the last 41 years, it has grown from a small,

pioneering club into one of the most respected Rotary institutions in Northern Uganda, leaving a lasting imprint on countless lives.

## Facing Adversity with Courage

The club's journey has unfolded alongside the history of Northern Uganda itself. During the years of conflict and insecurity that affected the region, communities were displaced, livelihoods disrupted, and essential services strained. Yet amid these challenges, the Rotary Club of Gulu endured. Membership dropped dramatically, at one point falling to only four active members. Club operations became difficult, and attending Rotary events often required extraordinary determination.

One story captures this resilience. In 1988, after attending the 63rd District Conference at the Nile Hotel in Kampala, charter mem-

ber and later Past President (PP) Charles Odora Oryem, together with fellow members, could not secure commercial transport back to Gulu because of insecurity along the route. Through the assistance of charter president Jude Tadeo Omal, then a senior Uganda Prisons official, they returned aboard a Uganda Prisons truck.

Looking back, PP Charles recalls a time when serving as a Rotarian demanded both intense commitment and courage. Yet even during those difficult years, members remained united by the belief that service mattered and that communities needed hope. Those years shaped the identity of the club. Rotary became more than a fellowship organization; it became a symbol of solidarity, resilience, and optimism. While the region struggled with uncertainty, Rotarians continued to seek opportunities to support communities and maintain the spirit of service. The club's survival through those challenging times remains one of its proudest achievements.

# Leadership and Community Transformation

Over the years, a succession of dedicated leaders guided the club through different phases of growth and transformation. From charter president Jude Tadeo Omal through generations of leaders—including Charles Odo-ra Oryem, Ida Aol Okot, Joyce Laker, Gerald Obai, Rose Atim, Harriet Laker, Jolly Grace And-ruvile, Harriet Okunia, and many others—each presidency contrib-

uted to strengthening the club’s foundation. Together, they built more than one club. They built an institution rooted in Rotary’s en-during principle of Service Above Self.

As peace gradually returned to Northern Uganda, the Rotary Club of Gulu expanded both its membership and its impact. The club became a leading force in ad-dressing community needs across diverse sectors, including health, water and sanitation, education, youth empowerment, environ-mental conservation, peacebuild-ing, and economic development.

Among its landmark achieve-ments was the implementation of a USD \$930,000 Water, San-itation, and Hygiene (WASH) Global Grant, secured through partnerships with World Vision and the Rotary Club of Edina in the United States. At a time when communities were emerging from years of displacement, the project contributed significantly to im-proving access to safe water and sanitation services, supporting the resettlement and recovery of vulnerable populations.

## Project Investment Snapshot

| Project Focus                                                                    | Investment (USD)   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>WASH Project</b><br><i>Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Support</i>             | \$930,000          |
| <b>Atiak Hospital Project</b><br><i>Health infrastructure and community care</i> | \$302,000          |
| <b>Borehole Project</b><br><i>Clean water access</i>                             | \$86,000           |
| <b>Solar Energy Cooking Project</b><br><i>Sustainable Household Energy</i>       | \$18,000           |
| <b>Total Project Investment</b><br><i>(Combined Community Impact)</i>            | <b>\$1,336,000</b> |

The impact of the Rotary Club of Gulu can be seen across Northern Uganda. Communities have benefited from clean water projects, health interventions, disease prevention campaigns, educational support, and liveli-hood initiatives.

More recently, the club has sup-ported medical outreach camps that provided free health services to hundreds of residents, includ-ing screening and treatment for HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, cer-vical cancer, breast cancer, and other conditions. Through malar-ia prevention initiatives in Atiak,

thousands of community mem-bers and schoolchildren have received mosquito nets, health education, testing, and treatment services.

## Innovation, Fellowship, and Youth Growth

The club has also distinguished itself through innovation and fellowship. Initiatives such as the Northern Uganda Mega Fellowship and the Corner Kamdini fellowship concept created platforms for Rotary and Rotaract clubs

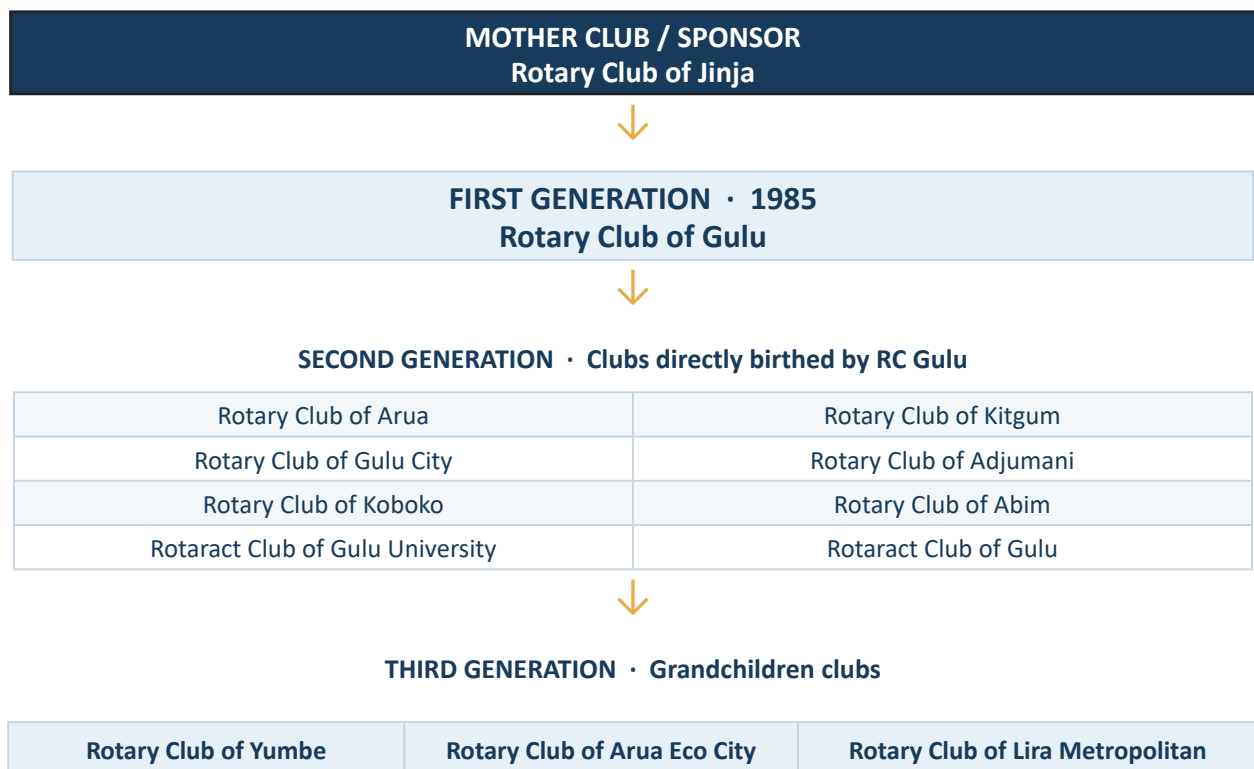
across the region to gather, exchange ideas, strengthen partnerships, and celebrate service. These initiatives have strengthened the Rotary movement in Northern Uganda and fostered greater collaboration among clubs.

Recognizing that sustainable change requires investment in future generations, the Rotary Club of Gulu has consistently prioritized youth development.

The club has sponsored and nurtured several Rotaract and Interact clubs, including the Rotaract Club of Gulu University and the Rotaract Club of Gulu. Through mentorship, leadership development programs, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), literacy projects, and community service activities, the club has helped shape a generation of young leaders who embody Rotary values.

## The Rotary Family Tree

The club's influence extends far beyond its own membership. What began as a single Rotary club in Northern Uganda has grown into a vast family tree of Rotary and Rotaract clubs. The Rotary Club of Gulu has played a key role in the establishment and growth of clubs across the region, multiplying its legacy for generations to come.



## Guiding the Wider Rotary District

For decades, members of the Rotary Club of Gulu have participated actively in district and international Rotary activities, attending district conferences, leadership institutes, Rotary Foundation events, and training assemblies. These engagements have helped showcase the achievements of Northern Uganda within the broader Rotary world while enabling members to learn, network, and lead.

A defining milestone in the club's history came when it produced a District Governor. The nomination of Past



President Dr. Gerald Obai as District Governor for Rotary District 9213 represented far more than an individual achievement; it was a moment of collective pride for the club and for Northern Uganda. It

demonstrated how far the club had come—from modest beginnings and years of adversity to becoming a respected center of Rotary leadership. The journey that began with a handful of committed Rotarians in 1985 had now produced a leader entrusted with serving an entire Rotary district.



The significance of this achievement was vividly illustrated in July 2024 when over 400 Rotarians, Rotaractors, and guests gathered in Gulu for Dr. Gerald Obai's Concourse. For charter member Charles Odo-ora Oryem, who remembered riding a prison truck to attend a conference decade earlier, seeing hundreds of Rotarians converge in Gulu was nothing short of extraordinary. What once seemed unimaginable had become reality. Northern Uganda was no longer simply participating in Rotary—it was helping lead it.

## A Legacy Still Being Written

Today, the Rotary Club of Gulu stands as a vibrant and dynamic club that continues to serve communities, mentor leaders, build partnerships, and champion Rotary values. Its members remain united by friendship, fellow-

ship, and a shared commitment to making a difference. The challenges of the past have become part of the club's identity—not as scars of defeat, but as evidence of perseverance and resilience.

The story of the Rotary Club of Gulu is, therefore, much more than the history of a service organization. It is the story of people who chose hope over

despair, service over self-interest, and action over indifference. Through conflict and peace, hardship and progress, the club has remained a beacon of service in Northern Uganda.

As it looks toward the future, the Rotary Club of Gulu carries with it a proud heritage and an even greater responsibility to continue transforming lives. Its legacy lives on in the com-



munities it has served, the leaders it has nurtured, the clubs it has birthed, and the countless people whose lives have been touched by its work. Forty-one years on, the lesson remains clear: when committed people come together in fellowship and service, even the greatest challenges can be overcome.

The story of the Rotary Club of Gulu is not finished. It is a story still being written.

# Rotary Club of Gulu: Presidents Themes and Status

## Rotary years 1985–1986 through 2026–2027

| Rotary Year | President                   | Rotary Theme                                        | Status        |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1985–1986   | Jude Taddeo Omal            | You Are The Key                                     | Rest in peace |
| 1986–1987   | Jude Taddeo Omal            | Rotary Brings Hope                                  | Rest in peace |
| 1987–1988   | Jude Taddeo Omal            | Rotarians United in Service, Dedicated to Peace     | Rest in peace |
| 1988–1989   | Jude Taddeo Omal            | Put Life Into Rotary, Your Life                     | Rest in peace |
| 1989–1990   | Charles Odora Oryem         | Enjoy Rotary                                        | Active        |
| 1990–1991   | Charles Odora Oryem         | Honour Rotary With Faith and Enthusiasm             | Active        |
| 1991–1992   | Olum Co Pe                  | Look Beyond Yourself                                | Active        |
| 1992–1993   | Ida Aol Okot                | Real Happiness in Helping Others                    | Active        |
| 1993–1994   | Ida Aol Okot                | Believe in What You Do, Do What You Believe In      | Active        |
| 1994–1995   | James Otto                  | Be A Friend                                         | Rest in peace |
| 1995–1996   | Kenneth Oketta              | Act With Integrity, Serve With Love, Work For Peace | Active        |
| 1996–1997   | Matthew Lukwiya             | Build The Future With Action and Vision             | Active        |
| 1997–1998   | Joel Francis Okalany        | Rotary Cares                                        | Rest in peace |
| 1998–1999   | Joyce Laker                 | Follow Your Rotary Dream                            | Active        |
| 1999–2000   | Cyprian Opira               | Act With Consistency, Credibility, Continuity       | Rest in peace |
| 2000–2001   | Kenneth Oketta              | Create Awareness, Take Action                       | Active        |
| 2001–2002   | Joseph Ndegeya              | Mankind Is Our Business                             | Active        |
| 2002–2003   | David Otim                  | Sow The Seeds Of Love                               | Active        |
| 2003–2004   | Joseph Ndegeya              | Lend A Hand                                         | Active        |
| 2004–2005   | Sr. Mary Oker               | Celebrate Rotary                                    | Rest in peace |
| 2005–2006   | Charles Okwakalwak          | Service Above Self                                  | Active        |
| 2006–2007   | Peter Egwel                 | Lead The Way                                        | Rest in peace |
| 2007–2008   | Moses Onen                  | Rotary Shares                                       | Active        |
| 2008–2009   | Anthony Ocaya               | Make Dreams Real                                    | Active        |
| 2009–2010   | Amono Polly Grace           | The Future of Rotary Is in Your Hand                | Active        |
| 2010–2011   | Patrick Oringa              | Building Communities, Bridging Continents           | Active        |
| 2011–2012   | Gerald Obai                 | Reach Within to Embrace Humanity                    | Active        |
| 2012–2013   | Kenneth Akena               | Peace Through Service                               | Rest in peace |
| 2013–2014   | Vincent Okoth Ogola         | Engage Rotary, Change Lives                         | Rest in peace |
| 2014–2015   | Dan Derricks Oling          | Light Up Rotary                                     | Active        |
| 2015–2016   | Howard Ayo                  | Be A Gift To The World                              | Active        |
| 2016–2017   | Rose Atim                   | Rotary Serving Humanity                             | Active        |
| 2017–2018   | Kenneth Akena               | Rotary Making A Difference                          | Rest in peace |
| 2018–2019   | William Amone               | Be The Inspiration                                  | Active        |
| 2019–2020   | Ruth Lawino                 | Rotary Connects The World                           | Active        |
| 2020–2021   | Baden Paul Obote            | Rotary Opens Opportunities                          | Active        |
| 2021–2022   | Sr. Josephine Oyella        | Serve To Change Lives                               | Active        |
| 2022–2023   | Harriet Laker               | Imagine Rotary                                      | Active        |
| 2023–2024   | Jolly Grace Laker Andruvile | Create Hope in the World                            | Active        |
| 2024–2025   | Harriet Okunia              | The Magic of Rotary                                 | Active        |
| 2025–2026   | Samuel Odwar                | Unite for Good                                      | Active        |
| 2026–2027   | Julius Ojok                 | Create Lasting Impact                               | Active        |

# Rotary Club of Serere Launches Road Safety Campaign to Curb Rising Accidents

By Skika Reporter



**SERERE, UGANDA** — In a major push to curb rising traffic accidents, the Serere District Woman Member of Parliament, Hon. Esther Lucy Acom, officially launched a comprehensive Road Safety Campaign at the Serere District Headquarters.

Organized by the Rotary Club of Serere, the initiative seeks to foster responsible behavior, raise public awareness, and ultimately save lives across the region's transport network. The newly launched campaign addresses a critical community need by targeting the most vulnerable categories of road users. Organizers structured the initiative to equip specific groups with actionable, life-saving knowledge:

- **Boda Boda Riders & Drivers:**

Focusing on defensive driving, proper helmet usage, speed limits, and the dangers of driving under the influence.

- **Passengers:** Empowering citizens to speak up against reckless driving and overloaded vehicles.
- **Pedestrians:** Educating the

public on safe road-crossing practices and the importance of visibility, especially along busy transit routes.

During her address, Hon. Acom praised the Rotary Club of Serere for its holistic approach to community transformation. She emphasized that the club's



footprint extends far beyond transport safety, notably anchoring vital advancements in local infrastructure:

- **Healthcare Interventions:** Ongoing and completed medical projects that bridge gaps in rural health service delivery.
- **Educational Support:** Structural and material initiatives designed to improve learning environments for children across the district.

“I want to thank the members of the Rotary Club of Serere for championing such good projects, and most importantly, for coming up with this Road Safety Campaign initiative,” Hon. Acom stated. “I have personally taken note of some of your completed projects.”

The legislator concluded by reminding the audience of Rotary’s motto, “Service Above Self.” She described local chapters as indispensable pillars for regional development, offering unique platforms for fellowship, networking, lead-

ership, and international cooperation.

With community execution underway, the Member of Parliament expressed absolute confidence that this targeted sensitization campaign will significantly scale up road user awareness and drastically reduce preventable accidents throughout Serere District.



*Members of the Rotary Club of Jinja Source of the Nile, in partnership with the Rotary Clubs of Jinja and Jinja City, the Rotaract Club of Jinja, the Association of Painters, the Uganda Traffic Police, and local community members, join forces during a recent road safety campaign. The collaborative initiative focused on repainting faded zebra crossings at critical accident hot spots to enhance pedestrian safety and awareness.*

The Road Safety Campaign represents a strategic pivot for the Rotary Club of Serere. By forging partnerships with district leaders, local institutions, and the public, the initiative is built to scale. Dynamic outreach efforts are designed to saturate different sections of the community with actionable ed-

ucation on defensive driving, responsible road use, and accident prevention.

As Serere grapples with the growing pains of development and increased traffic, local residents warmly welcomed this intervention. It shifts the narrative away

from passive reliance on law enforcement and toward active personal responsibility. The campaign leaves the community with a simple, undeniable truth: road safety belongs to everyone, and every single road user has a vital role to play in protecting human life.

# ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE UPDATE

Lifting a Life Burden for a Single Mother:  
Thank You, Rotary!

Alvin's Journey: A Life-Changing Blessing for  
Our Family

By Diana Aletiru (Mother to Alvin Xavier Dakar)



Eleven months ago, our lives changed forever. With the incredible support of the Rotary Club of Arua Eco City and the Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) Program Team in Uganda, my family received a full scholarship for my son, Alvin Xavier Dakar. His destination? California, USA, for a full academic year. His departure

on August 9, 2025, marked the beginning of a journey that transformed our entire family.

During his stay in California, Alvin thrived in ways I could only dream of. Warmly welcomed by his host family, he quickly built lasting friendships at Windsor High School.

Alvin fully immersed himself in the Rotary culture by joining the school's Interact Club. Through the club, he gained critical leadership skills, received mentorship, and truly discovered the power of "Service Above Self."

His year was packed with unforgettable milestones:

- **Athletic Achievement:**  
Alvin balanced his studies while staying highly active, even proudly scoring the first goal of the Windsor High School soccer season!
- **Community Engagement:**  
His host club kept him engaged through food drives, youth center refurbishments, and regular presentations at club meetings.
- **Cultural Immersion:**  
From celebrating American traditions like Halloween and Thanksgiving to touring Lucasfilm, his worldview expanded immensely.

As a single mother, school fees have been a constant, exhausting struggle. For years, the emotional distress of having my children sent home due to unpaid balances weighed heavily on us. Alvin's scholarship immediately relieved me of a year of tuition, allowing me to support his sister, Ciara, and the other children in my care with greater ease.

But the generosity of Rotary did not stop at the border. Alvin returned home to Uganda on July 13, 2026, and his host club went completely above and beyond. The Rotary Club of Windsor has committed to covering school fees for both Alvin and Ciara—up to \$4,000



USD per year—until they complete their Senior 4 level.

This incredibly kind gesture has lifted one of my greatest life burdens.

The Rotary Youth Exchange Program has blessed my family beyond measure. Alvin's personal growth, confidence, and future prospects have been permanently uplifted. I want to extend my deepest, most heartfelt gratitude to:

- **Rotary Club of Arua Eco City** (Sponsor Club)
- **Rotary Districts 9214 & 9213**

- **Rotary Club of Windsor, District 5130** (Host Club)

Thank you for opening doors of opportunity and hope. Your investment in Alvin has uplifted our entire family. This support testifies to the profound, life-changing impact that Rotary has on youth and communities worldwide. I will forever cherish your generosity and vision.

# GOT THIS!

## **Making the Impossible Possible: Meet Rtn Gerald Obai, District Governor, District 9213 and a member of Rotary club of Gulu.**

Behind every great community milestone is a leader who isn't afraid to dream outside the box. For Gerald, an 18-year veteran of the Rotary Club of Gulu, lasting change doesn't happen by playing it safe. It happens when you embrace what he calls "Crazy Ideas and the Little Things."

Gerald's deep-rooted commitment to service is woven into the very fabric of his region. By day, he serves as an Academician at Gulu University, specializing in the critical fields of Physiology and Public Health. By night, he channels that same analytical precision and passion for human well-being into transformational humanitarian service.

Over nearly two decades, Gerald has climbed through the ranks of leadership. He has served with distinction as Club President and has guided the broader district through several high-impact roles, including:

- Assistant Governor
- District Executive Secretary
- Chair of Strategy
- Chair of Planning, Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation

Whether navigating complex public health data in the lecture hall or designing strategic frameworks for district-wide service projects, Gerald remains anchored by an unwavering belief in people, collaboration, and teamwork.

He serves as a constant reminder that no challenge is too daunting when a community unites under a shared vision. In his own words, a rallying cry borrowed from a timeless football anthem to inspire his fellow Rotarians: *"When we walk together,*



## Northern Region Club Directory & Meeting Schedules

| Day              | Club              | President          | Contact    | Venue                                 | Time           |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Lira              | Emmanuel Ogo       | 0782733882 | Margarita Palace Hotel, Lira          | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | Arua Eco City     | Robert Katemba     | 0785496412 | Hunter's Nest                         | 7:00–8:00 p.m. |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Yumbe             | Jamal Abdi         | 0782288340 | Rotary Home (CCEDUC) / CCEDUC Offices | 4:00–5:00 p.m. |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Katakwi           | Edmond Eobu        | 0778045091 | Petua Gardens                         | 5:30–6:30 p.m. |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Arua              | Jessica Ondoru     | 0774466308 | Letsuba Hotel                         | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | Abim              | Christopher Ogwang | 0782378068 | Karibu Country Gardens, Abim          | 8:00–9:00 p.m. |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Gulu              | Julius Ojok        | 0772651523 | Acholi Inn                            | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Kitgum            | Grace Ogwang       | 0772348999 | Boma Hotel, Kitgum                    | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Koboko            | Stella Amandru     | 0772824870 | Blue Dove Hotel                       | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | Adjumani          | William Anzo Adiga | 0777363201 | Aragan Hotel                          | 7:00–8:00 p.m. |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Lira Metropolitan | Jackson Otim       | 0777806889 | Lillian Towers Hotel, Lira            | 5:30–6:30 p.m. |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Greater Nebbi     | Geoffrey Keronga   | 0772644417 | Gaf Apartments, Nebbi                 | 5:30–6:30 p.m. |
| <b>Friday</b>    | Gulu City         | Florence Lora Atim | 0775083708 | Boma Hotel, Gulu                      | 6:00–7:00 p.m. |
| <b>Saturday</b>  | Ngora             | Jane Aik           | 0772629643 | Hybrid – Galaxy Country Club          | 8:00–9:00 p.m. |





*Rotary Clubs of Arua*



Rotary Clubs of Arua

**DOCTOR:** *why did you take your Medicine at 6 am yet I told you 9 am..?*

**PATIENT:** *I wanted to surprise the Bacteria*

# DISTRICT GOVERNOR OFFICIAL VISITS IN PICTURES



*Rotary Club of Greater Nebbi*



*Rotary Club of Hoima Kitara*



*Rotary Club of Lira*



*Rotary Club of Kitgum*



*Rotary Club of Gulu City*



*Rotary Club of Adjumani*



*RC Arua Eco City*



# THE ROTARY FOUNDATION LEADERSHIP BOARD

Club contributions across three regions | USD

COMBINED TOTAL

**\$35,752.44**

**EASTERN**

51.6%

**\$18,430.52**

**NORTHERN**

28.1%

**\$10,061.50**

**CENTRAL WESTERN**

20.3%

**\$7,260.42**

| RANK | CLUB             | REGION          | CONTRIBUTION                      |
|------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 01   | RC Bugiri        | Eastern         | <div><div></div></div> \$13,500   |
| 02   | RC Gulu          | Northern        | <div><div></div></div> \$6,517    |
| 03   | RC Kabarole      | Central Western | <div><div></div></div> \$6,313.42 |
| 04   | RC Ngora         | Northern        | <div><div></div></div> \$2,625    |
| 05   | RC Mbale         | Eastern         | <div><div></div></div> \$2,270    |
| 06   | RC Jinja         | Eastern         | <div><div></div></div> \$1,132    |
| 07   | RC Elgon Maisha  | Eastern         | <div><div></div></div> \$942      |
| 08   | RC Arua Eco City | Northern        | <div><div></div></div> \$816      |
| 09   | RC Hoima Kitara  | Central Western | <div><div></div></div> \$600      |
| 10   | RC Serere        | Eastern         | <div><div></div></div> \$517      |
| 11   | RC Mubende Metro | Central Western | <div><div></div></div> \$347      |
| 12   | RC Koboko        | Northern        | <div><div></div></div> \$103.50   |
| 13   | RC Sam Owor      | Eastern         | <div><div></div></div> \$69.52    |



## IMPROVE YOUR ROTARY KNOWLEDGE & LEADERSHIP SKILLS

### RLI TRAINING SCHEDULE 2026-2027

|                                                                   | Particulars                     | Dates               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| <b>33RD INTAKE UNDERGRADUATE AND 25TH INTAKE GRADUATE COURSES</b> |                                 |                     |
| I                                                                 | Module I Undergraduate Course   | 1st August 2026     |
|                                                                   | Module I Graduate Course        | 1st August 2026     |
|                                                                   | Module II Undergraduate course  | 22nd August 2026    |
|                                                                   | Module II Graduate Course       | 22nd August 2026    |
|                                                                   | Module III Undergraduate Course | 12th September 2026 |
|                                                                   | Module III Graduate Course      | 12th September 2026 |
| <b>34TH INTAKE UNDERGRADUATE AND 26TH INTAKE GRADUATE COURSES</b> |                                 |                     |
| II                                                                | Module I Undergraduate Course   | 24th October 2026   |
|                                                                   | Module I Graduate Course        | 24th October 2026   |
|                                                                   | Module II Undergraduate Course  | 21st November 2026  |
|                                                                   | Module II Graduate Course       | 21st November 2026  |
|                                                                   | Module III Undergraduate Course | 12th December 2026  |
|                                                                   | Module III Graduate Course      | 12th December 2026  |
| <b>35TH INTAKE UNDERGRADUATE AND 27TH INTAKE GRADUATE COURSES</b> |                                 |                     |
| III                                                               | Module I Undergraduate Course   | 23rd January 2027   |
|                                                                   | Module I Graduate Course        | 23rd January 2027   |
|                                                                   | Module II Undergraduate Course  | 20th February 2027  |
|                                                                   | Module III Graduate Course      | 20th February 2027  |
|                                                                   | Module III Undergraduate Course | 20th March 2027     |
|                                                                   | Module III Graduate Course      | 20th March 2027     |

*Fee: 150,000/= Per Module for meals and venue. Protea Hotel, Kololo.*

*For inquiries call Sarah Rubanga - 0752 735 768. For Payment use AIRTEL PAY 4394473*

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**UP TO  
OCTOBER 31**



## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

# Barcelona

# 2027

26-30 JUNE 2027

FIRA DE BARCELONA  
GRAN VIA

5 DAY EARLY BIRD OFFER  
Register 17-21 September 2026



### REGISTRATION RATES

| CATEGORY                              | 17-21 SEP 2026 | 22 SEP 2026 -<br>31 MAR 2027 | 1 APR-30 JUNE 2027 |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| AGE 31+                               | US\$595        | US\$795                      | US\$895            |
| AGE 30 OR UNDER                       | US\$250        | US\$350                      | US\$400            |
| AGE 5-18                              | US\$20         | US\$30                       | US\$40             |
| UNDER AGE 5                           | FREE           | FREE                         | FREE               |
| SATURDAY, HOUSE<br>OF FRIENDSHIP ONLY | US\$60         | US\$60                       | US\$100            |

MD Farouk Busuulwa  
D9214 Chair 2027 RI Convention

PP Pauline Wantate  
D9213 Chair 2027 RI Convention

Rotary   
District 9213

Rotaract   
District 9213



# EARLY BIRD TICKETS

ROTARIAN PRE-  
EARLY BIRD  
TICKETS  
SOLD OUT

**\$130** | **\$200**

ROTARACTORS

ROTARIANS

Valid until November 30th 2026



29<sup>th</sup> APRIL TO  
1<sup>st</sup> MAY 2027



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