



THE WAVE

ISSUE 09 | FEBRUARY 2026

When RI President Francesco Visited Uganda



RUN FOR THE NILE 2026

TO PROTECT LAKE VICTORIA

5km 10km 21km

28TH MARCH 2026 JINJA RUGBY GROUNDS

Rotary Club of Jinja
In partnership with the Rotary Club of Kampala central, Jinja City, Jinja Metro, Kyadondo, Njeru & Source of the Nile.



SCAN QR CODE FOR PAYMENT.

Proceeds go to protecting the lake from plastic pollution, planting trees and establishing tree nurseries around Uganda.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL THE MOBILIZATION TEAM: 0773879139/ 0752879139



Contents

EDITORIAL MESSAGE	Three Women. One Classroom. A Thousand New Beginnings. 18	OTHER STORIES
Beyond the Heavy Jerrycan 4		Sowing Seeds of Peace 34
LEADERSHIP MESSAGES	President Museveni Donates Ugx 3 Billion to Rotary's Annual Cancer Causes 20	Peacebuilding Beyond February: A Call to Action for Rotary District 9213 36
RI President: The Reach of Community Action 7		Breaking Chains: The Imperative of Free Flow of Information 38
District Governor: Bringing Clean Water to Communities 9	Global Grant Management Re-Configured 22	
LEAD STORY	WOMEN IN ROTARY	
Rotary Eyamba: President Francesco Arezzo's Two Days Celebrating Uganda's Service, Unity and Leadership" 10	"Breaking the Glass Gear: Women Shaping the Future of Rotary" 26	
OUR STORIES	Young Lady, please stay authentic; says Rtn Grace Amono from RC Gulu 28	
Water as a Pathway to Peace 14	From market stalls to financial strength, learning with women market vendors in Ntinda and Kalisizo 32	
Water: The Key to Health, Dignity, and Sustainable Development 17		



The Editor's Note

Beyond the Heavy Jerrycan



Editorial Team



Helen Nanteza Kawesa
RC Kampala Ssesse Islands



Amayo Roseline
RC Kirinya-Bukasa



Esther Mwambu
RC Kampala South



Peter Nyanzi
RC Kampala-Naalya



Innocent Ndawula
RC Kampala South



Robert Walakira
RC Kasubi

For many of us, the sound of a plastic jerrycan hitting the ground is the soundtrack of our childhood. We remember those long, winding walks to the stream. In the innocence of youth, we might have even enjoyed it; those miles were our social media, the primary space for catching up with friends and sharing village gossip.

But nostalgia has a way of shadowing hardship. Looking back, fetching water was a gruelling, daily chore that stole time from education and strained the physical body. There is even a persistent urban legend; perhaps you've heard it, that many of us are a few inches shorter today because of the heavy loads we balanced on our heads as children. While that legend talk isn't scientifically proved at all, the sentiment remains: no child should have to carry that weight of water, on a daily. It is a stark reminder that water is not a luxury; it is a fundamental pillar of dignity. Thank you, Rotary clubs that have extended this essential item to the communities. You must be the kids hero's because for every drop that flows off the taps, or any borehole pump, it is magic to many a soul.

This month, The Wave celebrates a monumental milestone as we welcome the Rotary International President to our country as Uganda, and our district as Rotary. This visit is more than just a high-profile event; it is a validation of the tireless work being done on the ground in our

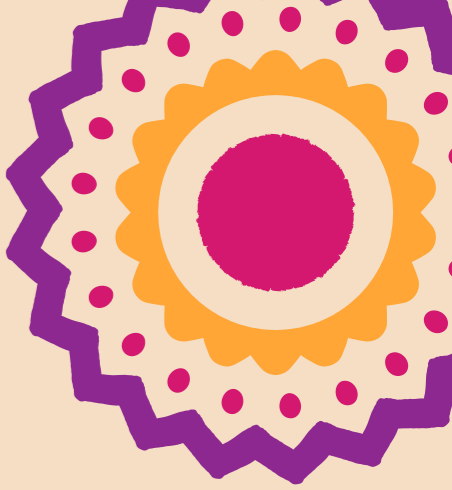
communities. It is someone saying, "hello Uganda, Rotary International knows you very well, and sees what you do, and how amazing you do it." who in the world doesn't like such a tap on their back?

As we cheer on this global leadership, we dive deep into the heart of the WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) initiative. In these pages, you will find: Water as a pathway to Peace: How shared resources can turn conflict into cooperation, water as a Key to Health and Dignity: Real-life stories of how proximity to clean water transforms the lives of girls and women, and so many other projects.

Before we sign out, we remember that March is globally recognized as Women's Month, and we are using this platform to Honor the "Elders in Rotary." We sat down with the trailblazing women who paved the way, and we asked them a critical question: What does female leadership look like in 2026? Their insights on resilience, empathy, and power provide a roadmap for the next generation of leaders.

Every drop counts, and every story in this issue matters. We invite you to walk with us through these pages, reflect on how far we have come, and join us in the mission to ensure that the "long walk for water" becomes a story of the past because Rotary Eyamba

Rtn. Sheila Naturinda, Rotary Club of Kampala Central



RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: ▶



The Reach of Community Action

Water connects us all. From a river in a remote forest to a stream running past a city neighbourhood, freshwater ecosystems sustain humanity. Yet these waters are increasingly under strain. Pollution, overuse, and climate pressures remind us that protecting freshwater is a global challenge.

Rotary has always believed change begins within communities. Now we are working to see how far the impact of community action can travel. When local service is connected, measured, and shared, it becomes a force that extends beyond geography and borders.

A water project led by the Rotary Club of Panamá Nordeste exemplifies this idea. The project served Indigenous communities in Panama's Darién province, a region accessible only by canoe and small boat. With no roads, limited electricity, and reliance on untreated river water, families faced serious health risks.

To reach these communities, Rotarians had to rethink how supplies and services could be delivered. Working with a partner club in the United States and a specialized water organization, they introduced solar-powered water treatment systems for an area without access to an electrical grid. Local leaders were trained to operate and maintain the system, ensuring

that clean water would continue flowing long after installation crews departed.

The results were immediate. Children who once missed school due to illness returned to classrooms. No longer needing to haul water from rivers, adults gained time and strength to work and support their families. What began as a water project became a foundation for healthier, more resilient communities.

This is how we extend our reach: combine local leadership with global partnerships, technical expertise, and long-term thinking.

That same spirit is at the heart of Rotary's partnership with the United Nations Environment Programme through the Community Action for Fresh Water initiative. Around the world, Rotary and Rotaract clubs are restoring waterways, protecting wetlands, and safeguarding vital freshwater sources. By collecting data to map and measure this work,

we can better understand its impact and show how local service contributes to worldwide solutions.

Data is not an end. It is a tool that helps us learn and improve so that Rotary's service delivers real, measurable change. Each project entered and each waterway restored adds to a shared story of stewardship and responsibility. You can learn more and get involved at communityactionforfreshwater.org.

As we observe Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month, I encourage you to reflect on the freshwater systems that sustain your community and the role Rotary can play in protecting them.

When we connect local action to a global vision, we strengthen Rotary's ability to make lasting change. Together, by extending our reach and working side by side, *we truly Unite for Good.*

FRANCESCO AREZZO
President, Rotary International



DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE:

Bringing Clean Water to Communities

Rotarians are transforming lives by ensuring that people; especially children and women, have safe water to drink, clean sanitation facilities, and the knowledge to practice good hygiene. These improvements lead to: Better health and fewer waterborne illnesses; Higher school attendance and learning outcomes; Reduced burden on women and girls who previously walked long distances for water; Empowered communities with skills to manage and maintain WASH services

Rotary clubs like Yumbe have drilled boreholes that have transformed the communities, and others have installed piped water systems in underserved towns and villages, providing **reliable access to safe, clean water** for the first time. For example, a project by the **Rotary Club of Kampala North** delivered a solar-powered piped water system in **Busunju**, transforming daily life by reducing waterborne illnesses and the time people spend collecting water.

Access to clean water and safe sanitation directly affects children's health, school attendance, and dignity, especially for girls. Rotary initiatives have: Built water catchment and storage systems in rural areas such as **Agago District**, ensuring communities like Akwang village can collect and use rainwater. Rotary has also constructed latrines and handwashing facilities in multiple schools just like the Rotary Club of Wakiso has done

in 2 schools this year. The Rotary Club of Nansana Metro provided WASH facilities to girls. Rotary Club of Kisasi-Kyanja has delivered. Hygiene education and menstrual hygiene support to pupils. Together with EACOP under Greening Schools' initiatives we are improving WASH facilities in over nine schools. These projects help reduce disease, keep children healthy, and encourage regular school attendance.

Providing infrastructure is only one part of the solution, Rotarians also focus on **education and behavior change**. Training sessions, such as those conducted at **Kabule Health Center III**, equip community health teams, educators, and local leaders with essential hygiene practices and sanitation maintenance skills.

Many WASH impacts are delivered through **Global Grants** that bring together Rotary clubs in Uganda with international partners. An example is the

"Bugiri WASH for Schools" Phase II project, implemented jointly by the **Rotary Clubs of Ntinda and Bugiri** with clubs abroad, which has improved water and sanitation in multiple schools in Bugiri District.

WASH work is also connected to disease prevention. Combines safe water access with latrine construction, hand-washing stations, and community health tools to drastically reduce incidences of diarrhea and malaria.

Beyond direct services, Rotary is expanding partnerships capacity with players like DAVIS & SHIRTLIFF for long-term WASH solutions. These are providing discounts that are making projects more achievable. That is the power of Uniting for Good to solidify the fact that indeed Rotary Cares.

#RotaryEyamba
Geoffrey Martin Kitakule
Rotary District Governor
District 9213

Rotary Eyamba: President Francesco Arezzo's Two Days Celebrating Uganda's Service, Unity and Leadership



By Rtn Mark Asimwe

Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo and his wife, Anna Maria Criscione Arezzo, wrapped up a historic twoday visit to Uganda that highlighted not only the depth of Rotary's impact in the country but also its promise for the future. Hosted by Rotary Districts

9213 and 9214, the February 2026 trip was more than just a formal visit. It was a celebration of teamwork, shared goals, and a movement full of energy.

Right from his arrival, President Arezzo made it clear that in Uganda, Rotary's mission of Service Above Self is carried out with energy, creativity, and strong teamwork. Local community service, better healthcare, peacebuilding, and a growing membership all showed how working together brings real, lasting change.

A highlight of the visit was to Kawempe National Referral Hospital, an important centre for maternal and newborn care in Kampala. President Arezzo launched two major projects there: the Oxygen-as-a-Service model and the **USD 500,000 Mama Toto Care Global Grant. Both projects aim to strengthen**

healthcare and save lives now and in the future. Speaking to health workers, government officials, and Rotarians, he reminded everyone that *Rotary's work is not just about meeting today's needs, but also about building systems that protect families for the future.*

Across the country, similar progress was happening. Rotary helped improve the Uganda Blood Transfusion Service in Nakasero and supported new treatments at the Joint Clinical Research Centre Bone Marrow Transplant Unit in Lubowa. These partnerships are making important medical care more accessible and giving new hope to patients and their families.

The visit also focused on peace and leadership. At the Makerere University Rotary Peace Centre, President Arezzo met peace fellows working in conflict resolution and



9213, and **Aleba Kanyonza**, DRR of District 9214, praising them as ever-present and vibrant examples of a Generation of Action. "The energy of Rotaract is inspiring," he said. "These young leaders are not just the future of Rotary; they are leaders of today. We need you not tomorrow, but now."

President Arezzo shared a Ugandan expression that reflects Rotary's impact, inspired by the teamwork and community support he observed. "During my visit, I was struck by a phrase I heard everywhere: *Rotary Eyamba*, which means 'Rotary Helps.' It perfectly captures the spirit I witnessed in Uganda: Rotary working alongside communities and local leaders, rooted in partnership, compassion, and action, uplifting and strengthening lives." President Francesco Arezzo

Health projects were not the only focus. Rotary's ongoing work in disease prevention was highlighted during polio immunisation at Jjanyi Health Centre, showing the group's worldwide commitment to ending the disease. In Kajjansi, a large health camp brought essential services to communities that lack adequate healthcare, demonstrating Rotary's commitment to equitable healthcare access in both cities and rural areas.

The visit culminated in an evening of fellowship at a Membership Gala Dinner at Speke Resort Munyonyo, where 16 new Rotary clubs were chartered, and over 600 new members were welcomed into the Rotary family. The gala was more than just about numbers. It celebrated the growing network of volunteers who are stepping up to serve across the country.

District Governor **Geoffrey Martin Kitakule** of Rotary District 9213 said President Arezzo's visit showed the strength and importance of Rotary's service. District Governor **Christine Kawooya Kyeyune** of District 9214 agreed, pointing out the innovation, dedication, and leadership shown by both Rotarians and Rotaractors.

“

The visit culminated in an evening of fellowship at a Membership Gala Dinner at Speke Resort Munyonyo, where 16 new Rotary clubs were chartered, and over 600 new members were welcomed into the Rotary family. The gala was more than just about numbers.

community dialogue, underscoring Rotary's strong commitment to building lasting peace. Speaking to

the fellows and supporters, he said that peace is not made by institutions alone. It is built by people who share a purpose, understanding, and a spirit of service.

Youth leadership emerged as another compelling theme during the visit. In a leadership session with Rotaractors and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) participants at Lweza, President Arezzo celebrated the energy, creativity, and courage of young Ugandans stepping into service leadership. He was especially moved by the **strong representation of women in Rotaract leadership across both districts, led by Abesage Nahabwe**, DRR of District

At the Rotary Foundation Recognition Dinner, Rotarians celebrated record contributions of about USD 1.9 million, showing the strong commitment of Ugandan Rotarians to giving back. President Arezzo reminded everyone that *philanthropy is not just about numbers, but about the lives it changes and the hope it brings.*

In the end, President Arezzo's visit was more than just a ceremony. It was a clear example of teamwork, courage, and community, showing how listening, working together, and investing in people can change society. As Rotary in Uganda continues to grow and adapt, one thing is certain: the organization is not just strong and active, but also full of promise and purpose.

The writer is a charter president of the Rotary club of E-JAZZ Kampala



Water as a Pathway to Peace

Why Lasting Peace in Rotary District 9213 Begins at the Tap



By Rtn. Anne Gamurorwa

Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala

When we speak about peace and conflict prevention, we often imagine negotiation tables, diplomatic missions, and formal agreements between nations. Yet some of the most persistent sources of instability begin far from conference halls. They begin in homes, in schools, and at the community water sources.

Across the world, disputes over water and water rights have fuelled tensions between households, communities, and even nations. But before conflict becomes visible or violent, it begins quietly — in long queues at the well at dawn, in arguments over whose turn it is to draw water, and in the exhaustion of women and children who must walk miles each day to meet a basic human need.

Without water, stability weakens. Without dignity, frustration grows. Without equity, peace becomes fragile.

For many communities within Uganda and within Rotary District

9213, this is not theory. It is lived experience.

The National Picture: Progress with Persistent Gaps

Uganda has made commendable progress in expanding water access. Nationally, an estimated 67–72% of the population now has access to at least basic water services. Yet the rural reality tells a different story. Nearly one in three rural households still depends on unimproved or distant water sources.

Only 20–30% of rural households have water on their premises. For millions, water collection remains a daily burden. Safe sanitation coverage nationally remains below 30%, and access to basic handwashing facilities in many rural districts is under 40%.

These statistics are not just numbers. They translate into lost school hours, preventable diseases, economic stagnation, and social strain.

Scarcity creates pressure. Pressure breeds inequality. Inequality, when left unaddressed, erodes social cohesion.

Peace cannot thrive where basic needs remain unmet.

Peace Begins in the Household

Peace is not only negotiated at national levels; it is experienced at the micro level — in homes, villages, and schools. When water supply is unreliable, daily life becomes unpredictable. Families must choose between time spent searching for water and time for farming, trade, education, or caregiving. Tensions rise within households. Health deteriorates. Productivity declines.

However, when a reliable water source is available within reach, something remarkable happens. Time is reclaimed. Health improves. Planning becomes possible. Children attend school more consistently. Stress reduces.

A functional water source becomes a stabilising force — quiet, steady, transformative. In many communities, peace quite literally begins at the tap.

The Gendered Cost of Water Scarcity

Water scarcity does not affect everyone equally. Women and girls bear the heaviest burden.

Girls often wake before sunrise to fetch water before school. Long distances mean fatigue and lateness. Exposure to risk increases. When sanitation facilities are inadequate — such as when 58 pupils share a latrine designed for 20 — dignity is compromised, particularly for adolescent girls.

Poor sanitation contributes to absenteeism during menstruation and increases dropout rates. In some cases, this contributes indirectly to early pregnancy and early marriage.

A water challenge becomes an education crisis. An education crisis becomes a protection crisis.

Conversely, when water and sanitation improve, girls remain in school longer. Hygiene improves. Confidence grows. Families delay early marriage. Young people expand their aspirations.

Water becomes more than infrastructure. It becomes protection. It becomes empowerment.

Responding to a Dire Reality: The Kitagwenda Experience



Children at the newly constructed borehole



Before this intervention, Kitagwenda District reflected these challenges sharply. Access to safe water and sanitation was limited. Handwashing coverage was low. Schools faced overcrowded latrines. Women and girls walked long distances for water. Disease vulnerability remained high.

In response, the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala, in partnership with the Rotary Club of Kenosha (USA), the Rotary Club of Ibanda, and the Kitagwenda District Local Government, implemented the Kitagwenda District Water and Sanitation Project. Through this, protected water sources were commissioned. ECOSAN toilets

were constructed and hygiene and sustainability were prioritised. Approximately 176,000 community members and seven primary schools benefited.

The outcomes extended beyond infrastructure. Health improved. School attendance strengthened. Local government ownership increased. Communities practised collective management and shared responsibility. Tensions linked to scarcity reduced.

This was, however, not labelled as a peace initiative. Yet it addressed the very drivers of local instability: scarcity, exclusion, and competition over essential resources.

This is, surely, preventive peacebuilding in action.

Building Forward: The Nyakabungo Initiative

Building on these lessons, the Rotary Club of Kololo Kampala is now developing the Nyakabungo Girls Secondary School WASH and Economic Empowerment Project. Designed to strengthen safe water access, sanitation, and school-based hygiene while integrating income-generating components for sustainability, the initiative aims to reduce vulnerability at both household and institutional levels. By linking WASH infrastructure with economic resilience, the project recognises that peace is strengthened not only through access to water, but through the stability and opportunity that flow from it.

Water as Preventive Peacebuilding

From a Rotary perspective, investing in water is not merely humanitarian service — it is strategic peacebuilding.

Water projects:

- Reduce competition over scarce resources
- Build trust between communities and institutions
- Encourage collective management and accountability
- Address root causes of instability before they escalate

When communities manage water points together, they practise dialogue. They build transparency. They develop systems of shared responsibility.

Peace is therefore not imposed. It is built — incrementally, locally, sustainably.

Across Rotary District 9213, every borehole rehabilitated, every sanitation facility constructed, and every hygiene education programme

delivered strengthens the social fabric of our communities.

A Call to Action for Rotarians

If water is foundational to peace, then investing in water is not optional — it is strategic.

As Rotarians, we are uniquely positioned to:

- Prioritise sustainable WASH interventions in underserved communities
- Strengthen maintenance and functionality of existing water points
- Integrate sanitation and hygiene

into school and maternal health programmes

- Leverage Global Grants and partnerships for scalable impact
- Promote community ownership models that ensure long-term sustainability

Peacebuilding does not always require a negotiation table. Sometimes, it requires engineering expertise, financial stewardship, community engagement, and disciplined follow-through.

Every functional water source reduces vulnerability. Every sanitation facility restores dignity.

Every hygiene intervention protects life.

Peace does not always arrive through declarations or treaties. Sometimes, it arrives quietly — through a tap that works.

Where water flows, stability follows. Where water is shared, trust grows. Where dignity is restored, peace has a chance to endure.

For Rotary District 9213, investing in water is not simply service. It is a deliberate investment in a more stable, equitable, and peaceful future.



Special District Governor's award at Discon

for a club that has contributed a minimum USD 10,000.

#UniteForGood #RotaryEyamba #Give&Impact

Rotary District 9213

WATER: The Key to Health, Dignity, and Sustainable Development



By Rtn. Emmanuel Mwaka

Water is fundamental to life. It sustains communities, supports livelihoods, enables food production, and serves as the foundation of public health. Yet, despite its essential role, millions of people worldwide still lack access to safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, and basic hygiene services. This gap not only exposes vulnerable populations to preventable diseases but also deepens social inequalities, limits educational opportunities, and constrains economic development. Access to clean water and proper sanitation is not merely a development goal it is a fundamental human right and a cornerstone of human dignity.

The absence of safe water and sanitation has far reaching consequences. Waterborne diseases such as cholera, dysentery, and typhoid continue to threaten lives, particularly among children. Inadequate sanitation facilities disproportionately affect women and girls, compromising their safety, privacy, and school attendance.

Communities without reliable water sources often spend hours each day collecting water, reducing time available for education, income generation, and community engagement. Addressing water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) challenges, therefore, is not only a public health imperative but also a strategic investment in social and economic transformation.

Rotary International has long recognized the critical importance of WASH in advancing community well-being. Through strategic partnerships, sustainable project design, and grassroots engagement, Rotary clubs across the globe are delivering practical solutions tailored to local needs. These initiatives extend beyond infrastructure development to include capacity building, community education, and long-term maintenance planning ensuring that projects remain effective for generations.

In Uganda, Rotary supported initiatives have facilitated the installation of water purification plants in rural villages, providing families with reliable access to safe drinking water. In Nepal, water tanks have been constructed to enhance water storage capacity and improve distribution systems. In the Amazon Basin of South America, solar powered water treatment systems are harnessing renewable energy to deliver clean water to remote communities. Meanwhile, schools in Guatemala now benefit from properly constructed toilets and handwashing stations, promoting better hygiene practices and safeguarding student health. Rainwater harvesting systems implemented in various regions further demonstrate Rotary's

commitment to environmental sustainability and water conservation.

These interventions are transforming lives. Reduced incidence of waterborne diseases lowers healthcare costs and improves productivity. Children are better able to attend school regularly, and women experience enhanced safety and dignity. Communities that once struggled with unreliable water supplies are now positioned for growth and resilience.

Rotarians play a central role in advancing these outcomes. Across continents, they are designing and implementing WASH programs, advocating for sustainable water management policies, and collaborating with local governments and community leaders. Their leadership ensures that projects are not only technically sound but also culturally appropriate and community-owned.

Rotarians seeking to deepen their impact can collaborate with the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Rotary Action Group (WASHRAG). Through this global network, members gain access to specialized expertise, technical resources, and a collaborative platform dedicated to advancing sustainable WASH solutions.

Ensuring universal access to clean water and sanitation is an achievable goal but it requires sustained commitment, innovation, and partnership. Together, through collective action and shared purpose, we can uphold the right to water, restore dignity, and build healthier, more prosperous communities for all.

Three Women, One Classroom, A Thousand New Beginnings



By Rtn Dianah Kagere

Meet Hajjat Nakate Zaina, a 37-year-old mother of four and a small business owner in Mbuya Zone 1, Kinawataka, Makindye Division, Kampala. She was born and raised in Mbuya Zone 4. Because of poverty, Zaina never stepped into a classroom. Her dream? She wants to go to Canada.

Then there is Nnalongo Nakayiza Annet, a 39-year-old mother of four. She never completed primary school, yet she serves her community every day as a local leader. Annet speaks with people, listens to problems and helps resolve them, but she is held back because she cannot speak English. Her dream is simple. She

wants to learn English so she can serve her people better.

And meet Atim Ruth Jane, a 29-year-old mother of three. She studied only up to Primary Four before life pushed her out of school early. She now runs a small business to keep food on the table. Her dream? To become a teacher.

Zaina, Annet and Ruth have one thing in common; they are among more than 100 women enrolled in a new community empowerment programme led by seven Rotary clubs under 7x7 Collaboration. These include; RC Nsasa, RC Sonde, RC Kampala Impala, RC Saturday E-Jazz, RC Kira, RC Kampala Morning Stars and RC Kampala Early Bird, in partnership with Amarok Society Canada.

Together, they have launched a programme for women in informal settlements one that allows mothers to learn, right inside their own communities. The programme called **Start with Mothers** was founded by Tanyss Munro and her husband, G.E.M. Munro, of the Amarok society, a Canadian Charity organisation working towards improving education in Asia and Africa.

The project's model is simple. Through Start with Mothers, women who never went to school learn the alphabet, basic numbers and simple reading and writing. But the learning does not stop with them. Each mother is trained to become a neighbourhood teacher.

Mothers like Zaina, Annet and Ruth now support their own children and at least five other children from their community to learn how to read and write.

The project is directly targeting 100 mothers but with each mother supporting at least five children means more than 600 women and children are expected to gain basic literacy skills through this single community initiative.

"The Start with Mothers project enables a mother to begin from the alphabet and basic numbers. Many mothers told us during community assessments that they cannot support their children because they are uneducated. Through Amarok Society and Rotary, we want to help these mothers change their lives and the lives of their children."

Victoria Kayaga Kiggundu,
President, RC Kampala Early Bird.

The need could not be more urgent. According to UNESCO, in 2015 more than 60% of children in lower- and middle-income countries could not read or write. By 2025, that number had risen to nearly 70 percent. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the situation is even worse.

In Uganda, according to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics data, about 24% (11.9 million people) remain unable to read and write. The literacy gap is especially pronounced between men and women. Of the nearly 12 million illiterate adults, more than 7.3 million are women, highlighting a significant



gender inequality in access to education and opportunities.

Literacy challenges are also reflected in younger learners. Surveys from Uwezo Uganda show many primary school children struggle with basic reading and comprehension and many children in school are still unable to read at expected levels. Behind those statistics are real homes, real mothers and children just like those in Kinawataka.

Dr. Tanyss explains that Uganda was not the original target for the programme. But that changed when she met President Victoria Kiggundu during the Rotary International Convention in Calgary in June 2025.

"The project was initially planned for Nigeria, but the regions with the greatest need were politically unstable. When I met President Victoria and learned about the seven-club collaboration, I saw an opportunity to bring the programme to Uganda. Uganda will become the centre of our training for Africa. We will train Rotarians and community educators here and then scale the programme to other countries."

Dr. Tanyss explains.

With more than 20 years of experience running similar programmes in Asia, she believes

Kinawataka is only the beginning for Uganda. But literacy is not the only lesson being taught. The programme deliberately includes violence prevention and positive parenting. Through games, guided discussions and reflection sessions, mothers learn how to handle conflict at home and how children grow, learn and feel.

"One of the immediate and intended changes we see is that mothers stop beating their children. We equip them with skills to understand what a child truly needs. In Asia, we noticed that the program helped end corporal punishment and reduced violence in homes. We want mothers to be empowered to make a difference in their lives and the children."

Dr. Tanyss Munro

The program has acquired a community classroom with instructors in Kinawataka. The learning space was officially launched by the Rotary District Governor, Geoffrey Martin Kitakule.

"I want to thank all the seven Rotary clubs and the Amarok Society of Canada for this project. As Rotary, we exist to support people to improve their everyday lives. With every mother learning and supporting children to learn, it will be an opportunity to change lives. As Rotary we believe that when one is educated, you have a chance to a better life regardless of age. We also know women uphold families, changing a woman's life means transforming her life and that of her children and changing communities."

As the programme enters full implementation, the women of Kinawataka are filled with new hope, finally given a chance to reclaim their long-lost dreams, while building brighter futures for their children. For Annet, Zaina and Ruth, this programme means far more than learning how to read and write. It is a powerful reminder that it is never too late to learn and never too small a place to change the world.



L-R Atim Ruth Jane, Nnalongo

President Museveni Donates Ugx 3 Billion to Rotary's Annual Cancer Cause



By Rtn Dianah Kagere.

President Yoweri Museveni has committed UGX 3 billion towards Uganda's cancer response. The

announcement was made by the Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Anita Among as she officially launched the 15th edition of the Cancer Run at Nsambya Hospital.

"When I received the invitation, I consulted the President and asked how much he would contribute as Head of State and he has given me 3 billion Uganda shillings. We will walk the journey with you until the building is completed", she stated amid loud applause.

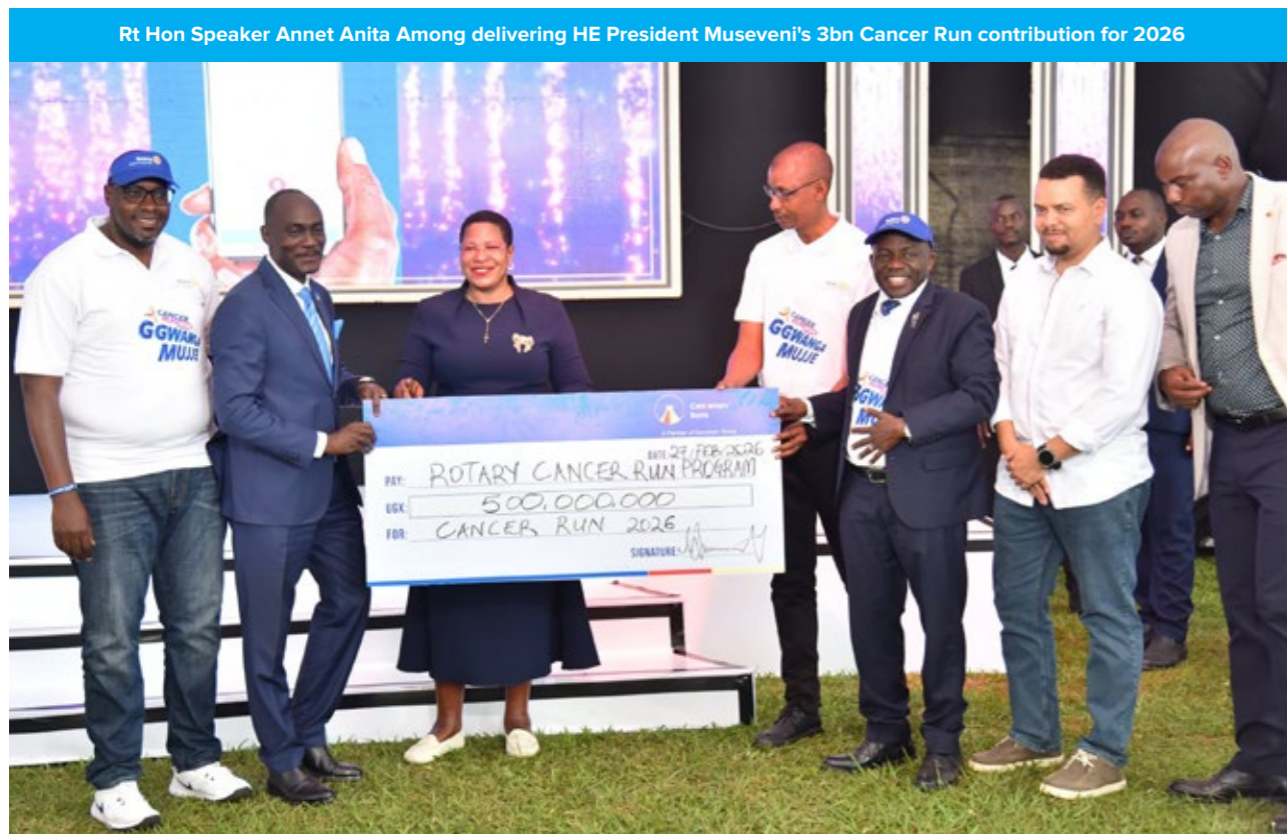
Speaking at the event, the Speaker also raised alarm over the growing economic toll of cancer on Ugandan households, noting that a single hospital visit can cost between UGX 300,000 and UGX 800,000,

a burden that continues to push families into financial distress.

According to PDG Steven Mwanje, the Parliament of Uganda has contributed over UGX 4.21 billion to the Cancer Run since it was launched. With the new UGX 3 billion pledge announced at this year's launch, Parliament's cumulative support now stands at UGX 7.21 billion.

Cancer Run 15 will take place on 31 August 2026, under the national call "Ggwanga Mujje!".

This year's edition is focused on mobilising resources towards the construction of the cancer treatment center at Nsambya Hospital, while expanding nationwide cancer awareness, screening and early



Rt Hon Speaker Annet Anita Among delivering HE President Museveni's 3bn Cancer Run contribution for 2026



The bank also unveiled Gonza Pay as the official digital registration partner for the Run, conducting a live registration demonstration during the launch, with Speaker Anita Among registered as participant number 001.

According to the bank's Executive Director, Mr. Joseph Kiwanuka Balikuddembe, the platform is designed to connect technology, purpose and social impact,

"Gonza pay is a demonstration of how digital innovation can power social impact. This a catalyst to connect technology, purpose and impact. We will also host kit registration points at all Centenary Bank branches countrywide," Joseph Kiwanuka Balikuddembe, ED Centenary Bank.

With the President's UGX 3 billion pledge, Parliament's cumulative UGX 7.21 billion contribution to the Cancer Run, and renewed private sector backing, Cancer Run 15 opens with a call to action: the fight against cancer in Uganda is a mission for all of us.

Why Gwanga Mujje!?

Because cancer does not wait. Because early detection saves lives. Because treatment should not be out of reach. And because real change only happens when everyone shows up.

Ggwanga Mujje! is a call to every Ugandan at home and in the diaspora to run, donate, volunteer, advocate and stand together for families affected by cancer. This is our run.

This is our fight. This is our moment!

Ggwanga Mujje!
Come forth!
Ateker Kopotu!
Mwijje Tukwatanise!
Waribe Kace!

detection through free community health camps.

Organisers say the target goes beyond fundraising seeking to take cancer prevention and information directly to communities where access to services remains limited.

"After Nsambya, the plan is to have regional centers. We will start with Arua and Kasese to take services closer to the people," PDG Mwanje announced.

During the launch, platinum sponsors unveiled their support packages for the 15th edition.

Krystal Water, through its Head of Marketing Samuel Hooper announced a long-term partnership with the Run.

"We are committed to supporting the Cancer Run for the next three years and to sustaining community awareness efforts. In 2025 alone, our free health camps reached more than 9,000 people across the country through 79 camps," he said.

Centenary Bank, the pioneer sponsor of the Cancer Run since inception, announced a fresh contribution of UGX 500 million towards Cancer Run 15.

Global Grant Management

Re-Configured

“Life will never wait for you to be okay. Get up, carry your burden and keep going”



Grant Management Overview:

Preamble:

Global grants support the mission of The Rotary Foundation to enable Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace by improving people's health, supporting quality education, protecting the environment and alleviating poverty.

Rotary grants have the power to make lasting change in our communities, just look how far we've come with polio eradication.

Rotary International's fight to end polio began with a “Health, Hunger and Humanity” (3H's) grants in 1979. Today it is still our number one corporate priority. And we're this close to ending the disease for good!

Our grants are designed to stimulate Rotary's service activities. Not all Rotary services require a Rotary grant, but Rotary grants can enable larger projects that make a greater difference. Good grant management therefore engages our members support meaningful service projects that continue to have an impact long after grant funds have been spent and shows communities what we can do.

To maximise our impact and make meaningful change in the world, Rotary focuses its service work in several areas. When you think about the projects you want to carry out, consider how they align with one of these areas. If you apply for a global grant, you'll need to show how your project relates to Rotary's goals in one or more of the areas.

It's not always obvious which area of focus is right for a particular project. Examination of some of the factors that go into it, looking at a few project examples and considering how to determine the best fit.

“Removing yourself from situations where you don't feel appreciated, loved and respected is first class self-care” -- @EzueQuotes

OUR CAUSE (AREAS OF FOCUS):

- Environment
- Community Economic Development.
- Peace and Conflict Resolution.
- Basic Education and Literacy.
- Maternal and Child Health.
- Disease Prevention and Treatment.
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene.

Rotary global grants support sustainable activities that are aligned with our areas of focus and will produce results that address the community needs. These areas encompass some of the world's most critical humanitarian issues.

After conducting an assessment to understand the community strengths, weaknesses and assets you can plan a project that addresses it's needs in one or more of the focus areas.

“If you are a giver, remember to have your limits, because the takers don't have any” --@EzueQuotes

Examples of some of the outstanding global grant projects around the world:

- In the South African province of KwaZulu Natal, adult illiteracy is high and HIV/AIDS widespread. Several Rotary clubs have partnered with the Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) Operation upgrade to teach adults literacy, numeracy and practical life skills. The process also enables students learn skills such as opening up a bank account, writing and sending a letter, managing finances and developing a small business. The programme includes information and supplemental projects related to HIV/AIDS, other health issues, nutrition, food security and other community development concerns. This particular example falls under the “Basic Education and Literacy” area of focus.
- Under Disease Prevention and Treatment area of focus a vivid example is the one involving a Rotary Club in Sri Lanka launching the National Cancer Prevention and Early Detection Centre. The clinic initially operated in a small rented house staffed by a volunteer doctor and two nurses.

“I can't give you a surefire formula for success, but I can give you a formula for failure: try to please everybody every time”

In 2015 the project received a global grant allowing upgrade of the Colombo centre and expansion of its work into more remote areas. Two host clubs were partners on the global grant which included

contributions from clubs in Germany and Switzerland. The grant enabled the centre to add staff members, train them in new detection techniques, implementing an advanced data collection system providing services to gather patient data that could lead to more focused screening and better follow-up care.

In addition to free screening in Colombo, the project sponsors an annual breast cancer awareness week and distributes booklets about cancer prevention to government clinics throughout the country. It also operates a mobile screening unit that traverses the country offering physical examinations, ultrasound screenings and PAP tests.

Goals of the Disease Prevention and Treatment area of focus that this programme matches include:

- Improving the capacity of local health care professionals.
- Promoting disease prevention and treatment programmes that limit the spread of communicable diseases and reducing the incidence and effect of non-communicable diseases.
- Strengthening health care systems.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:

The state of Tamil Nadu in southern India is water starved. People rely on rainfall for drinking water as well as agriculture. Lack of rain over several years forced farmers in the 3 largest communities in this watershed to start abandoning their traditional agricultural practices and looking for other work nearby.

The Rotary Club of Madras Coromandel Tamil Nadu worked with 2 national agricultural organisations to conduct an assessment of the watershed, community needs, social and economic conditions in the area. They found that reliable access to water was the community's top priority with an urgent need to replenish the ground water in the aquifer to prevent water scarcity.

The project team met with community residents, village elders and representatives from neutral aid

groups and community welfare organisations, recognising a need for training in water conservation, water management, hygiene and sanitation as well as employment outside of agriculture.

Partnerships built structures to harvest rainwater, manage run-off, restoring tree and ground cover throughout the watershed to increase availability of water within the villages.

The teams also ensured better maintenance of water in the soil, improving crop productivity and increasing income for farmers.

Goals of Water, sanitation and hygiene area of focus best matching the project included:

- Facilitating universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water.
- Improving water quality by protecting and maintaining surface and underground water resources, reducing pollution and contamination and promoting waste water re-use.
- Strengthening the capacity of government institutions and communities to develop, finance, manage and maintain sustainable water and sanitation services.
- Global grants support sustainable projects that have measurable and lasting outcomes and are aligned with at least one area of focus.
- Make sure you understand each area of focus and how you can plan related activities that build successful grant projects.
- When Rotary Foundation staff members review your grant application, they use the “areas of focus policy” statements to determine whether a project is eligible for a grant.
- The goal of a global grant is to have a positive and long-term impact in the community you are supporting. The “theory of change framework” discusses the building blocks that we use to achieve the long-term impact. This framework clarifies the important distinction between the input of resources

and long term impact a project has. “Input, output impact”.

“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm”— Ralph Waldo Emerson

Keys to effective partnerships between host and international partners:

- The host and international partners should have an equitable relationship. The international partner should never impose a project on a host partner.
- Although it may be difficult for a host partner to refuse an offer of assistance from abroad, the club or district should NEVER feel pressured to support or join any proposed projects.
- IDEALLY, the host partner initiates the project and the international partner is expected to be actively involved, i.e., to do more than just funding.
- Contributing funds is an essential component of any project but it doesn't constitute active involvement as required by the Rotary Foundation.
- International partners in spite of distances and communication differences can still find creative ways to have a ‘full role’ in a project.

“The most valuable asset you own isn't money. It's the ability to think clearly in a world designed to confuse you”.

“Mental clarity is wealth”

Ideal characteristics defining collaborative partnerships:

- All partners will have open and honest communication.
- All responsibilities are clearly defined and assigned with timelines.
- Partners will have mutual respect for each other's opinions.

Peter ISABIRYE is a member of the District Rotary Foundation Committee (DRFC) for D9213. He is also a member of the cadre of technical advisers of the Rotary Foundation in THREE areas of focus



AMOVAP
MEDICAL STORES LTD



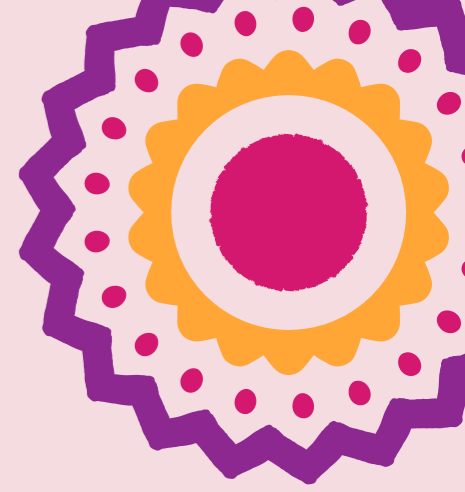
FOR LABORATORY & HOSPITAL

SUPPLIES | KITS | REAGENTS | EQUIPMENT

CONTACT US

Telephone.: +256 200 906 907; +256 756 689 504

Location: Plot 62, Silva Arcade, Room B13 Bombo Road
P.O.Box 108392, Nakivubo-Kampala



WOMEN IN ROTARY

*As the world celebrates the International Women's Day,
we take a moment to shine the spotlight on the incredible
women of Rotary who have strived to break barriers,
stereotypes, biases and beaten all odds to rise and
succeed.*



“Breaking the Glass Gear: Women Shaping the Future of Rotary”

“Women struggle to put in more effort so that their failure is not attributed to “being women”



Rotarian Petwa is a long-standing member of the Rotary Club of Kampala North. She was one of the first women to join this club, making her one of the first worm Rotarians in Uganda. In this interview, Rotarian Petwa shares a few highlights of her Rotary journey especially what it took to join, and thrive in an originally male-dominated club.

What originally drew you to Rotary?

I was attracted to join Rotary because almost all the members of the management team of the organisation in which I was working were committed Rotarians. In my interactions with them at work, they encouraged me to join Rotary.

I considered the idea and was then assigned a Rotarian who took me to visit his club, which had a few women in it, whom I noticed would mostly keep quiet during fellowships.

The Rotarian seemed like he was not interested in my joining the club, and the male members totally ignored me. I was introduced as a guest for a whole year! I eventually lost interest and informed my colleagues at work that I was not keen to join that club anymore. They then introduced me to another Rotarian

who eventually became my sponsor. With him, we visited a number of other clubs and the projects his club was undertaking. He also took me through what was expected of me as a Rotarian. I eventually joined the Rotary Club of Kampala North (RCKN) in 1998, and have never looked back. There were only female members in the club at the time.

How were you initially received?

When RCKN decided to admit women, they embraced the idea wholeheartedly, and I was actually well received. There was no discrimination or resistance towards women.

However, the Club was intimidating. There was always that uncomfortable feeling that some members were sizing you up, and weighing you down to see whether



you will measure up to the values of “their club.”

The challenge of Rotary jargon and abbreviations would also make one anxious because there was so much to internalise in such a short time. It was not easy; one had to be determined.

What were your first steps into leadership?

I was appointed the Club Secretary soon after I joined the club. It was challenging, but the presidents supported me, and I learnt on the job. I was later appointed Vice President, and I was supported for an even higher position, but I declined due to work pressure at office.

I commend RCKN that, even during those early years, they were not segregating women.

The male dominated club was more interested in merit than in gender. I am also impressed that women have exhibited their leadership skills at the highest level in the majority of the clubs. At the time, I joined, and even before, becoming a woman president was unheard of in some clubs. The post of district governor was exclusively male dominated.

What, in your experience, are the most significant hurdles women Rotarians face?

Women struggle to put in more effort so that their failure is not attributed to their gender - “being women”. Once women ascend to leadership roles, they should put in their all, select committees on merit, and desist on depending on their friends for support, but on the systems in place.

Any reflections on the future?

Rotary has attracted many professional women over the years. These have added a lot of value to the Rotary movement. It is now up to the women Rotarians to harness this strength so as to be regarded as equal partners in Rotary and beyond.

What is your advice to the young Rotarian women?

The young women stepping into their first leadership roles should be mentored and encouraged to believe in themselves and in the fact that they are capable of scaling the heights. They should also encourage more young women to join rotary so as to propagate perpetuity.

Additionally, young women should do away with the prejudices surrounding women in rotary and focus on making the most out of this wonderful experience of serving communities.

How women position themselves in this global fellowship?

As a global fellowship, women should make their presence felt not by being aggressive and combative but by demonstrating their capabilities and capacities. As women. As women, we are unique and have qualities and characteristics that add a special feminine touch to this organisation. We should harness and maximize them, because we add value and we are equal partners in this drive. We have worked so hard to prove ourselves, and have easy taken the top-most seat at the table of men, this is no mean fit.

These developments excite me and make me so proud to be one of the first women Rotarians in Uganda and I can only drive this home with the saying by Michelle Obama that, “there is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish.”



Women of Rotary

“Young Ladies should always stay authentic”....Rtn Grace Amono



Rtn Amayo Roseline had an exclusive interview with Rtn Amono Grace, a Past President of the Rotary Club of Gulu, who served in the year 2009/2010.

A very jovial and seasoned lady, full of grace is what can perfectly describe Rtn Amono Grace. She laughs loud, and you are tempted to laugh back. Rtn Amono reflects on her Rotary journey, giving insights and her experiences since she first joined Rotary in 1997.

What originally drew you to Rotary?

I joined Rotary in July 1997 under the Rotary club of Gulu during the leadership of the then President Late Rtn Dr. Lukwiya Mathew who also doubled as the medical supervisor at Lacor Hospital. He would later succumb to the deadly Ebola haemorrhagic fever. I can proudly say that I am still a member of the club to-date.

I got attracted to Rotary because of its mission of service and community

development, which aligned with my desire to make meaningful impact in my society.

How were you initially received?

When I joined Rotary, it was a totally male dominated space and like any woman, I had so much fear and I could hardly believe in my own self let alone the biases and stereotypes that existed against women mostly meted by some male counter parts.

The perceptions that existed then was that Rotary was only for men and a membership organisation for

the rich and therefore no woman qualified. Being a moderately educated woman, proudly a secretary and stenographer, I was not sure if I would perfectly fit into the Rotary fraternity.

I remember at that time, we were only four female Rotarians, most of whom are now all deceased save for one Rotarian who became an Assistant Governor; but has since ceased to be a Rotarian. I count myself blessed because I was among the first four female presidents in the whole of Africa during our time.



As one of the pioneer female Rotarians, navigating the first fellowships felt like breaking new ground- balancing curiosity about the club's traditions with the need to prove my capability. It was both challenging and terrifying to carve out a space where my voice could be heard because there existed some instances when intimidation and discrimination thrived mostly meted by our male counter parts.

I recount that those days, before one became a Rotarian, they were taken through extensive mentorship before becoming a full-time member. I was particularly assigned a mentor, the late Rtn Dr. Okalang Joel, who mentored me and dispelled most of my fears.

I later learnt along the way that there were numerous benefits of joining Rotary which were most notably, community service, leadership development, building friendship, skills enhancement among others. Over the years as I continued to serve, I gained momentum, rose through the ladders of leadership and since then, I have never looked back.

How were you initially received by the male membership, and looking back, can you share a specific challenge or instance of resistance you faced as a woman (either implicit or explicit) and how you navigated it to establish your place in the club?

Initially, reception varied from curiosity to subtle scepticism. One explicit challenge was a handful of club members who totally did not believe in us as women. Some members did not consider the opinion of women as vital. In fact, when I was elected president, a certain gentle man who was a fellow Rotarian just decided to make my year of service so hard. He deliberately wanted to frustrate me and exclude me from all key decision-making processes of the

“

One cannot rule out that although the stereotypes and biases previously meted on women are extinct; some still feel suppressed by an inferiority complex that poses significant limitations. This is sometimes coupled with women tearing each other apart, a challenge that must be overcome.

club, which implied my input wasn't valued.

I remember, the club once wrote a project proposal which was successful and the club won a grant, however when the money was received, this gentle man wanted the money from the bank cheque into his names and into his personal account claiming that he had worked hard for the club to receive that grant. He was opposed to money being remitted for purposes of club activities.

That crisis was grave, but it brought out my true leadership abilities as a woman especially after I stood my ground and implored the club members to always prioritize the club's interests over our own. I recall threatening to expel that member if he continued to interfere with the club's interest. With the aid of other members, the issue was sorted out amidst great resistance. All in all, the club prevailed and asked the member to step down from leadership for a while because we believed that integrity and the need to uphold the four-way test was key.

I addressed most of the issues that emerged by sticking to the principles of transparency and integrity, fostering open dialogue,

delivering high quality project results which gradually earned respect and inclusion.

What were your leadership roles in Rotary, and what impact did you aim to make?

My first leadership role was a sergeant at arms later; I became a Treasurer then a secretary and finally the president of the club for the year 2009/2010. When I was the president, we aimed as a club to design projects that directly improved education, health, women empowerment, youth engagement which demonstrated that women could drive impactful initiatives and lead with purpose.

I often cracked a joke with my fellow club members that they had an uphill task to have me as their president because I just beeped education meaning I was going to ride on their skills, expertise and experience and not lead on my own.

I often told my club members that I was not as “elite” as them, suggesting they had a role to construe and make sense of my words to derive better ideas for the betterment of the club. I encouraged them to keep correcting me whenever I did not express myself to their desired format or level. My elite friends and club members often gladly did so, laughing and chuckling at my joke, yet they understood me perfectly. This mutual understanding gave me the courage to lead without fear or favour.

In our club, everyone's vocation mattered. Through teamwork and the amiable environment, we created, we successfully ran several projects and won grants that allowed us to create a lasting impact in our community.

As President, I purposed to cultivate a spirit of teamwork that helped every member thrive. My goal was to ensure everyone felt valued and could excel in their area of specialty. While we faced the usual

challenges inherent to any group, we consistently found solutions together, ensuring that every member brought out their very best.

From your first steps into leadership to the highest role you've served, how have you seen the 'female perspective' shift, and what does it mean to you personally to see women leading at the highest levels of the district?

The female perspective has greatly evolved over time from being marginalised to becoming central in shaping policies, initiatives and decisions.

I am particularly very proud about women who have taken up key leadership roles at the highest level of Rotary. The women in my club currently are my biggest inspiration, they really supersede expectations. If anyone wants to get the best female leaders, they should come to the Rotary club of Gulu. And of course you can't talk about successful women without recognizing the great effort of men who support women, which is a great force that we should always reckon with.

Seeing women rise at all levels of leadership signifies that diverse viewpoints are now recognized as essential for innovative solutions, and it inspires confidence that leadership isn't gender bound knowing that even women can do exploits.

In your experience, what are the most significant hurdles women encounter in Rotary today, and how can we unite to turn those challenges into opportunities for growth?

Women continue to face lingering gender biases and the challenge of balancing responsibilities outside Rotary. Today, they struggle with career advancement, family care, and raising children, which can make it difficult to balance offering their time

to Rotary against their own pressing demands.

One cannot rule out that although the stereotypes and biases previously meted on women are extinct; some still feel suppressed by an inferiority complex that poses significant limitations. This is sometimes coupled with women tearing each other apart, a challenge that must be overcome. Women should begin to see the good in each other and purpose to fix each other's crowns rather than pulling them down.

I believe these hurdles can be turned into growth opportunities by embracing collegiality and oneness. We can do this by: (i) Promoting mentorship programs and advocating for flexible meeting formats; (ii) Highlighting successful female role models to inspire confidence and collaboration.

Fear remains a major hurdle and a snare that many women grapple with, especially regarding key leadership roles. Motivating them and offering peer support will go a long way in helping them step forward.

Since joining Rotary, what is the most significant shift you've witnessed in the diversity and inclusion of women?

The most significant shift is the institutionalization of gender inclusive policies and the increased visibility of women in leadership positions, showing Rotary's commitment to valuing diverse contributions.

What is that one piece of advice you wish you'd had when starting your Rotary leadership journey? What could you say to a young lady joining now?

Embrace your authentic voice and seek mentors who challenge you to expand your perspective; confidence in your unique insights will accelerate your impact.

How can we, as a global fellowship, ensure that Rotary remains a welcoming and inclusive space where every woman feels she belongs?

By implementing regular inclusivity trainings, ensuring equitable representation in committees, active involvement, positive affirmations and actively listening to women's experiences to shape policies that address their specific needs.

What is your personal 'North Star' or inspirational message for women in Rotary as they continue to lead and serve in their communities?

My North Star is the belief that empowered women amplify community transformation. The message is "Lead with purpose, nurture collaboration, and remember that your service ripples beyond the immediate impact and could inspire future generations.

Rtn Grace is the founder of the Northern T-Junction, now known as the Northern Mega Fellowship, originally happening at Heritage Gardens in Karuma, right at the intersection between Karuma, Kamdini, and the Arua junction, where URA and the Uganda Police now have a checkpoint. It was called T-junction, because it served as a middle ground where clubs from Masindi, Lira, Gulu, and Arua could all meet. This has since changed.

During her presidency, she started the Rotary Community Corps, a group of women serving within their community in Cwero Sub-county, Gulu District. They have since evolved into a catering group that offers affordable services in their surrounding area. From time to time, they still come together as a group to fellowship at Acholi Inn with RC Gulu, but meet more frequently in Cwero.



Your Mental Health & Education Matter – Let Us Help!

Are you or a loved one struggling with mental health challenges, addiction, or academic stress?

At Lifeline Health Services we **provide home-based care and expert support** tailored to your needs!

Our Services include;

- Mental Health
- Home visits and Treatment Care Plan
- Secondary School Awareness
- Campaign on Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Psychosocial Support to Organisation
- Bedside Nursing
- Counseling Services

Your journey to wellness starts today!



From market stalls to financial strength, learning with women market vendors in Ntinda and Kalisizo



By Rtn Immy Nakyeune

Financial literacy is not a one-time lesson. It is a lifelong discipline that must be continuously learned, practiced and refreshed.

Today, many of us are privileged to access financial knowledge easily. Banks, insurance companies and retirement benefits institutions

actively promote saving, investment and wealth planning. Social media is also filled with financial literacy advocates breaking down complex concepts into simple language from treasury bills and bonds to passive income strategies.

But access does not always equal implementation. We often struggle not because we lack information, but because we lack consistency and accountability in applying what we know, saving regularly, investing intentionally, diversifying income streams and planning beyond daily survival.

Now imagine the underserved woman market vendor.

- The woman who wakes up at 4:00 a.m. to stock her stall.
- The woman who balances school fees, rent, food and family

responsibilities from daily sales.

- The woman who is disciplined with money not by choice, but by necessity.

Women are often the most financially disciplined managers in households. They stretch every coin, prioritize essentials and rarely default when given credit opportunities. Yet many remain excluded from formal financial systems. Limited collateral ownership, lack of formal documentation and insufficient exposure to financial tools continue to restrict their access to affordable capital

This is why financial literacy for underserved women is not optional, it is foundational.

This month, the Rotary Club of Uptown Kampala, in partnership with the Rotaract Club of Bweyogerere



Beyond saving and investing, we addressed income growth. Through mindset transformation sessions, we challenged limiting beliefs around money and business growth. We also introduced additional income-generating skills such as liquid soap and petroleum jelly production

For underserved women especially, consistent financial education can mean the difference between surviving and building generational stability. If we are serious about economic empowerment, then financial literacy refreshers must be continuous, practical and accessible especially in markets, villages and informal spaces where women are already working hard every single day.

- Let us not assume knowledge. Let us take it to the ground.
- Let us ensure that every woman regardless of where she works has the tools, confidence and access needed to move from daily hustle to lasting financial security.

Because when a woman understands money, she changes her family's future.

The writer is a Charter President of the Rotary Club of Uptown Kampala



“

Beyond saving and investing, we addressed income growth. Through mindset transformation sessions, we challenged limiting beliefs around money and business growth.

and with support from Rotary Club of Bulindo, Old Mutual, Centenary Bank and Mkazipreneur, carried out financial literacy outreaches at Ntinda Old and New Markets. We

reached 114 women market vendors with practical financial skills.

We then extended the campaign to Kalisizo Market in Kyotera District, where, with the support of Centenary Bank and Rotaract Club of Bweyogerere Namboole, we trained an additional 73 women market vendors.

The women learned practical money management skills, how to track daily income and expenses, how to build disciplined saving habits and how to explore formal and informal saving platforms available to them. They were introduced to investment pathways suitable for their income levels and encouraged to think beyond daily turnover.

Sowing Seeds of Peace



By Up Eyotaru Caroline

In Uganda's quest for sustainable development, tree growing emerges as a powerful catalyst for peace and equity. By ensuring equitable distribution of resources – land, seedlings, and funding – communities can harness nature's potential to uplift lives.

Trees combat climate change, improve health, and boost livelihoods. Yet, access to resources often creates barriers. When communities share resources fairly, tree growing becomes a unifying force, bridging gaps and fostering cooperation.



How Tree Growing Fosters Equity And Prosperity

The Rotaract Club of Muni is promoting equitable tree growing initiatives in northern Uganda. By planting fruit trees like mango and medicinal trees like the prostate- cancer-fighting *Prunus africana*, they're enhancing food security and improving health outcomes.

The Power of Shared Resources

Fair access to land empowers marginalized groups to plant trees, securing their future.

Seedling distribution programs ensure everyone can participate in reforestation.

Collaborative funding models mobilize communities, driving collective ownership.

From Seeds to Solutions

Tree growing teaches valuable lessons in equity and cooperation. As communities work together, they build resilience, enhance food security, and create economic opportunities.

Let's champion equitable tree growing initiatives. By sharing resources and knowledge, we sow seeds of peace, prosperity, and a greener future for all.

The writer is a member of Rac Muni University



DISCON 101 THEME NIGHTS



OPENING
Night

16TH APRIL 2026
THURSDAY NIGHT

DRESSCODE:
ELEGANT ISLAND CHIC



ROTARACT
Day

17TH APRIL 2026
FRIDAY

DRESSCODE:
MONOCHROME
BLACK



ROTARACT
Night

17TH APRIL 2026
FRIDAY NIGHT

DRESSCODE:
AFRO-MODERN
ELEGANCE



DG'S
Banquet

18TH APRIL 2026
SATURDAY NIGHT

DRESSCODE:
BLACK TIE

**IMPERIAL RESORT
BEACH HOTEL,
ENTEBBE**



Scan to register.
**Registration
is now open**

Peacebuilding Beyond February: A Call to Action for Rotary District 9213



By Rtn Florence Butegwa

February, designated by Rotary International as the month for Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution, offers Rotary District 9213 an important opportunity to reflect on its role in promoting peace in the region. Negative political competition, socio-economic inequality, and unresolved grievances continue to pose risks to peaceful coexistence.

In Uganda in particular, electoral cycles have repeatedly been marked by tensions, intimidation, and, in some instances, loss of life. These incidents rarely emerge suddenly. Rather, they are the result of deeper structural and political dynamics that build over time and surface most visibly during elections. Effective peace building must be understood as a continuous and sustained process.

For Rotary District 9213, whose clubs are deeply rooted in local communities, this context calls for a peacebuilding approach that is preventive, sustained, and

locally grounded. It also calls for learning from initiatives that have demonstrated practical effectiveness in mitigating electoral violence.

One such initiative is the **Women's Situation Room Uganda (WSR Uganda)**. Launched in Uganda during the 2016 elections, the Women's Situation Room is a women-led, non-partisan early warning and rapid response mechanism designed to prevent election-related violence before, during, and after elections. The WSR-Uganda adopts an election-cycle approach, recognising that risks to peace emerge long before polling day and often persist well after the announcement of the results.

The WSR provides a platform through which women and youth analyse issues and emerging trends, and engage relevant actors to promote dialogue, tolerance, and peaceful resolution of conflicts. It works with a broad range of stakeholders, including the Electoral Commission, political parties, security agencies, and women and youths in their communities, while maintaining strict political neutrality. This positioning allows the WSR to facilitate dialogue, mediation, and rapid response without being perceived as partisan, thereby strengthening its credibility and effectiveness.

For Rotary District 9213, the WSR model offers several important lessons and partnership opportunities. First, it highlights the importance of continuous peace engagements. While Rotary peace initiatives often gain prominence during February, the drivers of

“**Importantly, collaboration with the WSR allows Rotary to remain firmly non-partisan. Supporting a neutral, women-led peace mechanism enables Rotary District 9213 to contribute meaningfully to peace without aligning with any political actor, consistent with Rotary's principles and public trust.**”

tensions remain active throughout the year. By learning from and partnering with the WSR, Rotary clubs can explore ways to sustain peacebuilding activities between elections—supporting dialogue and community-based conflict prevention long before tensions escalate.

Second, the WSR demonstrates the value of early warning and rapid response at community level. Rotary clubs, with their strong local presence and trusted membership, are positioned to observe early signs of tension within their communities. Collaborating with or learning from the WSR could help District 9213 strengthen its capacity to identify risks early, and to support non-violent responses rooted in dialogue, mediation and conflict resolution.

Third, the WSR's emphasis on women's leadership and youth engagement resonates strongly with Rotary's priorities. The WSR recognises women and young



people not simply as victims of violence, but as key agents of peace. Rotary District 9213 already invests in women's empowerment and youth leadership through Rotary, Rotaract, and Interact clubs. Integrating peacebuilding skills—such as conflict analysis, mediation, conflict resolution, and dialogue facilitation—into these existing platforms would enhance Rotary's contribution to long-term peace, stability, and social cohesion.

From a partnership perspective, Rotary District 9213 does not need to replicate the WSR model to be impactful. Rather, it can complement and support it. Rotary's strengths—its convening power, professional expertise, volunteer networks, and credibility—can add value through capacity-building, resource mobilisation, and knowledge-sharing.

Joint peace dialogues, learning exchanges, and community outreach initiatives could help reinforce norms of peaceful political participation and accountability across the electoral cycle.

Importantly, collaboration with the WSR allows Rotary to remain firmly non-partisan. Supporting a neutral, women-led peace mechanism enables Rotary District 9213 to contribute meaningfully to peace without aligning with any political actor, consistent with Rotary's principles and public trust.

As District 9213 reflects on Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution in the post-election period, the challenge is to ensure that this focus translates into sustained action. The experience of the WSR-Uganda reminds us that peace comes through persistence,

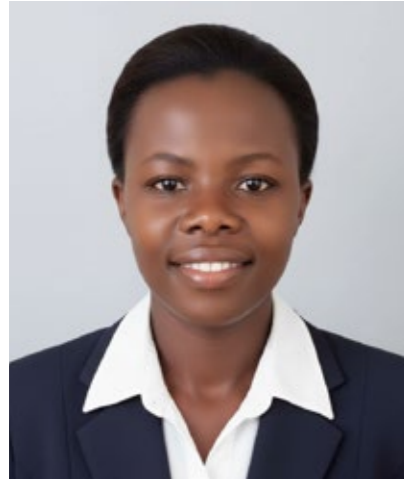
relationships, and early intervention. It is strengthened when local actors are empowered to respond before violence occurs, and when women and youth are recognised as central to solutions.

By exploring partnership with, and learning from, the WSR-Uganda, Rotary District 9213 has an opportunity to deepen its peacebuilding agenda and anchor it more firmly in local realities. February could have served not as the peak of Rotary's peace efforts, but as a catalyst for year-round engagement—contributing to safer electoral processes, stronger communities, and more peaceful coexistence across the region.

Rtn Florence Butegwa is a member of the Rotary Club of Kololo. She is a feminist lawyer and human rights activist.

Breaking Chains

The Imperative of Free Flow of Information



By Up Eyotaru Caroline

In a world where knowledge is power, access to information is the key to unlocking true potential. Yet, barriers to information continue to

stifle progress, breed ignorance, and perpetuate inequality. It's time to shatter these chains and champion the free flow of information.

The right to information is fundamental to human dignity, autonomy, and development. When information flows freely, societies flourish. Journalism thrives, innovation accelerates, and citizens make informed decisions. Conversely, restricted access to information breeds corruption, mistrust, and stagnation.

Governments, institutions, and individuals must prioritize transparency and openness. Let's dismantle outdated laws and systems that suppress information. Embrace digital platforms, open data initiatives, and investigative

“

*“Information is the currency of democracy.”
Let's ensure it circulates freely.*

journalism. Protect whistleblowers and journalists who risk everything to uncover the truth.

The free flow of information is not a privilege; it's a necessity for a just, equitable, and progressive society. Let's break the chains and unleash the power of knowledge.

The writer is a member of Rac Muni University



Your one-stop quality Events Partner!



Stage & LEDScreens



P.A Systems



Events Venue



Corporate Events




Themed Decor



Parasols & Cocktail Setups

**CANCER
RUN 2026**

Rotary
Clubs of Uganda 

GGWANGA MUJJE

LET'S RUN TO RESTORE HOPE

 **SUN 30TH AUG 2026**  **6:00AM**

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

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



Registration Fees
UGX 30,000
Comes with a vest



MAVD McCANN

