

Rotary  
District 9213



# THE WAVE

ISSUE 10 | APRIL 2026



*Protecting the environment*

# DISCON 101 THEME NIGHTS



**OPENING**  
*Night*

**16TH** APRIL 2026  
THURSDAY NIGHT

DRESSCODE:  
ELEGANT ISLAND CHIC

**ROTARACT**  
*Day*

**17TH** APRIL 2026  
FRIDAY

DRESSCODE:  
MONOCHROME  
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**ROTARACT**  
*Night*

**17TH** APRIL 2026  
FRIDAY NIGHT

DRESSCODE:  
AFRO-MODERN  
ELEGANCE

**DG'S**  
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**18TH** APRIL 2026  
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# See you, at Imperial Resort Beach



## Editorial Team



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We have just concluded the month of March, and with it, celebrated World Rotaract Week. As I read the stories and followed the celebrations on social media, I found myself reflecting on my own rotary journey; one that began with ten formative years in Rotaract. There is a certain nostalgia for those earlier days; perhaps it was the intimacy of a smaller membership or a different kind of energy, but the “fun” we had was matched only by the depth of our community impact. In my current club, I can count, even with my eyes closed, at least ten former Rotaractors who have since “joined the big boys.” It is a transition that reminds us that while faces and numbers change, the heart of our service remains steadfast.

In keeping with this month’s theme, Protecting the Environment, we highlight the recent Jinja mega-run for the Nile initiative. This program was originally a “baby” of my own Rotary club; but as things evolved, RC Jinja took the mantle and is now doing magic. I wholeheartedly support their agenda. Within these pages, we

also meet Past President Christine Nantongo, a true conservationist and environmental justice professional.

Our environmental lens further extends to the EACOP Green Schools Initiative, a project that highlights the power of targeted, sustainable intervention, demonstrating how education and ecology work together to create a greener future for our region.

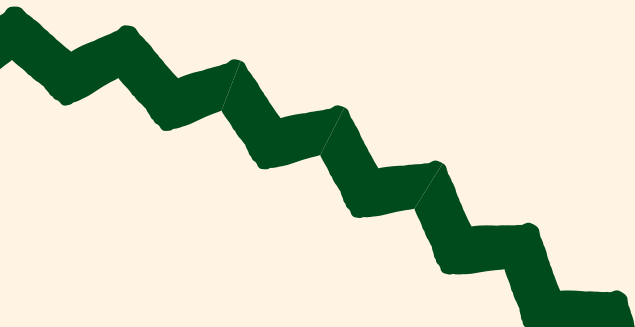
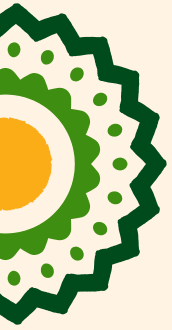
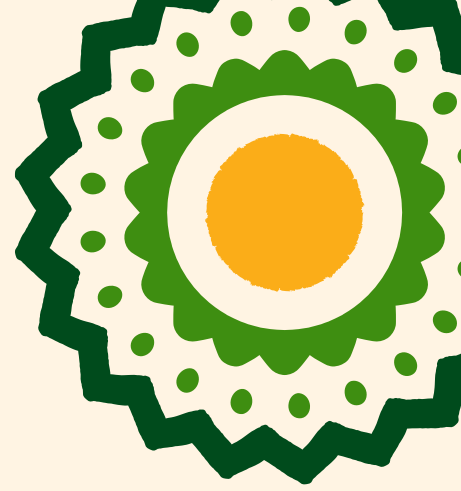
We then turn toward our homestretch: DISCON. To most of us, this is always more than a conference; it is a celebration and a much-needed moment to relax away from our daily “hustles and bustles.”

As we move through this month of environmental focus and head toward the grand celebration of DISCON, let us remember that the environment we protect today is the legacy we leave tomorrow. So, while at DISCON, please do not litter. Keep your environment clean so that we may all enjoy the beaches for years to come.

You are most welcome.

**Rtn Sheila Naturinda**

**RC-Kampala Central**



**LEADERSHIP  
MESSAGES**

**RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**



# Count On Preparation, Not Luck

**In President Francesco's April 2026 Newsletter, he talks about the Rotary Foundation Program of Scale - Healthy Families in Nigeria. He adds that Service is not only what we do when conditions are ideal. It is the commitment to prepare people before a crisis arrives and to stand with communities when it does. Programs like Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria show what is possible when Rotary brings together local knowledge, global partnerships, and sustainable solutions. He says, "Programs like Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria show what is possible when Rotary brings together local knowledge, global partnerships, and sustainable solutions."**

Not long ago, in a small health center in the village of Aaye in southwest Nigeria, a woman arrived in labor carrying twins. The facility was short-staffed. The nurse midwife in charge was not present.

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

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

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

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

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

Maternal and child health is not an abstract goal. It is deeply personal. It is a mother who survives childbirth. It is a newborn who takes a first breath. It is a family that remains whole because someone was trained, ready, and cared enough to act. Rotary understands that service means investing in people and systems long before they are tested.

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

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

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

**Francesco Arezzo**

**President, Rotary International**

**DISTRICT  
GOVERNOR'S  
MESSAGE:**



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

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

Rotary and Rotaract clubs have mobilized communities, schools and partners to plant thousands - if not millions - of trees across the country. These efforts are not just about numbers. Each tree planted represents:

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

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

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

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

We are influencing everyday practices within communities. Initiatives

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

At the heart of Rotary's environmental activities is education. By engaging schools, youth groups and community members, Rotarians are building a culture of awareness and responsibility. Young people, especially through Rotaract, are playing a leading role in organizing clean-up drives, leading environmental campaigns like the "*Rotaract Earth Initiative*" and championing innovative ideas. Their energy and creativity are ensuring that the message of sustainability reaches far and wide.

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

These partnerships bring together resources, expertise and shared commitment, turning ideas into sustainable solutions.

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

In every tree planted, every wetland restored and every community empowered, there is a story of hope. Our work in environmental restoration is not just about healing the land - it is about inspiring a nation to care, to act and to build a greener tomorrow.

This is Rotary in action! This is hope growing!

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

#RotaryEyamba! 🌱

**Geoffrey Martin Kitakule**

**Rotary District Governor District  
9213**

# Beyond the Finish Line: Rotary's Quest to Restore the Nile and Lake Victoria



By Rtn Pamon Prossy

On March 28, 2026, the Jinja Rugby Grounds buzzed with energy with over 2,000 participants gathered for the fourth edition of the Run for the Nile. The event brought together runners from diverse sectors, all standing in solidarity to protect Uganda's critical water resources: the River Nile and Lake Victoria.

District Governor Geoffrey Kitakule officially flagged off the runners, setting the tone for a day of action, awareness, and community engagement. With race categories spanning 5km, 10km, and 21km, participants included Rotary members, corporate teams, schools, civil society organizations, and government representatives, all united in a shared commitment to safeguarding the environment.

The chief Runner was Rt Rev. Prof. Grace Lubaale, the 4th Bishop of Busoga Diocese. The Man of God emphasized the importance of sustained collaboration and education in environmental conservation. He highlighted the critical role of young people particularly through schools in ensuring long-term impact. Central to this vision is a bold plan to plant up to one million trees, beginning with institutions such as Busoga College Mwiri.

The initiative, led by the Rotary Club of Jinja alongside other Rotary clubs nationwide, has already supported the planting of more than 10 million trees in key water catchment areas. Additional land secured in Mayuge District will serve as the foundation for the first-ever Rotary Peace Forest, spanning 250 acres, further expanding Uganda's environmental restoration efforts.

Organizing Committee Chair Tomson Ofwono emphasized that although strong policies and regulations are essential, true and lasting environmental progress can only be achieved when communities and individuals take ownership and actively engage in conservation efforts, turning awareness into tangible, on-the-ground action.

Emerging from Jinja and locally cherished as Lake Nalubaale, the River Nile flows across multiple countries, sustaining millions along its path. Its connection to Lake Victoria is crucial for Uganda, supporting water supply, energy production, and livelihoods particularly in urban centers such as Kampala. Yet mounting environmental pressures continue to threaten these

ecosystems, reinforcing the urgency for collective action.

This year, the Run for the Nile is expanding its impact beyond awareness. Rotary is actively working to install plastic trap gates on drainage channels leading into Lake Victoria a proven method for capturing waste and preventing pollution. The initiative also includes distributing tree seedlings across Uganda and establishing the 250-acre Rotary Peace Forest in Mayuge. While previous trap gates have successfully reduced pollution, the goal is to extend this system to all drainage channels. The collected plastic waste can also be transformed into income-generating opportunities, turning conservation into sustainable community benefits.

The Run for the Nile continues to evolve into a flagship environmental campaign, not only for Uganda but for the wider Nile Basin region. With growing participation, strengthened partnerships, and a focus on measurable impact, the initiative inspires both awareness and practical action.



## A Call to Rotarians

This is more than an annual run; it is a movement. Rotarians are encouraged to take an active role, whether by participating in future runs, supporting tree planting programs, mobilizing communities, or helping expand the installation of plastic trap gates.

Together, we can protect, restore, and preserve the natural resources that sustain our nation and future generations.

About the Run for the Nile

- **Objective:** The marathon is a flagship environmental conservation event aimed at protecting the River Nile and Lake Victoria from pollution caused by industrialization and human development.
  - **Organizer:** Organized by the **Rotary Club of Jinja** in collaboration with local clubs.
  - **Race Details:** Held at the Jinja Rugby Grounds, the event included 21km, 10km, and 5km races, attracting over 2,000 runners.
  - **Environmental Impact:** Funds raised are dedicated to restoring ecosystems, reducing siltation (mud and clay accumulation), and promoting "Mission Green" to plant trees.
  - The event highlights the urgent need to protect the Nile, which is crucial for water supply, energy, and livelihoods in Uganda.
- The writer participated in the Run for the Nile event, and is the Public Image committee chair for the Rotary Club of Kampala Central.*



Rotary Club of Jinja's Annual Run 4 the Nile initiative: **\*A MOVEMENT FOR WATER, WASTE MANAGEMENT, AND THE NILE\***





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# Restoring Namananga Central Forest Reserve

The Namananga Central Forest Reserve is a 459-hectare protected area located in Kayunga District, which is currently the focus of a major restoration project involving Rotary, and Rotarians. The project aims to reverse significant degradation from illegal logging and land encroachment. Through these images, District 9213 celebrates the power of service in protecting the environment and nurturing a greener, more sustainable future through the restoration of the forest. In partnership with Uganda Breweries Limited, and the National Forest Authority, District Governor Geoffrey Kitakule leads the charge of the reforestation activities, with a goal to plant 80,000 indigenous trees over a three-year period.



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# Counting Shade - Rethinking Tree-Planting in Rotary's Environmental Drive



By Rtn. Anne Gamurorwa

Against the backdrop of growing concern over environmental degradation and declining tree cover, community-driven initiatives have increasingly emerged as vital complements to government-led efforts. It is within this space that initiatives like Mission Green by Rotary District 9211 come into focus—

translating environmental concern into tangible outcomes, quite literally adding shade to the landscape.

Launched in 2017 under the leadership of PDG Ken Wycliffe Mugisha, Mission Green mobilised Rotarians, schools, government agencies and communities across Uganda and Tanzania around a shared responsibility: restoring degraded landscapes.

Conceived as a five-year campaign, it purposed to plant and nurture millions of trees while embedding environmental stewardship into everyday community life. Its imprint is visible in school compounds, community spaces and strengthened partnerships across the region.

And still, the question lingers.

Long after the ceremonies end and the seedlings are in the ground, one wonders: how many of those trees are still reaching for the sky? How many have taken root, quietly stitching shade back into the land?

The numbers inspire—but they do not answer everything. For in the end, it is not the planting that matters most, but the staying and nurturing,

We do not count trees. We count the shade that remains.

“We planted thousands of trees, but did anyone ever sit under them?”

That question came to life when I enquired of a fellow Rotarian whether the 800 seedlings my club planted at Kabanyonyi Primary School in 2017 had still survived. He paused, then answered simply: **“I don't know.”**

It was an honest answer—and a revealing one.

My club's efforts over time have contributed thousands of trees—including pine, eucalyptus, mango, and grevillea—across sites such as Kitante, Busabaga and Kabanyonyi primary schools, alongside individual member initiatives elsewhere.

We celebrate planting, but rarely return to see whether the trees live long enough to grow, to shade, or to serve their intended purpose. This is not criticism, it is reflection—an invitation to rethink how we define success in environmental service.

## From Seedlings to Shade

In my commercial tree-growing projects, I plant over 1,000 seedlings per hectare, carefully spaced and monitored. Every seedling is accounted for. When some fail, they are replaced.

Planting is only the beginning; the real work lies in nurturing trees to maturity.

Foresters do not count only seedlings. They count survival. They track growth. The goal is a healthy, thriving tree—not simply a number initially planted.

Yet in many community initiatives, success is reported as trees planted. But seedlings planted are not the same as trees growing—and growth is what makes the difference.



President Kenya-Mugisha plants a tree with Kitante Hill students



**Bernard Bamwine demonstrates handling of seedlings during planting.**

### Mission Green and the Lesson Within

Mission Green demonstrated what Rotary can achieve at a large scale. Across Uganda and Tanzania, clubs, interactors, and rotaractors planted trees in schools, community and public spaces. The energy was palpable; for a time, Rotary was everywhere trees were planted.

It was a milestone for environmental service—but it also revealed a quiet truth: planting is only the beginning. Impact depends on what happens next.

### The Missing Conversation

Too often, success is measured in seedlings, photos, and participation numbers. The excitement of planting overshadows the slower work of nurturing, protecting and monitoring trees as they grow.

In Uganda and Tanzania, dry seasons are unforgiving. Young trees face grazing animals, land-use pressures and neglect. Without care, many die quietly—and the promised benefits fail to materialise.

A dead seedling captures no carbon, protects no soil, and provides no shade. Yet it may still be counted as “planted.”

The gap between planting and growth is where real service meets responsibility.

### Stewardship Over Ceremony

How, then, do we move from planting as ceremony to planting as stewardship?

True environmental service requires follow-up: watering, protection, monitoring and replacement where needed. These are the actions that determine whether our work leaves a lasting mark.

With its structure and reach, Rotary is uniquely positioned to model this. Clubs can assign follow-up responsibility, budget for maintenance, and schedule survival checks. Communities can be engaged as custodians, giving them ownership of the trees’ success.

### Personal Reflection

In our own Mission Green projects, we planted widely. It looked impressive on paper.

But years later, how many of those trees are thriving?

That unanswered question is itself a form of reporting.

We planted the seeds—but not always the systems to sustain them.

### Counting Shade

What if we redefined success?

What if Rotary measured impact not in trees planted, but in shade provided?

Imagine projects where follow-up is built in:

- Survival checks at six months and one year
- Replacement of failed seedlings
- Community stewardship
- Reporting survival rates alongside planting numbers

The focus shifts from numbers to living

systems—from activity to impact.

Counting shade means accountability not just for planting, but for growth.

### Lessons for Rotary’s Environmental Focus

Rotary’s addition of the environment as its seventh area of focus is both timely and necessary. Clubs are already active in tree planting, waste management, and climate awareness.

The next step is to refine how success is measured.

True environmental impact is not achieved on planting day—it is realised years later, when trees shelter, protect, and sustain.

By embracing survival tracking and long-term stewardship, Rotary can ensure that today’s effort becomes tomorrow’s landscape.

### Moving Forward

Environmental service is not a one-off event. It is a commitment to nurturing growth.

Mission Green showed what is possible. The challenge now is to deepen that impact.

And so the question remains:

Are we counting trees—or the shade that remains?

Because in the end, service begins with planting, but it is stewardship that leaves shade for generations.



**Anne Gamurorwa, Mission Green officer at Busabaga Primary school**

*The writer is a member of the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala*

# Building The Planet's Stewards Today: The EACOP Green Schools Initiative

How Rotary and EACOP are turning schools along the pipeline corridor into living classrooms for environmental responsibility.



By Rtn Peter Nyanzi

In the next few months, many of the schools in the ten of the Districts along the EACOP corridor will be unrecognizable by their old boys and girls.

Rainwater is collecting in large tanks overhead.

Pupils are tending vegetable gardens between lessons, separate waste

“

*Our planet is our home, and taking care of it starts with forcing those steps that we can practise every day.*

— Rtn Henry Katongole,  
President, Rotary Club of  
Kiwatule

into colour-coded bins, and meet weekly in their Green Clubs to debate climate policy.

It is not a showcase or a pilot. It is, by design, a beginning. And Rotary has helped to make it happen.

Just a few months ago, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP),

in partnership with Rotary Uganda, officially launched the Green Schools Initiative at St. Kizito Primary School in Kyotera.

The programme, implemented under EACOP's Social Economic Investment Programme, targets ten schools across ten districts within the pipeline corridor. The investment stands at USD 194,200, to be deployed over twelve to twenty-four months. But the numbers, substantial as they are, tell only part of the story.

The initiative is structured around several foundational pillars, each designed to address a specific dimension of school-based sustainability while reinforcing the others. Together, they represent a comprehensive and replicable model for what environmental education can look like in action.





“

*This is a partnership that brings EACOP and Rotary together. Organisations that are united by a shared vision to nurture a generation that has values, that protects and sustains the environment.*

— John Bosco Habumugisha, Deputy Executive Director, EACOP

### Strategic Pillars of the initiative

1. **Renewable Energy Integration.** Solar power systems are installed to reduce reliance on the grid, lower electricity costs, and ensure that students learn to maintain the very technology that powers their classrooms.
2. **Water Security and Harvesting.** The 10,000-litre rainwater harvesting tanks provide consistent, safe water access—addressing one of the most immediate practical needs in rural schools while embedding conservation habits.
3. **WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene).** Distinct from water harvesting, this targets health outcomes directly - handwashing stations, sanitation facilities, and hygiene education that prevent disease and build lifelong habits.
4. **Circular Economy and Waste Management.** The 3Rs—Reduce, Reuse, Recycle — are made tangible through waste separation stations, composting, and a curriculum that frames rubbish not as disposal, but as resource.
5. **Climate-Smart Agriculture and Nutrition.** Fruit and vegetable gardens, seedlings, and agricultural training give students both a practical skill set and a direct stake in the food they eat. The garden becomes a classroom.
6. **School Green Spaces Development.** The rehabilitation and creation of green spaces within school compounds improves biodiversity, provides shade, and transforms the physical environment into one that actively supports well-being.
7. **Environmental Education Integration.** Climate and environmental topics are embedded into the curriculum—not as electives, not as assemblies, but as core content. Sustainability becomes something students encounter every day, in every subject.
8. **Capacity Building and Teacher Training.** The programme targets training for over 7,500 teachers and school leaders. Without this pillar, every physical installation risks becoming an exhibit rather than a tool. Knowledgeable staff sustain what infrastructure alone cannot.
9. **Green Clubs and Student-Led Activism.** With a target of 750 school Green Clubs, this pillar hands ownership directly to students. Mentored but self-driven, these clubs foster peer engagement and produce the advocates who will carry this work beyond the school gate.
10. **Environmental Advocacy, Behaviour Change and Public Health Campaigns.** Multi-channel campaigns link environmental stewardship with measurable benefits—health, savings, safety—targeting students, teachers, and surrounding communities in a shared shift in outlook.

### What This Means for Rotary

For those of us who have been in Rotary long enough to have seen programmes come and go, the Green Schools Initiative has the architecture of something that lasts. It is not a handout. It is not a single-day project. It is a structured, multi-pillar investment in human capital—rooted in a specific geography, accountable to measurable outcomes, and

“

*I think we need to combine efforts and make sure that we protect our environment. So we thank EACOP and Rotary for opening up and bringing us on board, so that we support them and protect our environment, especially in Kyotera. We should have at least one green school in every district where EACOP will pass.*

— Apollo Mugume, RDC, Kyotera District

designed for replication.

Rtn Apollo Ampumwize the District 9214 Chair, captured the spirit well: “Planting trees, planting vegetables,

separating waste, and recycling—but as Rotarians from District 9214, we want to, in a very special way, thank EACOP. Thank you so much for this Green Initiative.” His words were not ceremony. They were a recognition that in Rotary, gratitude flows where partnership produces real results.

PDG Francis Xavier Sentamu, never one to shy from the harder truth, framed the urgency plainly: “Make sensitization part and parcel of our talk, because our environment is our business.”

He couldn’t be more right. The Green Schools Initiative is not a gift from Rotary to communities along the pipeline. It is Rotary doing what Rotary exists to do - building the institutional habits and human values that outlast any individual project.

One green school per district along the EACOP corridor is not an unreasonable ask. The pilot at St. Kizito is not a destination. It is a proof of concept, and the proof is compelling.

### Shaping a generation

For every Rotarian, the Green Schools Initiative is a masterclass in what “service above self” looks like when it is properly resourced and strategically designed. It is not charity. Rather, it is infrastructure - social, ecological, intellectual infrastructure -delivered through schools because schools are where culture is formed.

Together, EACOP and Rotary Uganda are shaping a generation that understands sustainability not as an abstract ideal, but as a daily practice - rooted in their school, their community, their district.



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# Protecting the environment Beyond Photo Moments

*In June 2020, Rotary International announced “Protecting the Environment” as its seventh and newest area of focus, so that Rotary and Rotarians find innovative solutions and develop sustainable service projects to strengthen local ecosystems and the planet and create a greener and more stable future for all.*

*Officially accepting grant requests as of July 1, 2021, the focus area empowers Rotary clubs and members to tackle issues like climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable agriculture.*

*The WAVE interacted with Past President Christine Nantongo, of RC Kampala Central, an environmental justice pro, former Executive Director of Environmental Alert, initiator of the environment civil society network in Uganda, and a two-time Rotary Country Chair for the Environment. Below are the excerpts:*



**The Green Club [RC Kampala Central] didn't just happen; it began as a vision in your heart. Take us back to that moment. What environmental problem in Uganda did you want to fix?**

Indeed the “green club” didn't just happen because big brands don't drop from nowhere. It was a journey of inspiration and collective appreciation of our focused steps and incremental gains in the years prior to my presidency. We worked with various communities and Rotary Community Corps in Lukwanga- Wakiso; courting other clubs to get involved and launching the first defining program “Trees for Life” that earned us our first corporate sponsor, Bank of Uganda.

During my tenure as club service projects chair, vocational service chair and PR chair I led the club into taking the opportunity to showcase a range of impactful food security and environmental sustainability solutions in various communities in Uganda where I worked. Our progressive club interventions and enviable popularization not only strengthened us but inspired many other Rotarians and Rotaractors.

The club projects included installing solar panels for schools in remote under-served schools, boreholes for

tens of communities and schools across several districts, supported tree growing for household nutrition, woodlots for income and fuelwood, brickettes for alternative energy, modification of cookstoves to reduce consumption of wood and prevent respiratory challenges. We installed water conservation technologies for water conservation and domestic use in a package that included water purifiers for safe water.

Many of those interventions remain

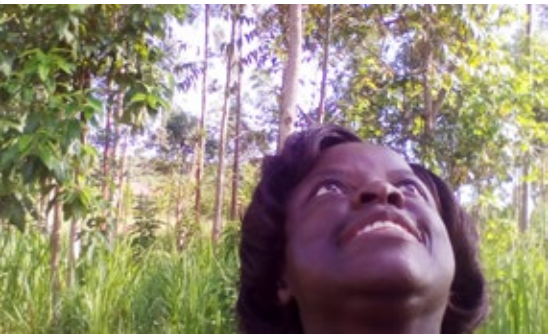
“**At Kampala Central, in liaison with Mission Green, there is a time we could host design workshops for clubs to develop and implement affordable but scalable green ventures that can be consolidated and delivered on a scale in partnership with private sector and non-governmental organizations.**”

replicable and we are certain that greater impact is realized when they are implemented on a wide scale.

I was therefore excited by the club Assembly resolution to institutionalize the Green Brand, giving me (President 2012-2013) the opportunity to define our green identity, to scale up the green ventures, engage over 30 Rotary and Rotaract clubs in Uganda by donating tree seedlings and along with information and advisory support to them.

Our green brand launch amplified our work and passion, we were becoming unstoppable, and stepping into the country environment chair position gave me the opportunity to market the brand with fellow club Presidents who mobilized a critical mass of clubs believing in and promoting environmental sustainability. That year we also presented the green vocational award to Ms Brenda Mwebaze, a community-based commercial tree planter.

As our legacy lives on, we are investing in greater outreach, making the green brand as infectious as it can get. We help clubs and individual Rotarians, we provide guidance to the Rotary Mission Green Program, we have been expanding our tree growing partnerships portfolio with Nyenga



Seminary (a conditional deliverable for every club President), with Buganda Kingdom regarding “*Kibira kya Kabaka*”, as one of the Royal forests initiative, we have promoted our club members as champions of even bigger and broader impactful ventures like “*The Run for the Nile*” that integrates forestry, water, waste management, tourism, responsible business, and good stewardship of the Nile and related bodies. We won’t stop walking green.

**Where did you draw your motivation from?**

I was simply converted while working alongside barefoot scientists and communities facing the brunt of fragile ecosystems and experiencing the reality that we are all affected though

the affluent citizens including Rotarians seemed to deplete or degrade the environment more, knowingly or unknowingly. That conviction drove me to media houses, public speaking engagements, innovation exposes, house to house community support, and bargains for favorable policy decisions and budget allocations towards environment and natural resources sector activities.

Through this talk there are names that come to mind, having been instrumental in RC Kampala Central’s Green Brand development and journey. Tumusiime Mutebire (RIP) who indulged in our Trees for Life project, Tree talk Plus (gave us over 50,000 tree seedlings and education materials, PDG Xavier Ssentamu and PAG Peter Mugagga were consistent planters who embraced our clubs seedlings bonanza and accounted for tree growth, the then Country Chair Margaret Mungherera (RIP) who embraced the Wangari Mathaai inspiration, PAG David Nsubuga who is the current vision bearer of The Run for the Nile initiative, PDG Kenneth Wycliffe Mugisha who revolutionized the green initiatives into a big district brand “Mission Green”, the young

people who have continued to grow trees tirelessly like Rotaract Earth Initiative and Rotaract Club of Kampala Central REACT east African project and many more.

**Since Protecting the Environment became an area of focus, has Rotary in Uganda done what is enough? Do you see prospects of doing more?**

Now that Rotary International designated a focus area for environmental sustainability, clubs have secured footholds for overdue projects that can attract support and recognition while providing both local and global benefits. Rotarians can design interventions springing from this focus area but cutting across several others because environment is a cross cutting issue that can make or break our impact drive if not well integrated and leveraged.

With the reality of climate change and its impact on community livelihoods and the ecosystems on which they depend, there’s greater demand for Rotarians to exceed the photo moments. So, for now, Tree based projects can be designed to address flood mitigation, watershed management (WASH),



“

*I can personally testify to this fact – I was the President of my Interact club while in high school, and we started an environmental education movement that gained attention from the Texas Environmental Excellence Awards and beyond, and this project influenced the formation of my company.*

— **Dakota Stormer**

community enterprise nurseries and community tourism (Community Empowerment), waste management, environmental health and child nutrition (Disease Prevention), among others.

I have since learnt that as a flagbearer you need to walk the talk, with passion, consistency and devising ways of boarding many partners to create a movement of greenpreneurs as the catalysts for the change we desire. RC Kampala Central is now the regional flag bearer also impacting non-Rotarians and global citizens.

I think as Rotarians we have not done enough to devise a sustainable solution, for example see the nearby crisis around us like waste management, which has become an urban burden. After the Kitezi landfill disaster in which tens of innocent people lost lives and families became homeless, we are standing by as our waste further becomes a decentralized burden spreading over many districts and community dwellings.

In general, I wish to see Rotarians working around 4 aspects on a big scale and in a cooperative manner to deliver multiple benefits to communities while enhancing ecosystems and reducing impacts of climate change. As these are implemented, an instituted national and global accounting mechanism can be adopted to ensure Rotary efforts are recognized in mainstream accounting systems.

-  Planned tree growing for multiple benefits
-  Waste management for wealth and climate change mitigation
-  Water conservation and disease prevention
-  Make all district public campaigns and key club activities green screened (Cancer run, District Conference, Peace Concert and others)

**Most Ugandan Rotarians have planted a seedling and smiled for a photo, only for the tree to wither weeks later. Beyond the one-day event, how do we build a ‘green legacy’ that survives a single Rotary year or presidency?**

Just Stop Planting and Walking away. The stewards of the environment are the people of that community. We walk into those communities as guests, but we need to stay longer supporting them to build skills and systems for sustainability and their own resilience to climate change and other challenges. Clubs should ADOPT communities and sponsor Rotary Community Corps to ensure ownership and sustainability. There are many environment and climate change project possibilities, each project can be designed to pursue multiple community benefits, for instance:

- Adopt a community, schools, work with them to create an eco—school, conserving water, undertaking functional tree growing, improving sanitation, installing clean energy cooking by substituting cook-stoves, install solar panels, work with students to initiate green initiatives at household level, promote a village and/or interschool competition etc. The Rotary Club of Kyadondo is emerging as a trend-setter on this concept.
- At tree growing sites, plan well, plant high value species working with the people, community, local leaders and relevant technocrats. Planning can include forest tracks, educational leisure area like picnic sites, ziplining, tree swings etc.
- Youth in and out of school can be organized to participate in innovative waste management ventures, in dignity. Rotarians are among the producers of tons of waste being ferried to community sites by trucks as dump. We can be accountable not only by supporting such projects but also by improving our own practices of reducing our waste, facilitating repurposing of waste by sorting it at source, and by supporting interventions for processing waste commodities. Many affordable technologies

for waste commodity processing already exist. Clubs can also partner with industries that can buyback waste arising from their products or services as inputs for other industry needs.

**How would you encourage clubs to prioritize environmental projects, and what specific metrics or ‘leadership decisions’ would you implement to ensure impact?**

At Kampala Central, in liaison with Mission Green, there is a time we could host design workshops for clubs to develop and implement affordable but scalable green ventures that can be consolidated and delivered on a scale in partnership with private sector and non-governmental organizations.

Even with the existing hundreds of trees planted and emerging tree growing initiatives, more focus is needed to develop intervention models that will significantly enhance the environmental goods and services and reduce pollution. Recently, a Research by IQAir indicated that Kampala city is among the most polluted cities in Africa, this cannot make us proud.

Rotarians should participate in re-purposing waste by adopting responsible consumption practices, reducing waste and sorting waste at source. We can reduce the waste burden in Uganda with such a simple action look at our numbers, we are almost 9000 in our district alone. There is a good number in each of the local governments, can u imagine the impact we would have on this country if we went in for waste management projects.

We could also support young people with innovations in waste management including commercialization of some waste commodities. You know “waste is wealth depending on how you handle it”.

Finally, If I was asked to take a leadership decision of the focus area for environmental sustainability I would make mainstreaming environment as a minimum standard for clubs, institute a green achievers award, and a slacker’s award. Rotary and Rotary club portfolios can no longer be impactful without a strong environmental ingredient.

# Future Impact Report: Environmental Initiative in Kamwokya



By Rtn Ann Musanbera

Kamwokya, a densely populated community in Kampala, faces ongoing environmental challenges driven by rapid urban growth and limited waste management systems. In response, the Rotary Club of Acacia Sunset Kampala, in partnership with Harris International, implemented an initiative to improve waste management and promote environmental awareness by donating recycling bins to selected schools and a health facility.

Recycling bins were donated to KCC Kamwokya Primary School, Sr. Miriam Duggan Primary School, Good Samaritan Primary School, and

Kamwokya Caring Health Center. The project aimed not only to provide waste disposal infrastructure but also to promote responsible environmental practices, particularly among children.

The availability of recycling bins is expected to improve waste handling within the beneficiary institutions by an estimated 40%–60%. This will significantly reduce littering and improve cleanliness within school compounds and surrounding areas.

It is estimated that over 2,000–3,000 children will directly benefit from this initiative. Studies show that children can influence up to 3–5 people at home, meaning this project could indirectly impact over 6,000–10,000 community members through behavior change.

Improved waste management and cleanliness could reduce sanitation-related illnesses such as cholera and typhoid by approximately 20%–30% in the surrounding community. Cleaner environments will also reduce mosquito breeding areas, potentially lowering malaria risks.

With proper waste disposal systems in place, plastic waste entering drainage channels could be reduced by up to

50% in targeted areas. This will help minimize flooding risks and improve overall environmental quality.

The visibility of this initiative is expected to increase environmental awareness among at least 60% of households connected to the beneficiary institutions, encouraging better waste management practices across the community.

This initiative provides a strong foundation for future programs such as school environmental clubs, recycling education, and community clean-up campaigns, with potential to expand and reach an even larger population over time.

The initiative by the Rotary Club of Acacia Sunset Kampala and Harris International is expected to have a measurable and lasting positive impact on Kamwokya. By combining infrastructure support with environmental education, the project promotes sustainable change, improved public health, and a cleaner, more responsible community.

*The Writer is the Club President of the Rotary Club of Acacia Sunset.*



# Dignity Restored: How a New Washroom Project is Keeping Nansana's Girls in School



By Rtn Florence Apio

In many schools across Uganda, access to safe and private sanitation remains a silent barrier to education especially for girls. At Nansana Church of Uganda Primary School, this challenge was once a daily reality. What has since unfolded is a powerful story

of dignity restored, and the impact of meaningful partnerships led by Rotary Club of Nansana Metro.

For years, the sanitation facilities at the school were not only inadequate but deeply limiting, especially for the girl child. The existing washroom was too small to serve the growing student population, offering little privacy and even less comfort.

As a result, many girls were forced into an unimaginable routine; waiting for nightfall or waking up at dawn to bathe. This was often the only time they could find a sense of privacy and avoid embarrassment. For young girls navigating adolescence, this situation was not just inconvenient; it was undignified and, at times, unsafe.

The lack of proper facilities also made menstrual hygiene management extremely difficult. Without a secure and clean space,

many girls missed school during their periods, gradually falling behind and losing confidence.

## Leadership That Sparked Change

The turning point came when Rotary Club of Nansana Metro took the lead in addressing this pressing need. To restore their confidence in self, and improve the learning conditions, the club mobilized resources to change the situation. This intervention was not just a quick fix; it was a sustainable solution tailored to the needs of the girls.

Girls no longer must wait for darkness to attend to their hygiene needs. They now have access to a clean, private, and safe facility throughout the day. Attendance has improved significantly, particularly during menstrual periods. Teachers report that girls are now more engaged in class, more participative,



“DG Geoffrey Kitakule officially commissioning the newly constructed shower rooms at the school.”



shower  
area



Above: The area before the bathroom was constructed. Below: After completion.

and more comfortable in the school environment.

In addition, improved sanitation has contributed to better health outcomes, reducing the risk of infections and promoting proper hygiene practices.

### Strength in Partnerships

To enhance the project's impact, Rotary Club of Nansana Metro partnered with Rotary E-Club of District 5190 in Northern California. A partnership that was birthed at the

RI Convention in Calgary, Canada in June 2026. This collaboration brought in financial support, technical expertise, and a global perspective.

To further fund the project, the club adopted an innovative approach that was the hiking fundraiser. The hike brought participants together from other Rotary clubs and the community led by the District Governor, Geoffrey Martin Kitakule for a common cause. Participants walked not just to raise money, but to stand in solidarity with the girls whose lives

were being transformed. Together, the partnership ensured that the facility met quality standards and will serve the girls for years to come.

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*Girls no longer must wait for darkness to attend to their hygiene needs. They now have access to a clean, private, and safe facility throughout the day. Attendance has improved significantly, particularly during menstrual periods. Teachers report that girls are now more engaged in class, more participative, and more comfortable in the school environment.*

### A Lasting Impact

Today, the washroom stands as more than just a structure—it is a symbol of dignity, care, and opportunity. Girls at Nansana Church of Uganda Primary School can now pursue their education without the burden of inadequate sanitation. They are healthier, more confident, and better positioned to succeed.

The success of this project is a reminder that meaningful change is possible when leadership, community, and partnerships come together. It sets a powerful example for other schools facing similar challenges.

By addressing a basic yet critical need, Rotary Club of Nansana Metro and its partners have done more than build a washroom—they have restored dignity and unlocked potential for a generation of girls.

**The Writer is the President of the Rotary Club of Nansana Metro.**

# Do Not Ignore Worsening Difficulty in Swallowing because it could be Esophageal Cancer



**Dr Andrew Kwiringira.**

James, a 52-year-old farmer from eastern Uganda started experiencing difficulty swallowing solid foods like posho and meat. Gradually, even softer foods became hard to swallow. He found himself taking longer to eat, drinking more water to push food down, and occasionally feeling like food was “stuck” in his chest. He began to lose weight without trying. His voice became hoarse, and he developed a dry cough that would not go away. After months of being treated for other conditions such as ulcers and throat infections at lower-level health facilities, he finally visited a regional referral hospital, where he was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. The esophagus is the tube that carries food from your mouth to your stomach.

Globally, esophageal cancer is among the leading causes of cancer-related deaths, with over 500,000 new cases and nearly as many deaths reported each year, reflecting its aggressive nature and poor survival rates. The esophageal cancer often begins with progressive difficulty in swallowing, starting with solid foods, then semi-solids, and eventually even liquids.

As it advances, patients may develop pain when swallowing, weight loss, chest discomfort, persistent cough, or hoarseness. In late stages, vomiting, sometimes with blood, may occur.

This cancer develops over time due to a combination of lifestyle, environmental, and health-related factors. Common habits such as smoking and alcohol consumption are well-known risks. However, in our local context, even everyday practices like drinking very hot tea or eating very hot food can damage the lining of the esophagus and increase the risk of cancer. Living conditions also play an important role. Many households rely on firewood or charcoal for cooking, often in poorly ventilated spaces. Continuous exposure to smoke can increase the risk of esophageal cancer. Many of these risks are preventable, making community awareness and behavior change critical.

Diagnosis is made in health facilities through clinical evaluation and specialized tests. One key procedure is endoscopy, where a thin camera is passed through the mouth into the esophagus to directly visualize abnormalities and take tissue samples for testing. While there is no routine screening for the general population, individuals with persistent symptoms should seek evaluation as early as possible. Treatment depends on the stage at diagnosis. Early disease can sometimes be treated with less invasive procedures, while advanced cases often require chemotherapy, radiotherapy, or surgery, which can be complex and costly.

Rotary clubs have a vital role to play in changing stories like James'. Through community outreach, health education, and advocacy, Rotarians can help communities recognize early



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***Globally, esophageal cancer is among the leading causes of cancer-related deaths, with over 500,000 new cases and nearly as many deaths reported each year, reflecting its aggressive nature and poor survival rates.***

warning signs, reduce exposure to risk factors, and seek care sooner. Beyond awareness, Rotary clubs can strengthen referral systems, support outreach services in hard-to-reach areas, and advocate for improved cancer diagnostic and treatment services. They can also provide support to affected patients and families.

***The message is clear: difficulty in swallowing that gets worse over time is not normal. When combined with weight loss, chest discomfort, or persistent cough, it should prompt immediate medical attention.***



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# The Spirit of Rotaract: What it means to be a Rotaractor



**By Rotaractor Rogius Ayebare**

To be a Rotaractor isn't just joining a global foundation dedicated to service, leadership, and constant meetings (Fellowships) under the umbrella of Rotary International, but rather joining one of the largest humanitarian foundations with over 144 clubs in just our District 9213, and

1.2 million members in thousands of clubs globally, who work together to tackle pressing community challenges.

Rotaractors are a network of young leaders who take action through service, leadership development, and professional growth, that is to say, empowered young people who create meaningful change in their communities while developing the skills necessary to lead in their careers and societies. As a member of the Rotaract Club of Kyanja, I have personally witnessed the far-reaching impact of this global network. Through the work supported by The Rotary Foundation, our initiatives have left visible footprints in communities around the world. From hospitals and schools to community projects, disease prevention

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*Rotaractors are the heartbeat of Rotary; dynamic, innovative, and driven. In truth, it brings together some of the most enthusiastic and free-spirited young professionals you will ever meet. But beneath the laughter, fellowship, and vibrant social activities lies a powerful platform for personal growth.*



The writer with other rotaractors visiting another club event

initiatives, and youth empowerment programs, the presence of Rotaract is felt in countless ways. Even something as simple as a roadside signpost can quietly testify to a service project that changed lives; medical camps, donations to schools, and construction of classroom blocks, to mention a few.

Beyond the projects and achievements, Rotaract is fundamentally about people. Each member joins for their own unique reasons. For some, the motivation lies in a strong desire to serve their communities; for others, it presents an opportunity for professional and intellectual growth, as well as economic development. Furthermore, many are drawn to the chance to mould meaningful and lasting connections. Personally, my reasons for joining were quite straightforward. As someone who had previously identified as semi-social, I felt a passionate drive to contribute to my community in Kyanja. This led me to join the Rotaract Club of Kyanja, which opened doors to lasting relationships and stimulating community engagement. Being surrounded by such dynamic individuals serves as a daily reminder that life's possibilities are not confined to our immediate surroundings. When we step outside our comfort zones, we discover a world rich with opportunities waiting to be explored.

Additionally, each year, Rotaractors around the world are celebrated during the World Rotaract Week, which occurs in March, a time dedicated to the meaning of Rotaract and the role it plays in shaping communities and empowering young leaders. As we mark this special week, it is worth remembering the vision that Paul Harris had more than a century ago; a vision of people coming together across professions,



***The foundation began with Paul Harris in 1905, who believed that professionals from diverse backgrounds could create meaningful friendships while serving their communities. As Rotary International evolved from meetings to humanitarian efforts, its members have continuously addressed complex global issues such as Polio, Cancer, HIV/Aids, Malaria among others.***

cultures, and backgrounds to serve humanity.

Rotaractors are the heartbeat of Rotary; dynamic, innovative, and driven. In truth, it brings together some of the most enthusiastic and free-spirited young professionals you will ever meet. But beneath the laughter, fellowship, and vibrant social activities lies a powerful platform for personal growth. Through Rotaract, members gain leadership experience, build professional networks, and develop skills that extend far beyond club meetings.

The impact of Rotaract on individuals is profound. Friendships are formed, careers are nurtured, businesses find partners, and lifelong connections are built. Some members meet their future spouses through Rotaract, while others discover mentors who help shape their professional journeys. In many ways, Rotaract becomes more than

a club; it becomes a community. So, what does it truly mean to be a Rotaractor? For me, it means being part of something bigger than myself. It means serving others, building lasting friendships, and contributing to solutions that make our communities better places to live. It is about growth, impact, and belonging to a global family of young individuals committed to positive change.

Perhaps the real question is not just what it means to be a Rotaractor, but what Rotaract can mean for you. For many, it becomes the first step toward discovering purpose, building a network, growing a career, and making a lasting impact on the world.

The foundation began with Paul Harris in 1905, who believed that professionals from diverse backgrounds could create meaningful friendships while serving their communities. As Rotary International evolved from meetings to humanitarian efforts, its members have continuously addressed complex global issues such as Polio, Cancer, HIV/Aids, Malaria among others. Harris aptly noted, *“Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves.”* Rotary's work is guided by seven (7) areas of focus, which shape the foundation's global impact. These include promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene, improving maternal and child health, supporting education, growing local economies, and protecting the environment. These areas reflect Rotary's belief that lasting change comes from addressing the root causes of societal challenges.

The writer is a **Rotaractor for Rac Kyanja**

# We Should Pay Attention to Rotaract–Rotary transition numbers



**By Rtn Immy Nakyeeyune**

In March, we paused to celebrate World Rotaract Week; a tribute to the global force of young leaders aged 18 and above who are redefining community service and professional growth. For many of us, this wasn't just a membership; it was a masterclass in leadership. Having spent over a decade in Rotaract before my own transition into Rotary, I can attest that the "Rotaract way" builds the very foundation of the lifelong networks we cherish today.

During the week, I had the privilege of speaking at the Rotaract–Rotary

transition forum, a well-curated initiative led by the District Rotaract transition lead, PDRR Emmanuel Lukeera and his team. The forum is one of the intentional parameters created by District Governor Geoffrey Kitakule, to encourage and inspire Rotaractors to transition into Rotary. On the panel, I shared my journey of starting the Rotary club of Uptown Kampala, as a former Rotaractor and challenged Rotaractors to embrace the opportunity of founding the Rotary clubs they would aspire to transition into.

Reflecting on my Rotaract journey, I was reminded of how the space shaped my mindset and sense of purpose. It gave me meaningful friendships that have stood the test of time and introduced me to Rotarians who inspired me both directly and indirectly, to grow into the person I am today. I can confirm that Rotaract is a foundation for leadership, service and personal transformation.

However, these reflections also brought to light a critical concern: the low number of Rotaractors

transitioning into Rotary. This raises important questions. Why do some Rotaractors disengage at the point of transition? Is it a lack of awareness, limited exposure to the opportunities within Rotary, or perhaps an incomplete experience of the full value Rotaract offers? If Rotaract is truly achieving its goals - developing leadership and professional skills, promoting high ethical standards and fostering service, then transition should be a natural next step.

The final goal of Rotaract is clear: **to motivate young people toward eventual membership in Rotary.** It is designed to create a strong pipeline of future Rotary leaders who continue to live out the principle of *Service Above Self*. When this transition does not happen, it should concern all of us within Rotary.

As Rotarians, we must reflect and act. What can we do differently? How can we better support Rotaractors to see Rotary not as an end, but as a continuation of their journey?

**The writer is the Charter President, Rotary Club of Uptown Kampala**



**DG Geoffrey Martin Kitakule**  
addressing the conference



**The Panelists During World Rotaract Week 2026**



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# Scaling Impact and facilitating Transformative Change

*“When something bad happens, you have three choices. You can let it define you, let it destroy you or you can let it strengthen you” -- @EzuietQuotes*



## Club Learning Facilitator Essentials (RECAP)

Rotary’s Learning Center is a central location to find information and gain knowledge about Rotary. It’s your source for learning, whether you’re a new member seeking to explore all that Rotary offers, a club or district leader completing essential courses for your role, or a participant seeking to enhance your leadership skills. The courses and learning plans in the Learning Center also provide the most up-to-date information about current Rotary policies and practices.

The Learning Center is customised for you according to your membership status, your language, and your role in Rotary. You get to it by signing in to My Rotary. If you know non-members or prospective members who want to take courses, tell them that they don’t have to be members to create a My Rotary account and use the Learning Center.

This is what you’ll see if you’re a Rotary or Rotaract member or the executive secretary of a Rotary club or district.

## Courses and learning plans

On the Learning Center homepage, courses are categorised by topic and language for easy navigation. To browse through a course catalogue, select the View button for that topic.

As an example, here is the club leadership catalogue. Each catalogue includes learning plans as well as individual courses.

Each course includes an estimate of how long it will take to complete. Typically, a course takes about 15 minutes. Click or tap a course to see its details.

Learning plans are groups of courses that are related to a role or topic. Many of them can be found under Club Leadership and District Leadership. The image will have a “Learning Plan” label and the estimated time to complete it.

## Finding courses and learning plans

You can find a course or learning plan in several ways:

- Browse by topic
- Browse by language
- Use filters or categories
- Search by title or keyword

## Categories

Use the **CATEGORIES** list to choose a topic or subtopic.

When you’ve chosen a course or a learning plan, select the **ENROLL** button to get started

## Taking a course

When you take a course, we recommend first looking at the course materials in the order they’re listed in. You can come back to any

lessons or materials you want to revisit later, even after you finish the course.

When you’ve completed an interactive module, select the **X** at the upper right (or **NEXT** on mobile). This will ensure that the interactive module is considered complete in our system.

When all of the materials in the course have blue check marks, you’ll see a **DOWNLOAD CERTIFICATE** button. Use it to print or view a certificate of completion. You can also download the certificates you’ve earned from the **My Activities** page under **Courses**.

*If you complete a course, but see one or more items marked not completed when you return to it, that means we’ve updated those materials. We’ll note that the materials have been updated in the course description and the course catalogue.*

What’s next?

Now that you’ve gotten started with the Learning Center, we encourage you to discover more about it.

- Review all the course offerings and decide which you want to complete.
- Work through each menu to explore the different areas of the Learning Center.
- Follow us on social media or subscribe to our newsletter to get all the updates.
- Tell us what you think about a course by using the evaluation or writing to us at [learn@rotary.org](mailto:learn@rotary.org)



**Think positive, work hard, make it happen.**

-- @EzuietQuotes

**Increasing Your Impact (Facilitating Transformative Change,):**

*“There is power of numbers in making a positive change”*

**Scaling up of innovation:**

Growing a solution to be as large as the problem, doing it in a way that lasts. Creating a scaling mindset so to speak.

**Scaling line of language:**

- Systems change
- Transformation.
- Sustainable scaling.
- Impact.
- Equity.
- Adaptation.

**Scaling mindset:**

Once something sticks in your head, it’s difficult to think differently. Any solution must match the scale of the problem whether national, global or even local. Big problems tend to require big solutions. Very few socially oriented interactions scale spontaneously and no size fits all. Very few projects are analysed for scalability or managed to maximise the likelihood of successful scaling.

In the last 20 years or so the number of official projects, whether government funded or otherwise have doubled. Likewise, the number of donors too have doubled. During that same period however the average size of the projects has halved and similarly the average duration has also halved. The upshot, is that more and more, smaller and smaller, shorter and shorter projects have emerged all chasing the same impact. (Cooley et al 2025)

Presently only about 5% of the number of projects reach scale (an

average time of 15 years). 19 out of 20 projects don’t scale at all. Thinking about scaling project after different project is not the way to go about it. There was a world before and one after the project. The intervention therefore should be about changing things. Scaling involves using a project, something to bring about permanent change innovations. (Cooley et al 2025)

Scaling involves a change from the “arithmetic” to the “exponential”, creating an ‘S’ curve (“hockey stick curve”). The thinking here is that is there anything that can be done to move from ‘slow’ to ‘fast’.

*“A bad system will defeat good innovations every time”*

An effort should be made to strive to use the project to change the ‘system’ as it were in terms of policy, incentives and capacities to mention but a few. In essence the only real way to make a permanent change is to change the system itself. In this regard the targets should then be governments and markets that have this ability to effect permanent, sustainable change by virtue of the infrastructure, incentives and budgets available to them for large numbers of people.

A 3-step procedure for Planning, Management with scaling in mind:

- Developing a scaling up plan
- Establishing preconditions for scaling from governments, networks, NGO and the private sector with assured commitment.
- Implementing the scaling up process.

Three implications:

- Choosing the most realistic scaling pathway:

Getting from small to large. Pathways can be distinguished by the degree in which the organisation that developed the technology or managed the initial intervention—the Originating Organisation continues to control implementation as the intervention

goes to scale:

- **Expansion:** The Originating Organisation retains control of implementation.
- **Replication:** The Originating Organisation transfers control of implementation to another organisation. Selling intellectual properties in the private sector. Public sector people meanwhile hope for governmental interventions.
- **Collaboration:** The Originating Organisation shares control with another organization. These 3 broad strategies are different in how planning, implementation and managing the programme of scale is affected.

Rotary clubs in themselves have the added advantage of “field building”

- Feasibility, identifying and assessing challenges to scalability (4 puzzle pieces):
- Characteristics of the interventions.
- Characteristics of the context.
- Characteristics of the organisation doing the scaling.
- Enabling conditions: policy, financial and political environment.



**If you can’t fly then run, if you can’t walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward.**

—Martin Luther King Jnr

**Seven enabling dimensions:**

- Planning robustness of scaling structures.
- Credibility, hard evidence of credible supportiveness.
- Support, intensity of personal needs, policy priority.

- Competitive advantage and demonstrable implementation over existing practices and alternatives..
- Ease of adoption, simplicity and transferability.
- Organisational ability, human and financial resources, systems and incentives.
- Financial sustainability and sustainable funding sources.



***Don't cry over the past, it's gone. Don't stress about the future, it hasn't arrived. Live in the present and make it beautiful***

--@EzuietQuotes

- Beginning advocacy and transfer of ownership early:
- Nobody likes scaling someone else's idea.
- The chances of taking an

innovation to scale are substantially increased by early engagement of key decision makers and future implementers.

- Start advocacy from the beginning; create multi-stakeholder teams.
- Create an advisory board or some sort of mechanism to develop buy in from key decision makers/ adopters.
- Create partnerships or collaborative mechanisms with potential alternative competing models.
- Address ownership of the scaling up process: who's model is it under?, funding, manager implementation, adoption and intermediacy.
- Who will make decisions about whether and how to scale up?
- Always remember some things shouldn't simply be scaled up.

**Summary:**

1. What's being scaled?
2. Who is the 'doer' of scale?

3. Who is the funder of scale? Government? NGO's etc.
4. What's the pathway of scale? Collaboration? Replication? Or otherwise.
5. Is there something that could cause the rate of change to go from incremental to exponential?
6. Who is responsible for scaling? What's the role of Rotary and other actors? How do we all fit in?

***"Fall in love with the problem before you embrace the solution"***

**Resources:**

**MSI Scaling Framework and Toolkit:**  
[www.msiworldwideandourinput/scalingdevelopmentactions](http://www.msiworldwideandourinput/scalingdevelopmentactions)

**Peter ISABIRYE is a member of the District Rotary Foundation Committee (DRFC) and a member of the cadre of technical advisors of the Rotary Foundation in 3 areas of focus.**



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# Preparing the Way: Presidents & Secretaries Power Up for RY 2026–2027



By Rtn Dianah Kagere

Rotary District 9213 leadership concluded a powerful and high-energy series of Presidents-Elect and Secretary Elects Learning Seminars (PELS and SELs) across Central, Eastern, and Northern Uganda, setting the stage for a defining and impactful 2026–2027 Rotary year.

Under the leadership of District Governor Elect Gerald Obai, the message was clear, consistent,

and compelling: this is a season of **“Creating Lasting Impact.”** Not business as usual but a deliberate shift toward legacy, sustainability and results that will be felt long after the year ends.

Across all regions, incoming club leaders were equipped, challenged, and energized to move beyond routine service and focus on impact. The district unveiled six key priorities to drive this vision:

- Building strong and vibrant membership,
- Strengthening support for The Rotary Foundation,
- Delivering diverse and impactful service projects,
- Amplifying Rotary’s visibility through Branding including regional newsletters
- Expanding partnership portfolios, and
- Strengthening access and cohesion across the district.

Membership took center stage calling

not just growth in numbers, but intentional, purposeful growth. Leaders were urged to build clubs that people are proud to belong to, because a strong, engaged membership is the engine that drives everything else.

The district also unveiled targets:

- \$1 million in Rotary Foundation giving,
- \$5 million in Global Grants, and
- 85%+ clubs actively implementing projects
- More joint projects, more partnerships, more impact

Public Image was also noted as a critical driver of growth. Clubs were urged to step up their storytelling, embrace consistent branding, and own their Rotary Impact. Visibility is no longer optional but a growth strategy for clubs to showcase their impact.

Rotaract integration sparked some of the most candid and forward-thinking conversations. The call was simple but powerful: move beyond symbolic inclusion. Rotaractors must be part of planning, decision-making, and leadership development. The future of Rotary, it was noted, must be built together.

Leadership conversations throughout PELS emphasized agility, authenticity, and consistency. Experienced voices reminded incoming leaders that effective leadership is not about complexity, but practical, people-centered leadership that inspires trust and drives results.

When it came to Grants training, the Eastern Region’s impressive Rotary Foundation utilization stood out as a shining example demonstrating impressive utilization of TRF. As the curtains close on the year 2025/2026, one thing is Certain: 2026/2027 must go beyond moments and deliver impact that lasts.

The tone has been set. The bar has been raised. Now, work begins.



Incoming District Governor Gerald Obai and District Secretary Emily Mbabazi share a smile of readiness as they prepare to lead the 2026/2027 Rotary year.”

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# Building One Rotary in Uganda: AGM Pushes for Unity, Structure and Scalable Impact



By Rtn Dianah Mugerwa

The Rotary Clubs of Uganda Limited convened their Annual General Meeting for RY 2025/2026 at Silver Springs Hotel, Bugolobi, bringing together leaders from across the districts; D9213 and D9214 to take stock of progress and chart the way forward.

Chaired by Board Chairperson DGN Fabian Kasi, the meeting featured presentations of annual reports, consolidated financial statements, and updates on key Rotary Clubs of Uganda programs. Members also elected Company Subscribers and new Board members, reinforcing the organization's governance structure.

The AGM made significant governance decisions, passing three key resolutions aimed at strengthening the organization's structure and compliance.

- Members approved the change of name from Rotary Uganda Limited to Rotary Clubs of Uganda, in line with guidance from Rotary International.
- The meeting further resolved to shift Company Subscribers from Rotary Clubs to individuals, a move

intended to ease compliance under the Companies Registration Act.

- Members agreed to reduce and reconstitute the Board of Directors to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in governance.

The AGM confirmed the following as Company Subscribers: RIDE Emmanuel Katongole, PDG Steven Mwanje, PDG Kenneth Mugisha, PDG Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga, PAG Rosemary Byanyima, and PAG Jones Kyazze.

A 15-member Board of Directors was also approved, comprising nine board members and six ex-officials, and will be Chaired by PDG Robert Waggwa Nsibirwa.

A key highlight of the meeting was an update from District Governor Geoffrey Kitakule on the ongoing registration process of Rotary Clubs of Uganda Limited. He noted that non-compliance by some clubs has slowed progress, particularly in operationalizing structures critical for resource mobilization.

***“Our most important mission is resource mobilization. Corporate entities want to deal with one entity, Rotary Clubs of Uganda which then cascades to the 147 clubs in the district. The current structure is nonfunctional because when one subscriber is non-compliant, it affects everyone else. We therefore need to be restructured for functionality,”*** he said.

The proposed structure is also timely, coming as discussions continue around the possible redistricting of District 9213 into two districts under consideration by Rotary International.

***“Districts change. We came from D9211, now D9213 and D9214. Plans are underway to redistrict 9213. Rotary Clubs of Uganda Limited therefore becomes the umbrella***

***organization that will stay in perpetuity and coordinate all clubs in Uganda while efficiently engaging sponsors and corporate partners,”*** DG Kitakule added.

The AGM also received a presentation on the organization's Strategic Plan for 2026–2030 from PDG Anne Nkutu. She emphasized that the plan aligns with Rotary International priorities, particularly increasing impact and strengthening the ability to adapt.

***“This concept is unique to Rotary, but it reflects how we are adapting to our context in Uganda with the aim of increasing impact. We also noted weak visibility beyond clubs due to the scale of projects and poor documentation. The Strategic Plan will help position Rotary as a credible partner for corporates in Uganda and enable us to enjoy shared benefits,”*** she explained.

The Strategic Plan is anchored on four key goals:

- Strengthening governance and institutional effectiveness
- Enhancing financial sustainability and resource mobilization
- Strengthening coordination, engagement, and value to Rotary clubs
- Strengthening partnerships, visibility, and positioning

PDG Nkutu further highlighted structural challenges that have previously limited Rotary's ability to fully meet corporate expectations.

***“We realized that our annual leadership turnover does not work well in managing corporate expectations because it affects continuity. In addition, our monitoring and evaluation systems are not as strong as they should be, which***

**affects our ability to demonstrate reach and impact. With these strategies, we believe we will be able to clearly demonstrate our impact,”** she added.

The meeting also showcased progress across key Rotary clubs of Uganda programs:


1. Rotary Cancer Program Uganda Limited reported net collections of UGX 3.77 billion from RY2024/2025 Cancer run and shared plans to commence construction of the bunkers, while noting gaps in project management.
2. Family Health Days recorded strong participation, with 66 Rotary and Rotaract clubs conducting activities: 19 joint health camps reaching 47,287 individuals and 1,687 guests, and collection of 1,520 units of blood.
3. Rotaract Earth Initiative reported planting 1,500 trees, distributing 2,500 seedlings, and scattering 255 kilograms of assorted seeds across Elgon communities, alongside a health camp benefiting 100 people at Anderson Medical Centre.
4. Rotary Maama Toto Care Uganda is in the final stages of registration and is set to roll out activities through a cluster-based model.
5. Rotary Malaria Carnival highlighted cumulative collections of UGX 1.869 billion in cash and in-kind contributions, strengthening domestic financing for malaria elimination efforts.

Throughout the AGM one thing was clear: Rotary in Uganda is moving toward a more structured, unified, and impact-driven future, one that speaks the language of accountability, scale and partnership.

**The writer is the incoming District PI Chair 2026/2027**



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