

Rotary   
District 9213

# THE WAVE

ISSUE 05 | NOVEMBER 2025



**Francis 'Tusu' Tusubira**  
RI Trustee Elect (2026-2030)

*Tusu lights the Path of Service from D9213 to the World*



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Motivating the next generation! DG presents success cards to Primary 7 pupils of St Peter's Primary School in Kabutemba, Gomba district.

# Editor's Note

## The Currency of Compassion: Why We Give

The month of November, in Rotary, is more than just a date circled on our calendars. It is a celebration, a time when hearts open, wallets follow, and the spirit of generosity takes centre stage. This is the month we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, the heart beat of Rotary International; and we take time to reflect on why we give.

At my Friday evening prayer wave meeting in Kyambogo, the young ladies who run the sessions always say with cheerful conviction, "Giving time is receiving time." How true that is. Even Scripture reminds us that giving is not a transaction; it's a transformation.

Giving takes many forms. In Rotary, it may be a contribution to The Rotary Foundation, a donation to a cause, that eventually becomes a simple act of kindness that ripples through lives unseen. What matters is the intent: that we give so others may rise. For in every coin dropped and every pledge made, there lies a story of hope

reborn. Haven't you seen it at project sites where you have been met with smiling faces, from the weary women whose faith flickers back to life as they whisper heavenward, "Who are we, that we are remembered?"

Too often, we measure giving through figures and frameworks, grants, percentages, or global goals. But peel back the layers of numbers, and you will find something deeply human. Giving is the highest form of connection. It's a silent whisper across borders: "I see you. I care."

In this edition, we spotlight that spirit of giving to The Rotary Foundation. You will see the numbers, and the impact too, as a living, breathing proof of generosity in motion in this District.

My colleague Mark and I had the pleasure of visiting RI Trustee Elect Tusu at his home; it was so serene. His garden was blooming, the afternoon rain was falling softly, and his spirit was as calm and warm as we talked about giving to the Rotary



Foundation. I have never seen such passion about something.

We celebrate the Peace Concert, and the Makerere Peace Centre graduation. We also celebrate the successful Polio campaign. In these, it is evident kindness speaks louder mere headlines.

And so, as you turn these pages, may you remember: the rewards of giving often come in ways we don't expect. Blessings unfold quietly, sometimes as peace, sometimes as health, sometimes as joy. *After all, giving time is receiving time.*

*Give to the Rotary Foundation and see your community become a better place.*

**#Rotary Eyamba**

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## RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

# Let us give with gratitude

This November, as we celebrate The Rotary Foundation, I invite you to consider not only what we give but why we give. The Foundation is more than a fund for projects. It is the beating heart of our promise that service, rooted in trust and friendship, can create lasting change.

Our Action Plan calls us to increase our impact, and the Foundation is how we make this vision real. Since 1988, Rotary and our partners have immunized nearly 3 billion children against polio. We have committed more than \$2.6 billion to this cause, and last year alone we directed \$146 million toward the final push for eradication. These numbers are significant, but the true impact is not in statistics — it is in the lives of children who will never again fear polio. It is in the hope restored to families and the peace built in communities once defined by disease.

But polio is only one story among many. Each year, Rotary



***Our Foundation is not about what we can do alone but what we can do together. Each contribution, no matter its size, joins with others to create a collective act of faith in humanity and in the future.***

Peace Centers train new generations of leaders who will transform conflict into dialogue and division into understanding. In 2023-24, nearly 100 new fellows began their studies, continuing a legacy of more than 1,800 peacebuilders from over 140 countries. When we invest in them, we are planting seeds of peace that will bear fruit for decades to come.

The Foundation also touches lives through district and global grants, supporting projects large and small. A clean water well for a rural community, scholarships for young professionals, medical care in the wake of disaster — these are not temporary gestures, but

steps toward dignity, resilience, and opportunity. This is how Rotary service becomes lasting impact. And when natural disasters strike, our Foundation allows Rotary to act quickly with disaster response grants.

Our Foundation is not about what we can do alone but what we can do together. Each contribution, no matter its size, joins with others to create a collective act of faith in humanity and in the future.

The last mile of any great journey is always the hardest. We see this in our final steps toward ending polio, in our work for peace, and in every project that seeks to lift people out of despair. Yet every time we give, we declare that our work will continue regardless of the challenge.

This November, let us give with gratitude, with joy, and with hope. Through our Foundation, we Unite for Good, and in doing so, we leave behind not only projects but a legacy of peace, trust, and Service Above Self.

**Francesco Arezzo**  
**Rotary International President**



## DG'S MESSAGE:

# The Rotarians' Power of Giving



*Our giving funds peace fellowships at Makerere University, disaster relief and humanitarian programs that make Rotary's name synonymous with hope and help.*

Every contribution, no matter how small, multiplies in impact that is why we are encouraging every Rotarian to give to the Foundation through our easy to use Give & Impact App (trf.rotaryd9213.org)

Through global and district grants, our giving comes back to us many times over, empowering our clubs to undertake bigger, better and more sustainable projects. When we give, we position our clubs as leaders and partners in Rotary's global network of service.

Our giving also keeps the *End Polio Now* campaign alive, ensuring that Uganda and the world remain free from this devastating disease. Uganda has been polio-free for years, but a continued giving ensures that surveillance, vaccination

and emergency response remain strong.

Our giving funds peace fellowships at Makerere University, disaster relief and humanitarian programs that make Rotary's name synonymous with hope and help.

But beyond the numbers and programs, giving to the Rotary Foundation is personal. It is a reflection of our gratitude, our commitment and our belief that service can change the world. It is how we turn our values into action and our dreams into impact.

So, fellow Rotarians, let us give, and give so generously, joyfully and consistently. Because, every time we give to The Rotary Foundation, we are lighting a candle of hope in someone's darkness. We are building a better Uganda.

And, on 22nd November, let us get together for the TRF Dinner and celebrate our giving and the impact that we have to our communities. We shall be proving, once again, that when Rotarians come together, there is no limit to the good we can do in the world. And, that indeed, **#RotaryEyamba!**

**Geoffrey Martin Kitakule,  
District Governor - Rotary  
District 9213**

Fellow Rotarians, when we joined Rotary, we pledged to serve above self, and also to be people of action. One of the most powerful ways we live out that promise is by giving to **The Rotary Foundation.**

The Rotary Foundation is the engine that drives Rotary's good work across the world. It turns our compassion into clean water, our generosity into education, and our service into lasting change in communities. For us here in Uganda, giving to the Foundation is more than charity, it is an investment in our people and our communities, so that they can have a bright future.

Think about the many lives touched by Rotary projects in Uganda - children who can now drink safe water in Nakayonza; mothers receiving better healthcare in Namutumba; young ladies ravaged by the war in Northern Uganda gaining vocational skills in Gulu; and families building sustainable livelihoods because the mothers have been given baking skills. Many of these stories are made possible because Rotarians, like you and me, chose to give to the Rotary Foundation.

# Lighting the Path of Service from District 9213 to the World

On October 15, District Governor Geoffrey Martin Kitakule announced the appointment of Past District Governor Francis "Tusu" Tusbira as a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation to serve a four-year term from July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2030. *Rtns. Sheila Naturinda & Mark Asimwe, caught up with him for an engaging conversation.*

## Who are Trustees of Rotary International?

The Board of Trustees manages the affairs of The Rotary Foundation, which is the charitable arm of Rotary International, responsible for funding service activities around the world. The Rotary International President-Elect nominates candidates for the Board of Trustees, who are then elected by the Rotary International Board of Directors to serve four-year terms.

Legally called *The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International*, the Foundation is owned by Rotary International but operates independently. It manages all charitable funding and related activities, while sharing staff and premises with Rotary International; but the

costs and time is fairly allocated. Its leadership includes a Chair, Vice Chair, and Trustees, and it oversees grants, the Endowment Fund, PolioPlus, and other community programs.

While the RI Board of Directors is the overall governing body, the Board of Trustees operates independently once appointed. Coordination is maintained through designated liaisons from each board to ensure alignment and communication. The Trustees oversee the Foundation's investments, programs, and charitable operations, reporting to the RI Board. Their relationship mirrors that of separate branches of government—where Trustees, though appointed by the Board, function autonomously within an established framework.

## What has inspired your service to reach at this level- from an ordinary Rotarian, to a President and other roles, to a Governor and now a Trustee?

I am still an ordinary Rotarian. And who really is a Rotarian? To me, it is someone who goes beyond membership to fully live the Rotary experience.

Think of it like joining a university, you don't become a graduate until you've completed the full course for which you were admitted. In the same way, being a Rotarian requires one to take the trouble to understand Rotary deeply; what it stands for, what it demands, and the joy it brings when lived out in service. A true Rotarian studies, practices, and embodies Rotary's ideals. Perhaps today, the term Rotarian is sometimes used too loosely; if it were applied in its truest sense, our collective image would always reflect Rotary's highest values.

## So, what exactly will Tusu be doing?

I will be part of the team handling these responsibilities, though I have not yet received formal training, so I may not fully grasp all the rules. I know, however, that the Rotary Code of Policies and Rotary Foundation Code of Policies, together with



Trustee Elect Tusu shares a light moment with Rtn Yona Tukundane, during the interview

Trustee decisions and priorities, provide essential guidance.

From an African perspective, one key focus should be helping people understand *what and why Rotary and what and why the Rotary Foundation*. When members grasp this, it becomes easier to serve effectively and avoid unnecessary disruptions.

Secondly, as was once said, “a good Rotarian is an informed Rotarian.” We need to reinvest in educating members about Rotary’s purpose rather than chasing numbers alone. Membership growth is important, but quality matters more. Many leave because they don’t deeply understand Rotary. This aligns with the thinking of RI President-Elect Yinka Babalola and Director Emmanuel Katongole, emphasizing learning among both Rotarians and Rotaractors to achieve meaningful service.

Equally, we must balance membership quantity with quality, as strong members drive both impact and giving. Many of our members spend more on social events than contributing to *The Rotary Foundation*, not out of unwillingness, but because they haven’t been helped to understand why they should give.

Finally, strengthening international collaboration remains vital for successful service projects, though these are my initial views as I await training.

### **Is this a paid “big job” ?**

This is very interesting. We all know that Rotary is the only place where you pay to serve. I know there is no paid job outside the staff of Rotary International and Rotary Foundation. The only



***We focus too much on recognition that we forget the why of giving.***

expenses covered are for mandatory meetings where travel is facilitated; but not in the Ugandan sense of receiving allowances. That doesn’t happen in Rotary because some of your duties can be costly in terms of journeys, so they support just like they support the Governors to move around their district.

### **How can we; the ordinary Rotarians contribute meaningfully to your job and vision?**

I think we can collectively contribute to the success of the mission of the Rotary Foundation. Our focus should never be on advancing an individual, such as Tusu, but on strengthening the organization itself. If our efforts begin to centre on personalities rather than purpose, then something is amiss.

From my experience serving the church, in the synod, on the diocesan board, and even representing the bishop on the provincial board of education, in all that I found people with many human weaknesses like we all have. Just as one cannot dismiss the church because of a disagreement with a single clergyman, we must not lose sight of what Rotary truly stands for.

When we focus too much on who holds a position, we risk losing the essence of Rotary’s story line.

As Rotarians, we all have a responsibility to support the Rotary Foundation; the heart of Rotary’s work, to advance world peace, understanding, and goodwill. The question, then, is how do we do it? Rotary defines two principal ways to support the Foundation:

1. By developing and implementing effective service projects that create lasting impact in our communities and beyond.
2. By giving, donating financially to sustain the Rotary Foundation’s programs and global initiatives.

These two avenues of support are at the very core of Rotary membership. From the moment one becomes a Rotarian, the call to serve and to give becomes both a privilege and a shared commitment to doing good in the world.

Of course, Rotary’s flagship program stands apart; a solemn promise to the people and children of the world: to end the crippling disease, Polio. Until polio is completely eradicated, and knowing it can resurge at any time, our commitment must remain unwavering.

So, when asked how one can support any Trustee not me in particular, my answer is simple: by showing that we are developing and implementing effective service projects, we are giving to the Rotary Foundation, and we are supporting the global fight to end polio.

### **Now that the Trustee is “Ours,” what shall change for our District?**

Think about Yinka [Olayinka Hakeem Babalola-RIPE], Emmanuel (Katongole-Director Elect) and the rest of us; all



Trustee Elect Tusu sharing a light moment with the writers, at his residence

from the African continent. It's quite unusual to have such a high concentration of leaders from within Africa, which of course means that in one sense it is happening because Rotary in Africa is performing exceptionally well; on the other, it presents a challenge.

When I speak to clubs aspiring to have a Governor, I often tell that if you become a Governor while your club is collapsing, you lose the moral authority to speak anywhere. Your jurisdiction may be the entire district, but if, say, 30% of your club members haven't paid RI dues, can you really stand with authority?

That's the same challenge my colleagues; President-elect Yinka [Olayinka Hakeem Babalola-RIPE], Emmanuel [Katongole], and I are going to face. Our assignments will not just be within our zone but across the world. And people will first look at where we come from before believing our message.

So, fellow Rotarians, if you want to be visible and take pride in people who have gone a step

where they can have global impact, we are going to work a lot more and become a lot better. That is very real, because we need to walk with pride so that when you go to the convention, you can say with confidence, "I am from Uganda," not because you have an RI Director from there, but because Uganda is doing so well and its performance speaks for itself. That, to me, is what it means to say "*we are in things.*"

**If you could describe The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International as a person, what kind of personality would you give him, and why?**

As a person, he would be loving, very serious and with a clear purpose. He would be a person whose head is fully functioning, of decent character, loving his children and in need of doing something great for them but then he is immobile, chair ridden or bed ridden and all he can do is to wish all these good things happen around the world. That is how I see the Rotary Foundation, and that is why it needs this tremendous resource

of people who can understand that passion and vision and share it, so that they can then do what this immobile person wants to do.

It would also have that personality of an endless giver. Giving is a wonderful thing, but it's also where we often go wrong. We're burning out Rotarians. One key training area we need to emphasize is developing the confidence to go out to the people and ask for money, and fundraise, not for us and them, but for a something good.

If you went to a big businessman in town and asked them to donate \$50,000, and that the fund would be named after them, but more importantly they can determine where they want the proceeds of that fund in perpetuity to go whether by location in a district, area of focus, or even scholarships and so much more. So, I think we need to learn a lot more about looking for money outside of Rotary.

We need to learn more from outside Rotary and do things differently. When one club

does something good, everyone rushes to copy it, even when it doesn't fit their context. One club raises 10 million shillings from a bank, and suddenly every other club is running to the same institution!

Have u ever asked why many corporate companies support the Rotary Cancer Run? Because it offers visibility. That's the secret. We need to teach our clubs how to develop creative, sustainable fundraising avenues; the kind that make Rotary live. It's time we stop focusing inward but we can rely on others to sustain our Foundation, rather than depending on our own growth and internal strength.

### How can we grow major gifts/endowment locally and recognize donors well?

If you leave an endowment to your children or your family, what does it mean? In Uganda the problem is the family could decimate all you have left- so many people set up a Trust to ensure the continuity of your businesses — that is what we call an *Endowment Fund*.

In Rotary, the Trust manages the endowment fund for the benefit of the Rotarians who are doing service projects. So, the endowment fund is never spent- it is simply invested so that there is a sustainable source of income which keeps operations in terms of doing work of the Foundation going, and that's why that target of \$2Bn was set long ago and we have now exceeded it. That's the essence of the endowment fund.

When you give to it, you are saying, "I'm contributing to this fund so it can continue doing good in the world." But you can also set up an individual endowment under The Rotary Foundation; which will be a sum of money that meets minimum thresholds that above this level, it is recognized in your name; and you can even dedicate it to a specific cause. The endowment fund is designed so that the principal is invested in perpetuity and only a portion of earnings is spent, so that your gift contributes to long-term sustainability

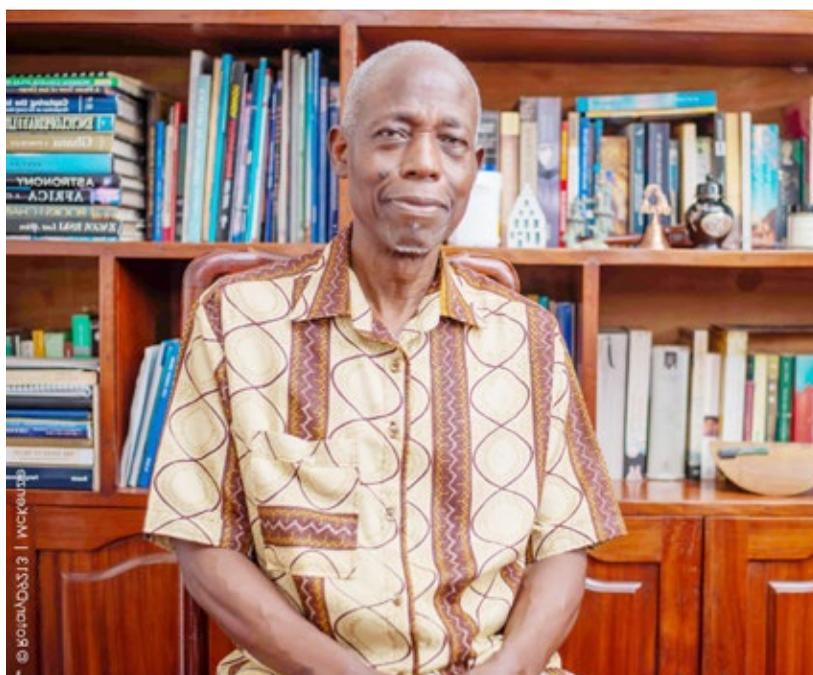
In essence, one can choose to

leave funds with *The Rotary Foundation* to support causes like Basic Education and Literacy in Uganda. When asked why the money should remain with the Foundation, the answer lies in Rotary's proven integrity, its global systems ensure prudent management, strategic investment, and transparent collaboration. Rotary acts as a trustworthy custodian, guaranteeing that contributions are not only safeguarded but also multiplied in impact. Each year, the proceeds from such funds are communicated to districts and clubs, indicating the available resources for matching grants in specific focus areas as determined by the donor's intent.

This is the kind of knowledge we must keep talking about, because many people are not aware. We focus too much on recognition that we forget the *why of giving*. And that's why some people eventually stop giving because once you truly understand the reason and purpose for giving, and have seen the impact, you can't stop giving; it becomes part of who you are.

### When you are not wearing the Trustee hat, what will a perfect Rotary-free day look like for you?

My life always starts with Family, and God always at the centre of it all but family is a priority to me. We engage a lot with working with the youths- mentoring and working with our communities. We have work in Namalimba we do- in Bugweri district.





By Rtn Peter Mukuru.

Rotary International continues to be a powerful force for service, uniting community leaders and professionals who volunteer their skills and resources to solve issues and address community needs under the principle of "Service Above Self". From the heart of Kampala to rural communities across Rotary District 9213, Rotary is making a tangible difference across health, education, livelihoods, peace, and the environment, with close to US \$40M courtesy of the Rotary Foundation, invested in multiple projects in Uganda over the past 10 years. These interventions are creating lasting change in the lives of mothers, children and so many people that selfless Rotarians will never get to know or meet.

Let us look at a few examples,

### Health: Saving lives and Inspiring hope

One of Rotary's most visible contributions in Uganda (Districts 9213 & 9214) is the Cancer Program, anchored by the annual Cancer Run. It has rallied thousands locally and internationally, and its outputs fund the Cancer Ward at Nsambya Hospital, in the centre of the capital Kampala and a

# The Rotary Foundation: The Giving Arm That Never Tires

new cancer treatment facility that is under construction. This infrastructure is critical. Rotary has also invested in the Blood Bank at Mengo Hospital, providing over 1,500 units of blood every month, a lifeline for accident victims, and many mothers who survive postpartum haemorrhage thanks to readily available donations. The Mengo Hospital Dialysis Centre, a Rotary Club of Kampala South project, has brought critical kidney care within reach of hundreds of patients. Globally, Rotary is a founding partner of the Global Polio Eradication

Initiative. Chances are, if your child ever received a polio shot, then Rotary did it. Different other clubs have expanded the rotary health initiative and taken services of rehabilitation of numerous hospitals to the rural areas of the country, organised medical camps and donated substantial amounts of health equipment to many a health centres.

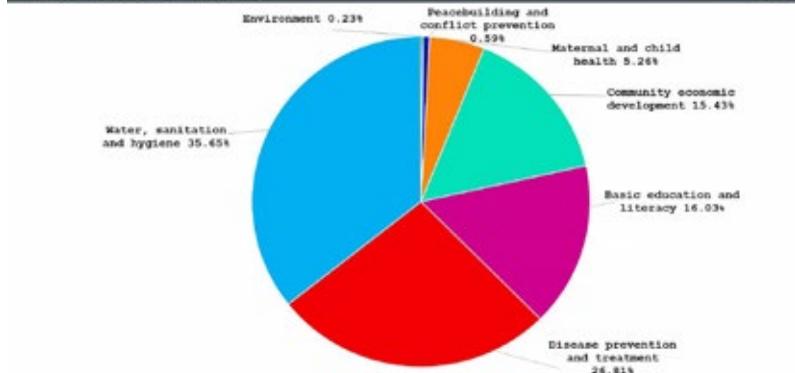
### Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH)

Access to clean water is a foundation for health. For example, In Yumbe, a Rotary

D9213 & 9214 Investment per Area of Focus in the last 10 years Rotary



D9213 & 9214 Activity per Area of Focus in the last 10 years Rotary



WASH project now serves more than 18,000 people across 12 villages. Many Clubs have taken WASH directly to schools and communities. By constructing water reservoirs and distribution systems, providing menstrual hygiene kits, building clean toilets, and conducting training, they help young people especially girls, learn with dignity and no longer miss school each month due to a period.

### **Peace Building and Education**

The Rotary Peace Center at Makerere University, one of the only seven globally, has trained over 1,500 fellows from 115+ countries. Its graduates, work across the world mediating conflicts. Beyond peacebuilding, Rotary clubs have directly transformed education. From new classrooms, computer labs, libraries, including supporting refugee schools in places like Nakivale, the focus is on creating opportunity. Rotary Interventions don't just stop at students; many projects have supported upgrading and re-tooling teachers in a bid to improve the quality of education for thousands.

### **Economic Empowerment**

Rotary's approach combines compassion with sustainability. In Soroti and Kitgum, projects have supported women farmers and vocational training. In the Kyaka II refugee settlement, the Rotary Club of Kampala South improved self-sufficiency by supporting community groups to convert waste into briquettes and compost, reinvesting profits into savings cooperatives. This empowers people to build lasting livelihoods, and also gives many dignity to live.

### **Partnerships that multiply impact**

Rotary's strength lies in partnerships as enshrined in its vision "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change - across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves". Collaborations with Health centres, education institutions, government agencies, corporate entities and international Rotary clubs have mobilized millions of dollars and technical expertise through The Rotary Foundation, to fund the many projects under the seven areas of focus. Events like the Cancer Run and Peace Concert demonstrate how companies, schools, faith groups, the media and the diaspora rally behind causes that address humanitarian needs.

### **More than service: Leadership and Fellowship**

From my own journey in various Rotary leadership roles, I have seen how service sharpens leadership, and how leadership multiplies service.

Rotary's impact is not only in the projects delivered but also in the people it develops. Through opportunities at club and district levels, and training platforms like the Rotary Leadership Institute, Rotarians gain practical skills in governance and leadership. Additionally Rotary supports the youth through initiatives like the Professional Learning and Development programs, RYLA, Youth exchange programs where students are sponsored to study abroad and get an opportunity to blend their education experience, learn a new language, discover another culture, and become global citizens.

And then there is the fellowship. After long workdays on their

jobs or serving communities, Rotarians gather to share ideas, laughter, and friendships. These networks often spark collaborations in business, mentorship, and lifelong partnerships. For many, Rotary is not just a service platform, it is a family.

### **Looking ahead: Join us, let us serve humanity together**

Uganda, just like the rest of the world faces complex challenges: the rising burden of diseases like cancer, climate change, digital divides, and youth unemployment. Rotary is uniquely positioned to augment Government programs, and respond because it brings together goodwill volunteers, expertise, partnerships and global resource mobilisation capabilities.

Rotary's transformative work continues because of people like you, and therefore you can answer Rotary's call by Joining a club, attending a meeting as a guest and see if it's right for you. You can also Partner with us. Your company's expertise or CSR initiative can scale impact in our communities. And you can also Donate. Every contribution, large or small, translates into hope made real.

Visit <https://spc.rotary.org/> or <https://rotaryd9213.org> to learn more about Community projects and how you can be part of the change. Together, we can continue this service that transforms.

### **#RotaryEyamba**

***The writer is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Kampala South, and he shared the same piece on his LinkedIn page: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/peter-mukuru/>***



# The Rotary Foundation, **Our** Foundation

By Rtn Peter Isabirye

*“Positivity is a choice, choose it every day.”*

## **Role of the TRF Committee Chair**

1. Stress the importance and value of the Rotary Foundation to our members and clubs.
2. Encourage each Rotarian to make TRF their charity of choice.
3. Encourage generous giving to TRF while leading from the front.
4. Encourage the attendance by all club members of the various TRF training seminars as well as online courses on My Rotary.
5. Encourage attendance of the TRF recognition dinners and other fundraising events.

## **The Rotary Foundation:**

In essence, it's the engine of Rotary. Also, it's the financial arm of Rotary International (RI).

Other foundations include “Bill Gates,” “Nabagereka,” “Madhvani” to mention but just a few. All have the common goal of philanthropy, helping the less

fortunate, disease prevention, eradication of polio, peace scholarships, etc.

## **Role of TRF in projects:**

### **Funding of District, Global Grants.**

Rotary's areas of focus include; Basic Education and Literacy, the Environment, Disease Prevention and Treatment, Maternal and Child Health, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Economic Development and Empowerment, and Peace and Conflict Resolution. Collectively, they influence the financing of projects. They describe the programmes and projects for which Global Grants can be used.

## **Who can contribute to TRF?**

Literally, anyone can contribute to the TRF - individuals, Clubs, Districts, Rotarians, Rotaractors, non-Rotarians, NGO's, Governments, Corporate Companies, other Foundations, to mention but a few.

## **When contributions are made can you determine where your money goes?**

- Yes. The Annual Programme Fund, analogous to a “checking account,” used annually.
- The Endowment Fund, analogous to a savings account where only the

interest is used and the principal remains.

- Polio eradication initiatives
- Peace scholarships and various specific grants.

*“The pain you feel today is the strength you feel tomorrow. For every challenge encountered there is opportunity for growth.”*

## **Incentives for giving to TRF:**

Recognitions can be given to individuals, Clubs, relatives, corporates and anybody who contributes.

- ‘Sustaining Member’ - a cumulative gift of USD 100 per year to TRF.
- ‘PHF’ a cumulative gift of USD1,000 to the annual programmes fund, Polio+ or an approved foundation grant. Successive contributions result in PHF+1,2,3,4,5 (five Sapphires) PHF+6,7,8 (3 Rubies).
- Paul Harris Society (PHS) - cumulative gift of USD1,000 each year to the annual programmes fund, Polio plus or an approved foundation grant.
- ‘Polio Plus’ - a programme to receive funds given to TRF for the worldwide eradication of polio.

- Major Donor (MD) - a cumulative USD10,000 gift to TRF. There are various levels of Major Donors as well (MD Level one, two, three, etc).
- Benefactor - a cumulative USD1,000 gift to the Endowment Fund, formerly the 'Permanent Fund,' granting Benefactor status.
- Bequest Society - cumulative USD10,000 gift or pledge to TRF.
- Arch Klumph Society (AKS) - cumulative USD250,000 gift to TRF.

***“To understand the road, ahead ask those coming back. Don't take advice***

***from people who've never been where you want to go.”***

Additionally, other incentives include the use of points to creatively create recognitions.

**NB:** TRF contributions are optional as no portion of RI dues is required to go to TRF. It is however strongly encouraged that everyone contributes to TRF because it's good manners.

**'EREY'** (Every Rotarian Every Year): Recognised clubs that achieve an average of USD100 per capita giving and every dues-paying member personally contributes at least USD25.

'100%' PHF clubs - all dues-

paying members attained PHF status.

'100%' PHS clubs - every dues-paying member contributes a minimum of USD1,000 annually to the annual programmes fund, polio plus or an approved foundation grant.

***“Kindness, generosity and altruism are the currency of social interaction and no society can do without them.”***

***Rtn Peter Isabirye is a member of the DRFC of D9213, and a member of the cadre of technical advisors of TRF in three areas of focus.***





# A HARVEST OF PEACE: Makerere Rotary Peace Centre Graduates 8<sup>th</sup> Cohort

By Rtn Peter Nyanzi

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Makerere University was the focal point of a global movement for peace, as the 8th Cohort of the Rotary Peace Centre celebrated its graduation. This milestone powerfully affirmed the success of the Rotary Peace Fellowship initiative and Rotary's fundamental mission to foster world understanding and peace. Nineteen scholars, including three Ugandans, representing 18 areas of focus, were passed out, marking their entry into a global network of peacebuilders.

The ceremony, graced by Makerere University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Finance and Administration, Prof.

Winston Ireeta, and Rotarian Mike Ssebalu, the Past District Governor (PDG) for District 9213, was a vibrant tribute to achievement and diversity. Prof. Ireeta reminded the graduands that peace is not a destination, but a journey — one that demands courage, collaboration, and unwavering resolve.

PDG Ssebalu underscored the foundational nature of peace, emphasizing that Rotary's other six Areas of Focus — from water and sanitation to disease prevention and economic development — are meaningless without peace in the communities we serve. "Peace is the anchor and the foundation for the well-being of humanity," he stated, commending Rotary International and Makerere

University for hosting the centre, which is critically relevant to the global, and especially the African, peace architecture. Given that Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for a significant percentage of global conflict, having a centre that trains peace champions in conflict prevention, mitigation, and management is paramount. He expressed hope that the centre will eventually expand its capacity from 20 to at least 50 fellows.

Established in 2021, the Makerere University Rotary Peace Centre — the only one on the African continent — was designed to address the unique challenges and opportunities of peacebuilding in Africa. In just a few years, it has become a beacon, offering a rigorous Postgraduate Diploma in Peacebuilding, Conflict Transformation, and Development. The program is tailored for experienced peace and development professionals, blending robust academic theory, research, and crucial hands-on fieldwork in the realities of the Great Lakes region and beyond.

The Director of the Peace Centre, Associate Professor Helen Nambalirwa Nkabala,



The Peace institute graduates in a group photo with their certificates.

lauded Rotary for its visionary support. She emphasized that every dollar contributed to The Rotary Foundation's Peace Fellowships is a vital seed planted. "All this is possible because Rotarians have given," she said. "To every Rotarian who has ever contributed, you are building the peace the world so desperately needs. Let us continue to support this vital work." She further highlighted that since its opening, the centre has welcomed nearly 190 fellows from almost 50 countries, ranging from Argentina to Zimbabwe, all sponsored by Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Friends of Rotary.

These Peace Fellows are more than just scholars; they are seasoned practitioners, mediators, and leaders. They arrive with years of professional experience and depart armed with a powerful Social Change Initiative—a real-world solution to a real-world problem—which

they must implement upon returning to their communities.

The Capstone projects presented by the 8th Cohort showcased the practical nature of the program, offering tangible solutions to issues like gender-based violence in conflict zones, youth security, and the intersection of religion and peacebuilding. PDG Ssebalu gave a special commendation to Rudolf Nsang Nchanji from Cameroon for launching his book, 'Echoes from a Deserted Homeland,' urging the other fellows to also document their impactful Ugandan experience. Among the graduands was Rafal Pankowski from Poland, whose project explored intercultural links between Uganda and his homeland, a relationship forged when Uganda hosted over 6,000 Polish refugees during World War II.

With Cohort 10 members now introduced and Cohort 9 out in the field, Makerere's centre is demonstrating remarkable

impact. The nearly 190 fellows trained at Makerere since 2021 are part of a global alumni network of over 1,500 Rotary Peace Fellows working in more than 115 countries. The Makerere centre is already a global benchmarking spot for other centres, demonstrating the success of Rotary's model of empowering individuals with knowledge, skills, and a commitment to service so that peace becomes possible. As Prof. Nambalirwa noted, these fellows are creating social change initiatives that contribute to the peace effort in all aspects of life.

The Rotary Peace Centres, seven in total across the globe, are often cited as Rotary's most profound investment in the future of humanity, a living testament to the belief that peace through education and collaboration is an achievable reality.

***The writer is a member of the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya***



PDG Hon Mike Ssebalu handing over a certificate to one of the graduates

# 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

# Camera Moments

from the

# 2025 Peace Concert

The 5th Africa Peace Concert, held under the theme “Uniting for Sustainable Peace,” brought together leaders, changemakers, artists, and youth committed to promoting peace through unity and creativity. Graced by Rotary International Director Elect Emmanuel Katongole, the concert raised USD 113,400, adding to the USD 1,688,558 collected from the previous four editions. All proceeds support the Makerere Peace Center in amplifying African peacebuilders and strengthening collective action for sustainable peace. This year’s concert was sponsored by Centenary Bank, NBS, Afro-mobile, National Water and Sewerage Corporation, Pride Bank, Fireworks Advertising, and Speke Resort Munyonyo.





# One Day, One Focus for A Polio-Free World



**By Rtms Maureen Kawombe  
Tumwebaze & Mark Asimwe**

**O**n Friday, 24 October 2025, Rotarians and partners converged on Speke Resort Munyonyo to mark World Polio Day with purpose and pride. The message rang through every session, from the morning outreach to the evening stage: as long as there are cases of polio anywhere in the world, none of us is safe. UNICEF’s Dr. Robin Nandy delivered the keynote, reminding us that eradication is won not by headlines but by habits, through sustained routine immunization, rapid

surveillance, and community trust, so the last child receives the last dose.

That spirit came alive from the first light at Nsambya Hospital Ggaba branch, where health workers, Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Voluntary Health Teams worked side by side to deliver vaccines and child-health services. By close of session, 390 beneficiaries had been reached through immunization and essential supplements, an outcome powered by good planning, clear health talks, and tireless volunteers. It set the tone for the day’s march and the evening’s reflections, a living demonstration of Rotary’s promise in action.

The keynote also placed Uganda’s progress in perspective. Over the last quarter-century, childhood mortality has fallen dramatically, and vaccines have been a critical driver of that decline. But progress is not permission to coast. As Dr. Nandy emphasized, when systems are fragile and populations mobile, immunity can erode quickly unless we maintain coverage and confidence. Our response, through clubs, partners, and health teams, is to keep doses flowing and truth telling: vaccines work, and every child matters.

If you want to know what that looks like beyond a capital-city



*If you want to know what that looks like beyond a capital-city ballroom, meet Nurse Agnes Nambozo from Buluganya, in the shadow of Mount Elgon. Her normal commute includes motorbikes, long hikes, and a rickety ladder that rises nearly 1,000 feet*

ballroom, meet Nurse Agnes Nambozo from Buluganya, in the shadow of Mount Elgon. Her normal commute includes motorbikes, long hikes, and a rickety ladder that rises nearly 1,000 feet. She leaves Sironko before dawn, stages at a clinic, packs her insulated backpack with ice to keep vaccines cold, and then climbs toward mountain hamlets that can’t safely bring babies down to facilities. A typical day can reach around 50 patients, mostly under-fives, vaccinated against polio, measles, tetanus, and pneumonia, with deworming and vitamin A where needed. As Agnes puts it, “To love and serve... love is not just a word. It’s a verb.”

Her story, recently profiled by Bill Gates, captures both the grit



and the grace of the frontline. Eastern Uganda is beautiful and unforgiving; ladders link communities the way roads do elsewhere. Slippery rungs in the rainy season turn a routine clinic day into a test of courage. Yet Agnes keeps going, noting the risks, acknowledging the fatigue, but refusing to leave children behind the last ridge. Even amid funding pressures that have thinned staffing in parts of rural health systems, she has pressed on, and with support from the Rotary Club of Kampala, returned to school to deepen her nursing skills for the communities she serves.

Back in Munyonyo, the evening program brought that frontline reality into a policy conversation. A high-level panel with WHO, MoH/ UNEPI, Parliament and Local Government, and Rotary leadership translated science into systems: how OPV and IPV complement each other; why

under-fives remain most at risk; how predictable financing and stronger public-health legislation can protect coverage; and how local governments, backed by Rotary networks, can mobilize caregivers, counter

misinformation, and trace zero-dose children. The recognitions were equally telling: more than 300 Rotarians and Rotaractors who gave USD 100 or more to the PolioPlus Fund, and over 40 clubs that crossed USD 1,500, were honored; proof that generosity, when organized, becomes a strategy.

As the lights dimmed on the lake, one picture remained: Agnes on the ladder and a mother waiting at the top. It is the same story we carried through our march and our stage, the story of how science meets service. Our call is simple: keep trust high, keep doses flowing, and keep faith with the child at the end of the path. Every child, every dose, until polio is gone.

**The writers are from RC Naalya States & RC E-Jazz respectively**





# Vaccinating Hope: Rotary club of Port Bell's Mission in Kitintale

By Rtn Jalia Nakato

For years, the Rotary Club of Port Bell hasn't just been an organization; it's been a powerful force in the battle against devastating childhood diseases. Following in the footsteps of Rotary clubs worldwide, Port Bell's dedication to immunization particularly in the long fight to eradicate polio, has become a defining part of its identity.



*A strategic analysis of the surrounding area of February 2025, revealed a significant increase in the number of immunization centers, including Butabika Hospital, Murchison Bay Hospital, and a clinic in Kirombe*

This enduring mission isn't just about administering shots; it's a testament to Rotary's "People of Action" commitment, weaving a tangible legacy of health, hope, and unwavering community service.

The club's journey began immediately after its charter in 1993 with the establishment of an immunization centre at Kiduuka in Biina, Luzira where children were immunized against the then UNEPI six killer diseases on a monthly basis. This center served the community for nearly a decade,



One of the polio vaccination clinics in Kitintale organised by the Rotary Club of PortBell

providing critical immunizations and healthcare services. Working in close collaboration with Christian Child Fund (CCF) later renamed Kampala Area Federation of Communities (KAFOC), the club moved the immunization center to Biina Family Helper project site where the crucial work continued until December 2024. The center offers extra services to the community whenever the Ministry of Health organizes special polio immunization programs.

A strategic analysis of the surrounding area of February 2025, revealed a significant increase in the number of immunization centers, including Butabika Hospital, Murchison Bay Hospital, and a clinic in Kirombe. This shift in the healthcare landscape presented a new opportunity for the Rotary Club of Port Bell to maximize its impact. This year, the club made a pivotal decision to move the immunization centre to a new location in Zone 12, Kitintale, ensuring that our service reaches a new, underserved community.

The new chapter of our immunization journey was officially launched on Saturday, August 16th, 2025. It was more than just a health mission; it was a vibrant celebration of fellowship and service that embodied the true spirit of Rotary. While the morning started with a few comical misadventures, the day was ultimately defined by a shared sense of purpose and an unwavering commitment to the cause.

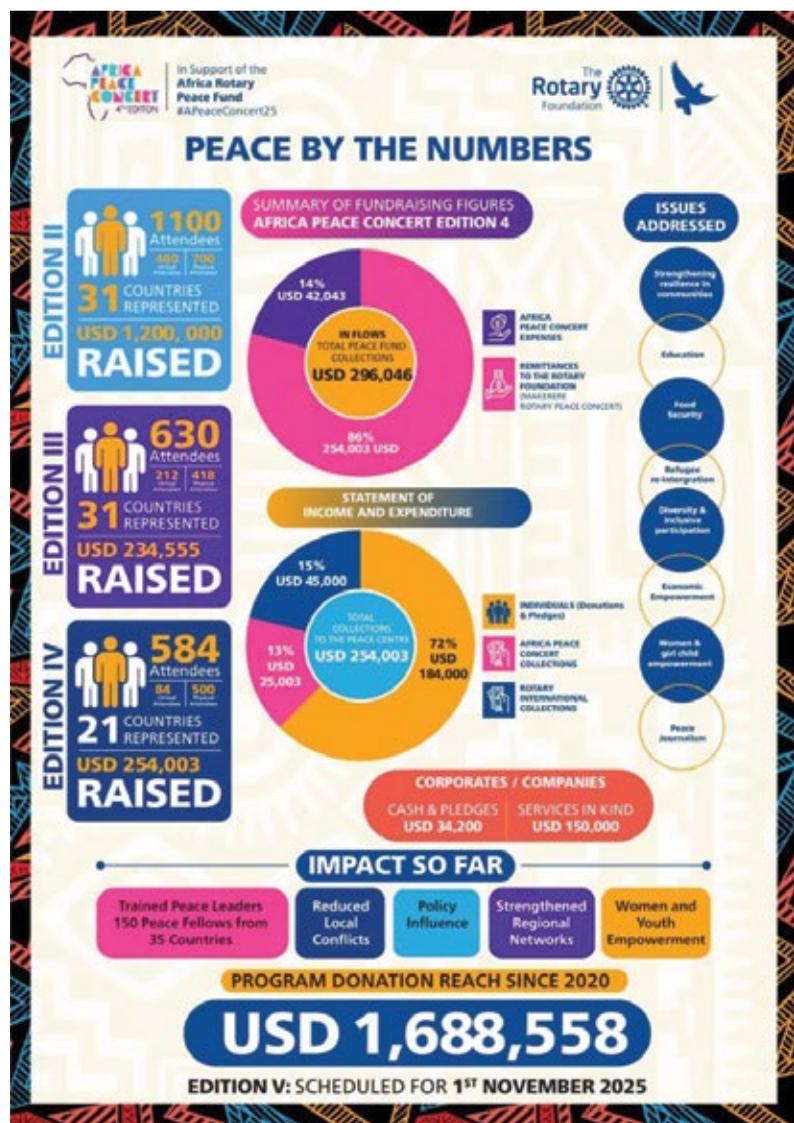
Our partners were instrumental in the day's success, particularly

the Rotaract Club of Butabika, who brought their youthful energy and dedication to the cause. We extend our gratitude to the nurses from Kiswa Health Centre III and Murchison Bay Hospital, whose expertise and compassion are the bedrock of our immunization activities. A special mention goes to our partners at Biina, the Kampala Area Federation of Communities (KAFOC), whose support is invaluable in our community-based projects.

Despite the unexpected downpour and the challenge of our activity clashing with the local elections program, the turnout was a testament

to the community's trust in Rotary. The club, along with its partners, successfully immunized and dewormed 94 children that day. This marked a strong and promising start to our work in Kitintale. As we continue our work in Kitintale, we look forward to reaching even more people and creating a lasting impact. Our journey from Kiduuka to Biina and now Kitintale is a living story of Rotary's commitment to a polio-free world—a mission we will continue to champion with passion and purpose.

***The Writer is a member of the Rotary club of PortBell.***





# Managing Impactful Community Projects, an Example of Kansiri WASH Project

By Rtn Stephen K. Lwanga

The Rotary Club of Kampala has found, over time, that projects are most likely to be sustained and impactful when they are responding to community perceived needs not the community's needs as perceived by the club, with an embedded club ownership. The Kansiri WASH project was conceived when a member of the Rotary Club of Kampala moved to the area and talked to the people about their challenges and needs. He suggested the club undertakes a needs assessment to identify the kind of interventions Rotary could provide.

The needs assessment showed that the priority need was water and adequate sanitation at the only school in the area (Kansiri Primary School). The school and the communities around the school were drawing water from privately constructed dams, sharing water sources with animals.

Kansiri WASH project in Luwero district, Central Uganda is a Rotary International Global Grant project (GG 1984885) involving clubs in Districts 3490, 3750 and 9213 (then



*The total budget for the project was USD 136,788 with District Designated Funding (DDF) from Districts 3750 and 3490 of USD 24,300 and USD 20,000 respectively. Contributions from participating clubs was USD 32,250 of which USD 8,925 was by the Rotary Club of Kampala.*

District 9211). The project was designed to focus on water, sanitation, and hygiene. It targeted a population of nearly 4,000 people, in about 520 households, of whom nearly 2,000 were children. The project area had one government aided primary school, Kansiri Primary School. The school was the project focal point.

Project objectives were to: (1) improve access to safe and adequate water for the school and domestic use; (2) create awareness of sustainable hygiene practices and sanitation behaviours and (3) build local capacity to sustainably manage water and sanitation facilities.



The project addressed the school and three surrounding communities with respect to:

1. Sanitation facilities by educating the residents in having clean toilet facilities in every homestead; construction of VIP toilets for boys and girls at the school.
2. Access to clean water by construction of three solar powered water boreholes pumping water into three water tank reservoirs in the three community locations
3. Rainwater harvesting by providing rainwater harvesting tanks at the Kansiri Primary School and homesteads in the project area, under well laid out conditions of qualification for such assistance.
4. Water filtering by providing water filters to homesteads in the project area.
5. Community health education by training community health workers as

sanitation trainers covering handwashing with soap training and girlchild health and menstrual hygiene training.

The total budget for the project was USD 136,788 with District Designated Funding (DDF) from Districts 3750 and 3490 of USD 24,300 and USD 20,000 respectively. Contributions from participating clubs was USD 32,250 of which USD 8,925 was by the Rotary Club of Kampala.

The project has been sustained and successful, since it was handed over on 12 September 2020, because the community owns and manages it through a water users' committee that was set up before it was handed over. The project focused on community expressed needs. The Water Users' Committee established a cost-sharing contribution by the users of Shs 100 for 20 litres to generate income for the maintenance of the system. The water management committees appointed by the community

leaders were trained in financial management and opened a bank account and have diligently maintained their accounts. While the Rotary Club of Kampala is not involved in the management of the project, it keeps monitoring it through the presence of its member who initiated it although his establishment has its own water source.

A follow-up survey, done a year after the project handover, showed a general improvement in the presence of environmental sanitation facilities. Nearly all homesteads had latrines with handwashing facilities. There was also a very high coverage of clothes drying lines and utensil drying facilities. The survey also showed reduction in reported cases of malaria, cough and typhoid and that nearly two thirds of the homesteads were using the project water sources although 30% were still collecting water from dams but this was down from 52% before the project started.

The community leaders and residents continue reporting a significant decrease in cases of typhoid and diarrhoea which were rampant. The government was impressed by the Rotary project that it offered to take it over and extend the services to the communities that are not included in the current coverage. The offer was made by the Permanent Secretary, PS Ministry of Water and Development when he visited the Kansiri community.

***The Writer is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Kampala***





# Rotary Club of Kisaasi Kyanja Empowers Former Street Children at Ewafe Home

By Rtn Allen Kasura Nahabwe

The Rotary Club of Kisaasi Kyanja brought a wave of support and long-term hope to Ewafe Home, an organization dedicated to rehabilitating and supporting former street children, during a focused service project conducted on August 16, 2025.

In order to fuel the outreach by meeting their immediate needs, and in order to focus on the Homes operational capacity in order for them to meet their

daily essential needs, the Club donated a motorcycle so that the home managers would ride their way to d improve access improve services to the vulnerable under their care. This was together with a crucial range of essential household items to meet the immediate needs of the children and staff.

And for long term impact and legacy the key highlight of the project was the Club's deep commitment to the children's future. The Club committed to sponsor the education of 12 children, ensuring they are supported through to their highest attainable level of education, a gesture that underscores the Club's

dedication to nurturing potential and fostering long-term change in these young lives.

Speaking at the event, the Club leadership reaffirmed Rotary's commitment to advancing education and child welfare, emphasizing the core belief that every child deserves an opportunity to learn and thrive. The success of this service project perfectly reflects the spirit of #RotaryEyamba because it touches lives, empowers the communities, and builds hope for a better tomorrow.

**The writer is the President of Rotary Club of Kisaasi-Kyanja**



# A sneak peek into the Sunrise.

## What Rotary Club of Kampala Sunrise wakes up to



By Rtn Pross Logose

The Rotary Club of Sunrise Kampala (RCSK), through strategic partnerships and unwavering dedication, continues to execute impactful service projects, significantly improving the lives of communities across Uganda. The Club's recent successes span vital areas, including a major health outreach, nationwide blood donation drives, and extensive youth leadership and literacy programs.

### 1. Health Outreach at the Makulubita Joint Medical Camp

In collaboration with the Rotary Club of Kampala Springs and the Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC), Kampala Sunrise hosted a successful Joint Medical Camp at Makulubita Health Centre III in Luwero District. The one-day camp aimed at providing essential healthcare and promote disease prevention for the surrounding communities.



Launching the new piped water and sanitation system at Makulubita Health centre III in Luwero District

### Key Achievements and Impact

- **Exceptional Patient Care:** A multidisciplinary team of 33 medical personnel, including doctors from JCRC and specialists from the partnering Rotary Clubs, served 1,023 patients. Services focused on reducing neonatal and maternal morbidity, providing essential vaccinations, and educating the community on communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- **Infrastructure Enhancement:** The Rotary Club of Kampala Springs launched a vital infrastructure project—a newly installed piped water and sanitation system at the facility, valued at UGX 40 million.
- **Targeted Education:** Awareness was created regarding sickle cell disease, emphasizing the critical need for pre-marital screening and

ongoing patient management.

- **Resource Donation:** All remaining essential medicines and health supplies were donated to Makulubita Health Centre III to support sustained service delivery.

The high turnout was a testament to effective community mobilization across the nine parishes of Makulubita sub-county. To build on this success, health facility leadership is advocating for the adoption of new staffing standards at the Health Centre to meet the increased community demand for quality care.

### 2. Blood Donation to saving Lives

In partnership with the Nakasero Blood Bank (Uganda Blood Transfusion Service - UBTS), the club has cemented her role as a leading supporter of blood

collection efforts nationwide.

- **Collection targets:** The Club set an ambitious goal of 2,000 units for the 2024-2025 Rotary year and mobilized a remarkable 2,487 units, significantly contributing to the national blood reserve.
- **Continuous Drives:** A recent two-week campaign (September 27 – October 9, 2025) across three schools; Kawempe Muslim, Kyadondo Secondary, and St. Juliana High School yielded 894 units.
- **Incentivize donation:** The Club successfully boosted donor participation by investing over UGX 13 million in enhanced appreciation kits, which included items like sugar, sanitary towels, and geometry sets, provided alongside the standard UBTS refreshment.

This partnership is critical, as UBTS currently meets 86% of the national requirement of 460,000 units (based on the WHO's 1% population standard). RCSK's dedication helps close the 14% deficit, ensuring blood is available for emergencies and vulnerable

patients, including mothers during childbirth and children with severe anemia.

The visibility gained through these drives has also led to the imminent chartering of three new Interact Clubs at the supported schools, fostering a new generation of Rotary leaders.

### 3. Nurturing for a Sustainable Service

The club is deeply invested in youth development and environmental sustainability through her participation in the Interact Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) for District 9214 and the 2nd Annual Peace Festival at Bweranyangi Girls Secondary School.

- **Leadership and Peace:** The club was an integral part of the organizing team; hosting Interact clubs from over 12 schools. The event featured crucial workshops, including a financial literacy talk delivered by Absa team
- **Environmental Stewardship:** In the spirit of Rotary's environmental focus, the club donated and planted 500 tree seedlings at the school and a nearby prison, actively

contributing to ecosystem restoration.

- **Dignity in Education:**

Demonstrating a commitment to girls' education, the Club donated 100 reusable sanitary towels to two primary schools adopted by Bweranyangi, helping ensure uninterrupted school attendance for young girls.

### 4. Basic Education and Literacy Enhancement (BELEP)

The Club's commitment to education continues through her Basic Education and Literacy Enhancement Program, which supports seven adopted schools. Following the initial distribution in Kalasa, 114 "success geometry sets" were also donated to pupils at Bituli Mixed Primary School in Jinja District, providing essential tools to enhance learning

The Rotary Club of Kampala Sunrise's comprehensive approach has exemplified Rotary's commitment to "Service Above Self" and has also laid a strong foundation for continued community empowerment in the years to come.

***The writer is a member of the Rotary club of Kampala Sunrise***



Pupils at Bituli Mixed Primary School in Jinja District, display in excitement their new geometry sets donated by the club, as an essential tool to enhance learning.



# A Call to Excellence: Why Your Club's Governance Audit is a MUST DO

By Rtn Irene Namuli

The role of the district 9213 Governance and Ethics Committee is one of stewardship and support. We are entrusted with upholding the principles that form the very bedrock of Rotary: integrity, transparency, and accountability. It is from this foundational commitment that we address you today on a matter critical to the health, credibility, and future of every club in our district: the regular conduct of a comprehensive governance audit.

In the vibrant life of a Rotary club; with its focus on service projects, fellowship, and fundraising, governance can sometimes be viewed as a secondary administrative task. This is a misconception

we must collectively correct. Strong governance is not a bureaucratic hurdle; it is the engine that powers effective service. It is the framework that ensures our actions match our ideals, that donor funds are protected, and that our members have unwavering trust in the organization they serve so passionately.

### The Governance Audit: A Diagnostic for Health and Impact

A governance audit is a proactive, internal review of your club's adherence to its own rules and the standards set by Rotary International. Think of it as a routine health check-up for your club. It is not an investigation or a search for culprits, but a collaborative tool for continuous improvement. A thorough self-audit examines key areas:

**Documentation and Compliance:** Are your club bylaws current and aligned with

the Rotary Club Constitution? Are minutes, financial records, and membership data accurately maintained and secure?

**Financial Oversight:** Are financial controls and dual signatures in place? Is there a clear, transparent process for budgeting and disbursing funds that protects both the club and its treasurers?

**Ethical Practices:** Does your club actively promote and uphold The Four-Way Test? Are conflicts of interest avoided, and is there a clear path for members to voice concerns?

**Strategic Alignment:** Are your club's activities in sync with Rotary's strategic priorities and the goals of our District?

The benefits are profound. A club with robust governance attracts and retains members, builds stronger community partnerships, and ensures that every shilling donated creates the maximum possible impact.

## The Culmination of Excellence: The Governance Excellence Award

Your commitment to sound governance does not go unnoticed. This year, at our landmark DISCON 101, we are proud to continue the Governance Excellence Award, designed to publicly recognize and celebrate clubs

that demonstrate exemplary adherence to the highest standards of governance.

This award is more than just a plaque or a mention during the conference. It is a public testament to your

club's maturity, integrity, and dedication to doing things the right way. It signals to your community and potential members that yours is a club built on a solid foundation, worthy of their trust and investment.

The path to being considered for the DISCON 101 Governance Award is clear: it begins with a sincere and thorough governance audit using the checklist provided by the district. The insights you gain, and the corrective actions you take, are the very evidence of excellence we seek.

### Our Call to Action

As your supervisory committee, our call to action is simple:

1. Initiate the Process: If your club has not conducted a formal governance audit in the last 12 months, now is the time. Appoint a small team, perhaps including a past president and a member with legal or financial expertise to lead this vital review.

2. Use the Tools Provided: Your District Governance Committee has resources and checklists to guide you through this process. We are here as a resource, not as an enforcer. The checklist is available for download;

<https://rotaryd9213.org/50109/Page/Show?-ClassCode=Page&Slug=d9213-key-reference-documents>

3. Embrace the Findings: View every identified gap not as a failure, but as an opportunity to strengthen your club. Update those bylaws, formalize those financial procedures, and recommit to ethical practices.

4. Showcase Your Integrity: Submit your club for the

DISCON 101 Governance Award. Let your diligence be an example that inspires every other club in District 9213.

Fellow Rotarians, in a world that desperately needs ethical leadership, our Rotary clubs must be beacons of integrity. By prioritizing governance, we do more than protect our legacy, we build a more resilient, effective, and respected organization for the future.

Let us work together to ensure that every club in District 9213 is not only a force for good, but a model of good governance, in Service and Fellowship.

***The writer is the Vice Chairperson of the District Governance and Ethics Committee***

The graphic features the Rotary District 9213 logo at the top. Below it is the 'Give & Impact' logo in large, stylized letters. A blue icon of hands holding a heart is positioned to the left of the logo. Below the logo is a yellow banner with the hashtag '#Rotary Eyamba'. A QR code is located to the left of the text 'Log on to trf.rotaryd9213.org'. To the right of the QR code is the text 'Enter your name and follow the prompts'. A smartphone is shown on the right side of the graphic, displaying a mobile app interface with the text 'Welcome to TRF Giving' and a search field. At the bottom of the graphic are social media icons and the text '#Give&Impact #RotaryEyamba' and 'Rotary District 9213'.



# Governance: The Silent Engine of Club Growth and Sustainability

By Rtn Francesca Kakooza

Every vibrant club you admire today, one that runs its projects smoothly, attracts committed members, and commands respect in the Rotary fraternity, has one thing in common: good governance.

Governance is not a fancy term reserved for only corporations or governments. It is the lifeblood of any thriving club. It determines how decisions are made, how resources are managed, how members are treated, and ultimately, whether a club will flourish or fade.

Yet, many clubs still treat governance as an optional extra rather than a foundational pillar. Some even prefer to “stay small” or “keep things simple,” mistaking informality for efficiency. But sustainability and growth never come by accident; they are the direct result of structure, accountability, and integrity.

And these are precisely what the Governance Checklist, developed by the District Governance and Ethics Committee, was designed to strengthen.



*Every club has a governance engine room, and that is the office of the Secretary/CEO. The Secretary is the custodian of processes, minutes, records, policies, and communications that make the nerve centre of club governance.*

## The Checklist: Your Club's Governance Mirror

The governance checklist is not another form to fill. It is a mirror; a practical self-assessment tool that helps clubs evaluate how well they are doing in critical areas such as leadership transition, financial accountability, member engagement, ethical conduct, and transparency.

Across the district, we've seen what happens when governance falters—clubs that delay changing account signatories, fail to produce financial reports, skip assemblies, or neglect accountability for TRF and member dues. When this culture deepens into one-man shows, lack of collective responsibility, or cliques that alienate others,

trust erodes, teamwork weakens, and ultimately, they fail the whole club, witness a member exodus, and the quiet demise of a once-promising club.

Good governance, on the other hand, provides the structure that prevents these cracks from widening. It keeps clubs transparent, united, and focused on impact. It helps ensure that what Rotary builds today will still stand tomorrow.

## The Club Secretary – The Engine of Governance

Every club has a governance engine room, and that is the office of the Secretary/CEO. The Secretary is the custodian of processes, minutes, records, policies, and communications that make the nerve centre of club governance. When a Secretary operates with precision and integrity, the entire club runs smoothly.

But even the best Secretary thrives under leadership that values governance. The Club President sets the tone from the top: championing accountability, fostering inclusion, and ensuring that decisions follow due process.

Together, the President and Secretary are the dual anchors of governance excellence. The President owns the culture; the Secretary sustains the system.

## A Call to Reflect and Act

Ask yourself:

- Is my club growing, or just going through the motions?
- Do we have clear succession plans, transparent financial systems, and credible reporting?
- Have we used the Governance Checklist this quarter? If not, why not?

Every member, regardless of position, has a role in safeguarding their club's governance. So, take action today. Ask your Club Secretary (Club CEO) about your club's governance score and the plans in place to progressively reach 100%.

The District Governance and Ethics Committee (DGEC) stands ready to support you on this journey.

Reach out to Rtn. Constant Mayende (Chairperson-Tel: 0772590464 Email: constant.mayende@gmail.com) and help will come running on its heels.

Because when governance grows, the club thrives—and when the club thrives, Rotary shines even brighter!

***The writer is a Member, District Governance and Ethics Committee (DGEC)***



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# Rotary Kampala Metropolitan: Partnering for Health at Butoolo

By Rtn Ivan Kakooza

The Rotary Club of Kampala Metropolitan is no stranger to Butoolo Health Centre III in Kammengo Sub-County, Mpigi District. Our partnership was forged in 2021 during a Rotary Family Health Day. Those meaningful conversations with the community, its leaders, and stakeholders didn't just inspire us, they demanded a deeper role in its transformation. From that moment, we committed to a long-term plan, designed to support Butoolo and its residents in sustainable and impactful ways.

Butoolo Health Centre III is a government-owned facility located in Kammengo Sub-County, Mawokota North Health Sub-district, Mpigi District. It offers a wide range of essential services including Outpatient Department (OPD), maternal and child health, HIV and TB care, immunization, laboratory testing, and family planning. The center serves a catchment population of approximately 14,349 people (based on the 2014 National Population and Housing Census), with a district



*In 2024, the club further contributed by donating an oxygen cylinder with accessories, along with various cleaning and sanitation materials, enhancing both patient care and facility hygiene.*

annual growth rate of 2.2%. For general services, it caters to a sub-county population of about 43,855, while its ART and non-communicable disease clinics serve patients from across Mawokota North and parts of Wakiso, including Bussi Islands. Despite limited resources, the dedicated staff have continued to serve between 40–50 expectant mothers every month.

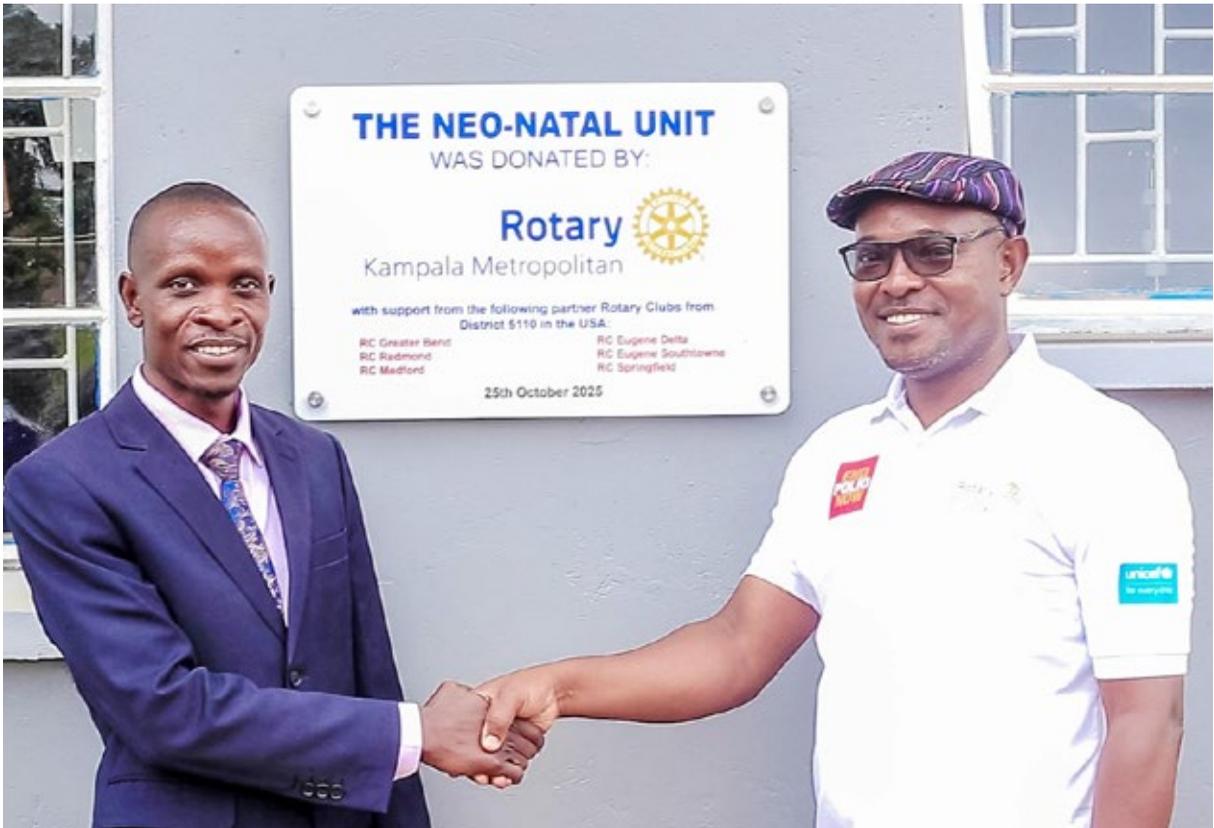
In 2022, our club joined five others; Rotary Clubs of Kampala Ssesse Islands (lead club), Kampala East, Mbale Metropolitan, Bweyogerere Namboole, and the E-Club of Uganda Globa in securing a global grant for the project titled “GG 2239684: Improvement of MNCH Services in Nine Health Centres in Uganda.” For us, this marked the realization of

our commitment to renovate the long-dilapidated antenatal ward at Butoolo Health Centre III. That same year, we donated mattresses and delivery beds to strengthen the facility's maternal health infrastructure.

By February 2024, the club had commenced full renovation works, which included refurbishing the entire ward, constructing a waiting shed for the antenatal wing, and building new toilet facilities. The project was completed within three months, significantly improving the comfort and functionality of the ward.

In 2023, the Rotary Club of Kampala Metropolitan welcomed **Mayfair Insurance** as a corporate partner. Their commitment to maternal and child health aligned perfectly with our objectives. Through this partnership, we acquired a state-of-the-art ultrasound scanner complete with staff training and technical support. This milestone marked a turning point for Butoolo, as the facility previously lacked this critical diagnostic tool.

Ultrasound technology plays an essential role in maternal and child healthcare, providing vital insights into fetal development, enabling early detection of complications, and guiding safe



Club President Rtn Ivan John Kakooza formally handing over the Neo-natal Unit at Butoolo Health Centre III to the Senior Clinician, Mpigi District Local Govt Mr. Kawooya

obstetric interventions. Since the introduction of the scanner, maternal health outcomes have significantly improved, with the number of expectant mothers accessing services at the facility nearly doubling.

In 2024, the club further contributed by donating an oxygen cylinder with accessories, along with various cleaning and sanitation materials, enhancing both patient care and facility hygiene.

Each year, in partnership with **Roofings Group** through its Forever Forestry program, our club has also supported the **Mission Green Initiative**. Together, we have planted over 1,000 fruit and herbal trees around the facility and in nearby homes. This effort not only promotes sustainable ecosystems and biodiversity

but also provides nutritional and medicinal benefits to the community while combating climate change through reforestation.

As our engagement with Butoolo continues to grow, we remain inspired by the support and collaboration from the community, local leaders, and government representatives. To strengthen this partnership, we have established a **Rotary Community Corps (RCC)** within the Butoolo community to help sustain and expand these positive outcomes.

Most recently, on **October 25, 2025**, together with partner clubs from Rotary District 5110 in the USA: RC Greater Bend, RC Redmond, RC Medford, RC Eugene Delta, RC Eugene Southtowne, and RC Springfield, we proudly

donated a **Neonatal Unit** to Butoolo Health Centre III. This vital addition is to help save the lives of newborns experiencing breathing difficulties and other complications. Looking ahead, our club plans to enhance the facility's water supply by installing two 10,000-litre water tanks and is finalizing arrangements with **Plascon Paints** to give the entire facility a much-needed facelift.

Through these initiatives, the Rotary Club of Kampala Metropolitan reaffirms its unwavering commitment to improving healthcare access and quality in Butoolo and beyond, creating lasting change, one project at a time.

***The writer is the President of Rotary Club of Kampala Metropolitan***



# Safeguarding Rotary's Legacy: The Story of the Nsambya Rotary Home Project

**By Rtn. Frederick Mubiru.**

The idea of establishing a Rotary Home was first conceived during the 2004/2005 Rotary year. This vision began to take shape through a massive collective effort. Prudent savings from the 77th and 82nd District Conferences and Assemblies (DCAs), along with generous contributions from individual Rotarians and Rotary clubs, and proceeds from the visit of a Rotary International President, made the purchase possible. A prime half-acre parcel of land, Plot 203, Block 6, Nsambya Kyadondo, was successfully acquired with the vision to create a central home for Rotary Uganda activities and fellowships.

What began as a collective dream by visionary Rotarians, under the guidance of now Trustee Elect 'TUSU', has grown into a testament of unity, foresight, and perseverance.

However, at that time, Rotary in Uganda was not yet a legal entity, which presented administrative challenges to securing the newly



***With legal guidance from Rtn. Dan Lubogo, the Legal Adviser to Rotary Uganda Limited (now a duly recognized entity), the process began to transfer ownership of the Nsambya land from Uganda Rotary Home Limited to Rotary Uganda Limited.***

acquired property. To address this necessity, a company named Uganda Rotary Home Limited was incorporated. Dedicated Rotarians; Stanley Mulumba, Abel Katahoire, Francis Tusubira, Andrew Muguluma, J. B. Walusimbi, Nelson Kawalya, and Stephen Mwanje served as Trustees. The land was subsequently registered under this company, and we eventually officially incorporated it on February 16, 2007, and laid the foundation for what was envisioned as a landmark Rotary property.

## **Reviving the Dream**

Years later, the dream was reignited. Under the leadership

of District Governor Mike Sebalu, Rtn. Frederick Mubiru was appointed to oversee Rotary programs at the district level. Among the many initiatives revived during this period was that Rotary Home Project.

With legal guidance from Rtn. Dan Lubogo, the Legal Adviser to Rotary Uganda Limited (now a duly recognized entity), the process began to transfer ownership of the Nsambya land from Uganda Rotary Home Limited to Rotary Uganda Limited. This transition aimed to consolidate Rotary's assets under a unified legal structure, ensuring accountability and protection of Rotary property.

## **A Setback in 2024**

Progress continued until July 2024, when the Rotary office released funds to fence off the Nsambya property. Materials including concrete poles and chain-link fencing were purchased, and preparations for construction were made.

However, on the very day work was set to begin, a group of unidentified individuals appeared at the site, armed with stones and sticks, and threatened the workers, claiming to act on behalf of

another alleged owner. The confrontation forced the workers to withdraw, halting the fencing project indefinitely. Following this incident, Rotary Uganda Limited, through Rtn. Dan Lubogo, sought judicial intervention. Unfortunately, despite a year of legal pursuit, the matter remains unresolved. A judicial officer assigned to inspect the site has yet to visit, citing logistical challenges such as lack of transport.

### The Road Ahead

While the situation remains delicate, one thing is clear: the Nsambya land is a valuable and

strategic asset, with a recent valuation of UGX 1.4 billion. Its future represents not just a financial investment, but a symbol of Rotary's heritage and collective identity in Uganda.

To ensure this vision is realized, Rotarians are urged to:

- Take renewed interest in safeguarding the property;
- Support the legal and administrative processes to secure full ownership; and
- Work together through District committees to bring the Rotary Home dream to life.

### A Shared Responsibility

The Nsambya Rotary Home Project stands as a reminder that Rotary's success lies in collective effort. Protecting this asset is more than a matter of property. It's about preserving Rotary's legacy for future generations. With unity, persistence, and the spirit of service, the dream of a permanent Rotary Home in Uganda can and will become a reality. So, I implore all Rotarians to pick interest and see that this dream is realised.

**Rotary** District 9213

**Rotaract** District 9213

**TRF DINNER 2025**

**SATURDAY 22ND NOV** | **KABIRA COUNTRY CLUB** | **TIME: 3:00PM**

**FEE: 200K**

**THE TRF DINNER IS A RECOGNITION, INSPIRATION, AND CULTIVATION EVENT. THE CORE PURPOSE IS TO:**

- ▶ Recognize and celebrate current donors and champions.
- ▶ Educate and inspire members about Rotary Foundation's impact.
- ▶ Cultivate new contributors, including first-time givers and potential Major Donors, through sharing impact stories and videos.
- ▶ Strengthen the culture of giving across the district.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND?**

- ▶ Rotarians
- ▶ Rotaractors
- ▶ Rotarians' Spouses
- ▶ Corporate partners
- ▶ Community allies
- ▶ Friends of Rotary

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<https://rotaryd9213.org>  
Rotary District 9213



# D9213 Sparkles and Spreads Magic over the African Continent

By Rtn Sylvia Nankya

When the lights dimmed inside the grand ballroom of the Rotary Institute Fusion Summit in Brussels last month, there was no mistaking where the magic was coming from.

Uganda's Rotary District 9213 had just been announced as the top-performing district in all of Africa, a moment that sent waves of pride through the entire delegation led by District Governor Geoffrey Kitakule, as well as the thousands of Rotarians back home.

Under the theme "The Magic of Rotary," District 9213 recorded a historic contribution of USD 900,000 to The Rotary Foundation, the highest amount ever contributed by Districts in Uganda since the establishment of Rotary in the country more than 60 years ago. The Rotary Foundation described this as a landmark achievement, commending the district for its leadership and generosity.

The recognition certificates, signed by Espen Malmberg, Manager for Philanthropy and Grants, and presented by TRF



*For its overall performance across all Rotary focus areas, from Foundation giving and membership growth to impact and engagement, District 9213 was also honoured with the District Excellence Award from Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, joining only 123 districts globally to earn the distinction.*

officials at the summit, hailed District 9213 as the best-performing district in Zone 22, a zone that covers the entire African continent.

The district also shone as the top contributor to the Annual Fund and the second-highest donor to the Polio Plus Fund, where its generosity helped push Rotary's dream of a polio-free world closer to reality. The district's contributions to the Polio Plus Fund totalled USD 129,000.

The district also pulled off yet another enchantment; all clubs gave something to the Annual Fund, and only four missed out on contributing to Polio Plus, a feat never before achieved in its history.

By the time the applause subsided, the scoreboard was gleaming with more honours: 550 Paul Harris Fellows, 16 Benefactors, 34 Major Donors, 7 Major Gifts, and 1,758 Rotarians who gave under the EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year) banner.

Additionally, thirteen clubs earned the coveted 100 per cent TRF Giving Banner, six proudly waved the EREY Banner, and twenty-five championed the fight against polio with the Polio Plus Banner. In total, half of all Rotarians in the district contributed to The Rotary Foundation.

The district's consistent and coordinated approach also earned it recognition for membership growth, where it ranked second in Zone 22 and third globally among 545 Rotary districts worldwide.

Immediate Past District Governor Anne Nkutu, who led the district during the magic Rotary year, attributed the success to collective effort and

strategic focus. "Our results reflect the commitment of the entire magic team, the generosity of our members, and our shared belief that giving to The Rotary Foundation is the most sustainable way to transform communities," she said.

She added, "Our contributions to TRF increase our impact and translate into life-changing projects, from clean water and education to saving mothers and children, growing local economies, promoting peace, and protecting our planet," she reflected. "The more we give, the more magic we create in the lives of others."

Nkutu added that the district leveraged innovation through the Jjengo App, which simplified the process of donating and encouraged smaller, consistent

contributions. Through this App, the district encouraged each Rotarian to give at least 25 dollars to the Rotary Foundation, under the 25x25 promo. "This approach enabled us to increase participation, ensuring that every Rotarian had the opportunity to contribute something meaningful," she explained.

For its overall performance across all Rotary focus areas, from Foundation giving and membership growth to impact and engagement, District 9213 was also honoured with the District Excellence Award from Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, joining only 123 districts globally to earn the distinction.

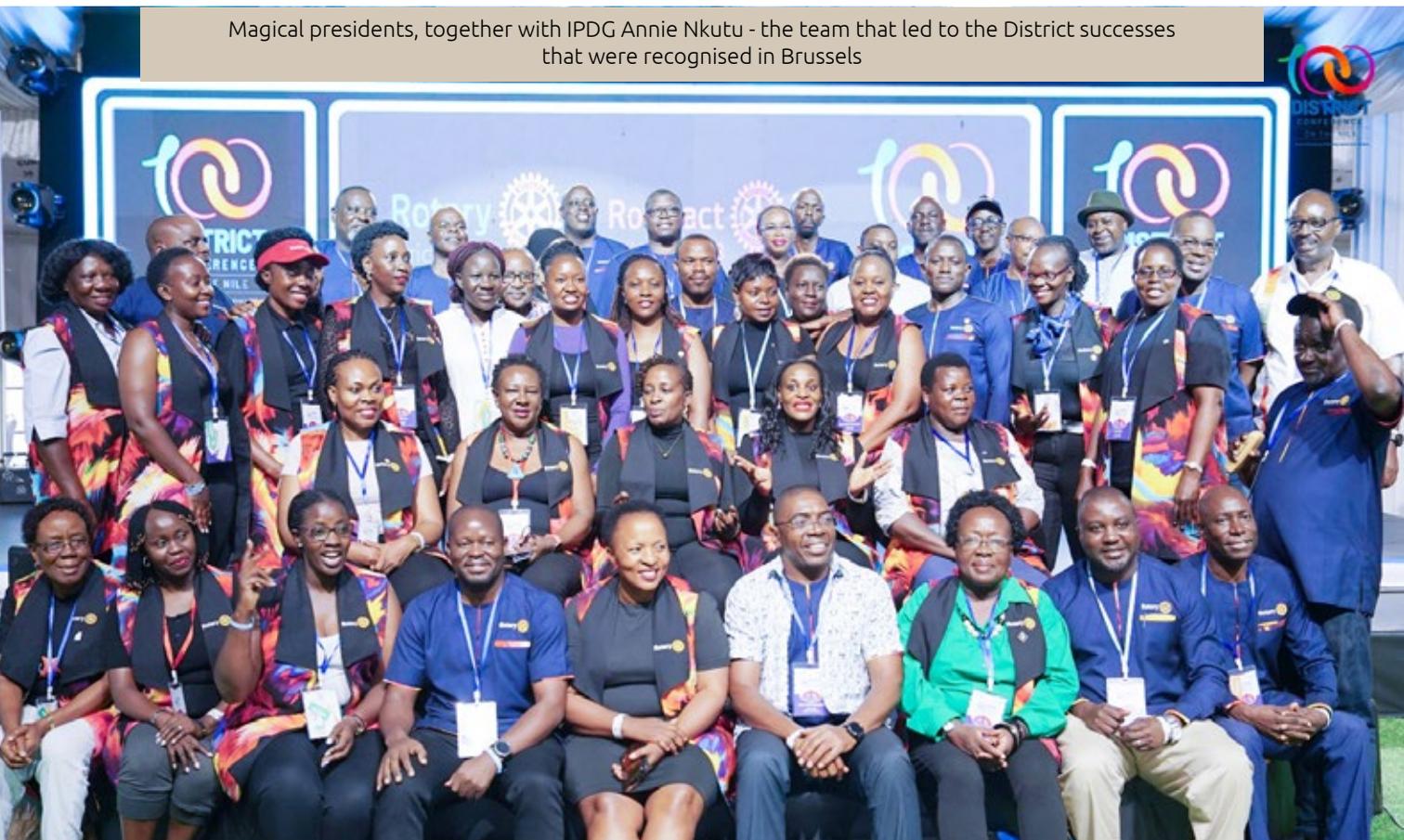
PDG Anne reflects that the year 2024-2025 wasn't just a year of magic. It was a year of

purpose, unity, and faith in what Rotarians can do when they believe. She added that District 9213 didn't just make history but proved that the Magic of Rotary is real.

"At the FUSION Summit in Brussels, Rotary's Zone 22 showed that Africa's voice is strong, creative, and full of potential, District Governor Geoffrey Kitakule posted on his X handle, moments after receiving the accolades on behalf of the District. He added that the achievement "reminds us of what we can accomplish together. Now, our next step is to turn this momentum into real progress at home by building new partnerships and increasing our impact in Uganda, Africa, and beyond."

***The writer is a member of the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya***

Magical presidents, together with IPDG Annie Nkutu - the team that led to the District successes that were recognised in Brussels





# From Parishes to Boardrooms: Bulindo Champions Money Wisdom

By Rtn Innocent Ndawula

**Money Wisdom.** *Uganda's most overlooked poverty problem today is not that people do not earn. It's that too many don't know how to make money work for them. The Rotary Club of Bulindo believes that is a national emergency — and they have stepped forward to lead a nationwide correction.*

For years, Uganda's financial inclusion numbers have been celebrated in glossy policy

reports. According to FinScope 2023, inclusion now stands at 81%, up from 77% in 2018. Sixty percent of adults save in some form. Banks are more accessible. Mobile money is everywhere. And yet the reality on the ground tells a frighteningly different story.

Seventy percent of Ugandans live beyond their means. Only 20% feel confident about achieving long-term financial goals. And 18 million people live one pay-cheque away from poverty.

NSSF data shows 83% of savers have UGX 10 million or less —

and 80% wipe out everything within two years of withdrawal.

## Salvaging a situation

This is the brutal utility of numbers.

"We are losing the real war," says Percy Lubega, President of the Rotary Club of Bulindo. "People think the answer is to earn more. But the real answer is to understand money better. How people manage money affects their quality of life, their health, and social harmony."

Last month in central Uganda, Rotary Club of Bulindo, supported by Rotary District



Rotary Club of Bulindo President Percy Lubega signing the ink of commitment

9213 under Governor Godfrey Martin Kitakule, officially launched a nationwide Financial Literacy Drive, in partnership with the Uganda Financial Literacy Association (UFLA) — and backed by corporate actors including Centenary Bank, Old Mutual Uganda, CEO East Africa and Afro Mobile.

The initiative is bold: move financial literacy away from Kampala boardrooms and into homes, schools, markets, parishes and villages. “For people to enter the money economy, they must have knowledge,” says Daniel Ayebare, Chairperson of UFLA. “A financially literate population can save, invest and protect their wealth even during economic shocks.”

### Little or no trust

Ugandans don’t trust financial systems enough,

and many professionals also misunderstand basic financial fundamentals. Kitakule does not mince his words: “If you do not understand the language of money or the technology to manage it, you are an economic slave,” he said at the launch. “Poverty erodes human dignity. This programme is about freeing people.”

Rotary District 9213’s approach is simple and practical: take Rotary’s grassroots network and embed financial education in existing community work — from youth mentorship clubs to vocational training and fellowship.

In Ayel Village in Lira, savings groups are already discussing insurance as a wealth protection tool. In Bulindo, young entrepreneurs are being coached to differentiate assets from liabilities. In Gulu and

Masaka, early UFLA regional hubs are helping women traders separate profit from stock and think beyond daily survival.

“This programme will help people to make informed decisions, avoid fraud, and safeguard their investments through tools like insurance,” Lubega says.

Phase one will run through central Uganda — then expand district by district. The target is not simply to increase saving; it is to change behaviour and mindsets.

“We kicked polio out of Uganda,” Lubega says. “Now we want to kick poverty out too.”

Rotary Club of Bulindo has drawn the line in the sand: money literacy is the new frontline of dignity.

**The writer is a member of Rotary Club of Kampala South**

## Hard Numbers & Harsh Truths



**81%:**

Ugandan financial inclusion rate (2023) — up from 77% in 2018



**60%:**

Adults who save in some form but only 20% feel confident about achieving long-term financial goals



**70%:**

Ugandans live beyond their means



**23.5M:**

Size of Uganda’s labour force



**14.6%:**

Ugandans that are covered by any form of social security



**90%+:**

Daily transactions in Uganda are still in cash



**18M:**

Ugandans that live one paycheck away from poverty



**83%:**

NSSF savers that have UGX 10m or less in their accounts



**80%:**

NSSF members spend their entire savings within two years of withdrawal



**5%:**

Ugandans that achieve financial independence after retirement



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