

# Wave

October 20

The Tide

96 Teams,  
3 New Champions,  
UGX180m Raised

- Tusu's Rotary Reflections
- Kampala East's UGX 500m Endowment Fund
- Boda boda Dos and Don'ts

WELCOME TO

OCTOBER

THEME:

COMMUNITY  
ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT

Safe Roads  
Save Lives

#RotaryEyamba  
#RotaryKonyo

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

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Volunteering in the times of TikTok

The world of Rotary is an interesting one. Despite all the work done, and continuing to be done, with disadvantaged communities (someone put it bluntly that where government stops, Rotary comes in), negative stereotypes still abound. But Rotarians are not much fazed by that, and continue to do the good work. Which is a good thing.

One thing much of the public doesn't know is that Rotarians not only volunteer to do all that they are doing, but they also pay to do so. It was brought home to me by a colleague who was very much interested in Rotary, whether to think of joining or to write an article; I never got to find out.

After explaining to them the history of Rotary, how it all began and how far it has come, I mentioned, almost in passing, that we also pay annual dues, both to Rotary International and to our clubs. I could see that stumped them a bit.

Wait, they said, you raise money for all kinds of projects, do a lot of fundraising, and on top of that you pay annual dues? You pay to volunteer?

Yes, I replied.  
Who does that, even?  
Rotarians do.

That left my colleague with no further questions, and I still haven't seen whatever article they had planned to write. It was probably planned to be an expose of sorts on how Rotarians party and have a good time while pretending to save the world, the stuff beloved by Lifestyle and gossip writers.

We have just gone through

the first quarter of the Rotary Year 2026/27, and being on the District Public Image team gives me a front-row seat to the tremendous sacrifices that District officers make to serve.

I won't even talk about the District Governor, who literally gives up an entire year of his or her life, not for glory or honour or even a simple Rolls-Royce Cullinan; but to make sure the Rotarians of the District he or she leads continue to make a difference in the lives of the less privileged in our society.

There is, these days, increased media coverage of the work Rotary does, thanks to the more aggressive efforts by Public Image officers (and a little 'transport'). But, with the explosion of information, this very often gets lost amidst the noise of social media.

It is much easier for a member of the public to watch a 30-second clip on TikTok of a person making silly faces than to read the story of a girl who can now go to school because a Rotary Club brought access to safe water to her village, instead of spending the morning looking for water and then being too tired to attend classes in the afternoon.

It is easier to write about Rotarians partying or buying expensive whisky than about efforts to provide girls in rural Uganda with sanitary towels so they can stay in school. It is the nature of communication.

But the volunteering goes on. One quarter done, three to go.

Kalungi Kabuye, RC  
Lugogo-Mango Tree

District Calendar  
October 2026

|       |                                                                   |    |                                                          |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 01    | RC Kampala Thanks giving                                          | 20 | RC Kyenjojo Metro DGs visit, RAC Kaihura                 |
| 06    | RC Buloba DGs visit                                               | 21 | RC Kabarole DGs visit, RAC Kabarole, Fortportal, MMU,UPU |
| 07    | DGs visit to RC Lugogo Mango Tree                                 | 22 | RC Kampala Thanks giving                                 |
| 08    | DGs visit to RC Nsasa                                             | 23 | RC Kawempe DGs visit                                     |
| 09    | 100 Days                                                          | 24 | RLI<br>World Polio Day                                   |
| 11    | RC Gayaza DGs visit                                               | 25 | RC Kiwenda DGs visit                                     |
| 12    | RC Mubende DGs visit                                              | 26 | RC Mbalwa DGs visit                                      |
| 13    | Meeting with Rotaractors in Mityana<br>RC Mubende Metro DGs visit | 27 | RC Kanyanya DGs visit                                    |
| 16-17 | Presidents' Retreat                                               | 29 | RC Namugongo DGs visit                                   |
| 18    | Presidents' Retreat                                               | 30 | RC Matugga DGs visit                                     |
| 19    | RC Kyegegwa Pioneers Dgs visit, RAC Kyaka II                      | 31 | RC Kampala Morning Stars DGs visit                       |



# 99.9 per cent is not 100 per cent

**A**minu Ahmed Tudun-Wada knows what polio takes from a child. He contracted the disease as a young boy in Kano, Nigeria, and was left paralysed.

Decades later, when Nigeria was struggling to eradicate polio, Aminu decided that he would use his experience to help protect other children.

He brought together polio survivors and began going door to door, talking with parents about vaccination. The survivors told their stories. They showed families the effects of polio. And they urged parents to make sure their children never had to go through the same experience.

By 2021, the Polio Survivors Group that Aminu founded had grown to more than 400 members. Their work helped Nigeria reach a milestone that once seemed impossible: In 2020, the World Health Organization certified Nigeria, and the entire African region, free of wild poliovirus.

I think about people like Aminu whenever we talk about ending polio. Eradication is about children who will never know what it means to lose the ability to walk. It is about parents who will never have to watch a healthy child become paralysed by a disease that vaccines can prevent.

And it is about making sure the people who remember polio become the last generation that does.

Rotary has been part of this fight for more than four decades. Together with our partners, we have helped vaccinate more than 3 billion children, contributed more than \$3 billion to the global effort, and reduced cases of wild poliovirus by 99.9 per cent.

But 99.9 per cent is not 100 per cent.

Wild poliovirus remains endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan. As long as it circulates anywhere, children everywhere remain at risk. And even after wild poliovirus disappears from a country, we must maintain strong immunisation and surveillance systems so the virus cannot find a way back.

Aminu could have looked at his own experience and asked, “Why me?” Instead, he asked a different question: “How can I make sure this does not happen to another child?” That is the spirit we need now.

The final mile of any journey can be the hardest. But we have walked too far, worked too hard, and protected too many children to stop here.

Let us remember why we began. Let us listen to those who have experienced polio. Let us be the generation that creates lasting impact and ensures no one ever experiences polio again.

**YINKA**  
**President, Rotary International**



## DISCON102 Registration Rates

Early bird Rate ending November 31st

- A. 102 Rotaractors - \$130
- B. 102 Rotarians - \$200

Regular Registration ending January 31st 2027

- A. 102 Rotaractors - \$150
- B. 102 Rotarians - \$250

DISCON102



Scan to Register



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



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# Impact is not about activity; it is about what remains after we leave

**M**y Dear Family of Rotary District 9213, What a start! The first quarter of our Rotary year is done, and I want to say a sincere thank you for the energy, the warm welcome, and the impact you have already created.

Clubs across the District have been engaged in a plethora of life-changing community projects. And I am delighted that road safety is now firmly on the lips of every one of us.

In just 90 days, we have officially launched the Rotary Year with renewed hope under RI President Olayinka Hakeem Babalola's theme: Create Lasting Impact.

I have visited over 60 clubs, and what I have seen is truly inspiring — projects that will outlive us, membership full of passion, and communities that genuinely feel Rotary. I have felt the full force of Rotary. I have reviewed club goals, listened to your plans, and seen the passion in the eyes of Rotarians and Rotaractors. The road ahead is clearly exciting. My challenge to all clubs is to turn those goals into realities.

We have also started strong on our Foundation. We have celebrated new Major Donors and Paul Harris Fellows, and the growth in sustaining members and Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) is heart-warming. With each dollar we give this Rotary year, we increase the number of

lives touched by our generosity. We open new frontiers, expand our reach, and increase our presence in the community. Each time you look at your recognition pin, know that it represents the smiling faces of those whose lives have been changed by your big heart.

To appreciate your generosity, every donor in the District will be recognised — two special pin categories for those giving a minimum of \$100 and \$500 to The Foundation, and a beautiful wristband for all donors.

Friends, my message this quarter is simple: Impact is not about activity; it is about what remains after we leave. Sustainable projects that will still be standing years from now. A child who stays in school because we paid her fees. A health centre that saves mothers because we equipped it. That is Lasting Impact.

**IN QUARTER TWO, I ASK US TO FOCUS ON FOUR THINGS:**

**1 Membership with Purpose:** Invite one guest who shares your passion. Membership remains our number one internal priority — it is core to everything we do. Each new member brings new ideas, more hands, more resources, and more compassion. There are many potential Rotarians waiting to be invited.

**2 Give to The Foundation:** Every Rotarian, Every Year — at least \$25. Our District Designated Funds depend on it. Our fight against polio hinges on our giving. The future of our Foundation lies in our generosity. Let us make history as a District where every Rotarian and Rotaractor is a donor. Let each of us say, "I will not be the one who denies D9213 the opportunity to create history." Let us make this a legacy year.

**3 Take Rotary to the Community:** That is the only place where Rotary has true meaning. Let every club implement at least one community project aligned to our 7 Areas of Focus.

**4 Tell our Story:** No one can tell our story better than us. A story of a community having clean water for the first time in generations. A story of a disadvantaged child being given an opportunity to stay in school. A story of our relevance in the lives of millions of people.

I am proud to be your District Governor. Let us keep the momentum. Let us continue to inspire, to give, and to serve. Together, we will Create Lasting Impact.

**Gerald Obai**  
**District Governor**





RC Mapeera, winners of the Rotary Club category, get their trophy from DG Gerald Obai

# 96 teams, 3 new champions, UGX180m raised

**T**he 10th edition of the Rotary 5-a-side was held on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at the Kampala Quality Sports Complex - 96 teams, 3 new champions, and a cumulative total of UGX180m raised for service.

Organised by Rotary Club of Kiwatule and partners, this year's tournament ran under the theme 'Play with Purpose. Create Impact'. It was the biggest edition yet: 60 Rotary clubs, 24 Rotaract clubs and 12 corporate teams, including Centenary Bank, Pride Bank, PKF, CIC, FINCA, Old Mutual, KCCA and NCBA Bank.

What started in 2015 at Lugogo Hockey Grounds with about 30 teams has tripled to 96 teams this year. Over the decade, the tournament has mobilised over UGX 180 million for community projects.

President Edward Nkangi of RC Kiwatule said funds go to less privileged communities and are tied to identifiable projects.

Past proceeds have supported Jjany Primary School in Bwebajja,

Kikandwa Health Centre in Mukono, and in 2019 a maternity ward at Anamwany Health Centre in Amolatar District, which has continued to receive equipment since.

## THE FINALS

**Rotary Category: Rotary Club of Mapeera 1-0 Rotary Club of Nakasero Central**

RC Mapeera, who conceded only 2 goals in 6 matches, topped Group M beating RC Kololo 2-0 and RC Kyadondo Rugby 3-1. They then knocked out Bwebajja 2-0 in the Round of 16, RC Kawempe 3-0 in the quarters, and RC Wakiso 2-1 in the semis before edging RC Nakasero Central in the final. They took home UGX 5 million for their service project, plus Best Goalkeeper and Best Female Player awards in the category.

**Corporate Category: Centenary Bank A 1-0 PKF**

Centenary Bank A won a tight final

by the same 1-0 margin over PKF to claim the corporate trophy.

**Rotaract Category: RAC Gayaza Football 1-0 RAC Manyangwa**

Gayaza completed the winners list with a 1-0 win in the Rotaract final.

The draw was held on September 17 at Kati Kati Restaurant during Fellowship of RC Kampala Ssesse Islands, the defending champions, with District Governor-Elect Fabian Kasi as Chief Drawer and tournament Chair Malcom Mpamizo leading preparations.

Nkangi said the 10th edition was about bringing people together through football, fellowship and service.

With 96 teams, a full day program from 8am-5pm, and a decade-long track record, the Rotary 5-a-side has grown from a modest fellowship game into one of Rotary District 9213's main fundraising and fellowship platforms.



## Centre of Excellence in Kira — where Skills Turn into Second Chances

**RC Bweyogerere-Namboole  
Rtn. Victoria Bugembe  
Nampala**

In Kira Municipality, a new vocational centre is being built with a simple but ambitious promise: to give unemployed youth and women the practical skills they need to build livelihoods of their own.

In Kampala, unemployment remains a daily reality for many young people and women. For some, completing school has not been followed by a job. For others, the challenge is not a lack of ambition but a lack of practical skills that can be turned into an income.

It is a problem the Rotary Club of Bweyogerere-Namboole hopes to tackle with bricks, classrooms, workshops and, ultimately, a generation of skilled workers.

The club is building the Rotary

Jubilewo Centre of Excellence for Youth and Women Integration and Development in Kira Municipality, Wakiso District. The centre is designed to provide hands-on vocational training to people who might otherwise struggle to find a place in Uganda's formal job market.

While tertiary institutions produce hundreds of thousands of graduates every year, only a fraction finds formal employment, leaving many to compete for opportunities in the informal economy.

The centre is being developed on 1.5 acres of land provided by Buganda Kingdom, which agreed to partner with the Rotary Club after being approached in 2017. Construction began in 2018, but the journey has not been straightforward. The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted fundraising and reduced donations from individuals and companies, slowing the project's

progress at a time when resources were already limited.

Still, the structure is beginning to take shape.

The Rotary Club has so far mobilised more than UGX150 million, which has been used for site clearance and excavation, the ground-floor slab, columns, and construction of a boundary wall.

The destination is a multipurpose centre that will combine conventional classrooms with spaces where trainees can learn by actually doing the work. There will be nine training rooms, an administration office and conference hall, alongside practical workshops, breakout areas, parking and showrooms. A computer laboratory and library are also planned.

The list of courses reflects the project's emphasis on employability.

A young person interested in building and making things could

train in carpentry, woodwork, metal fabrication or construction. Someone with an interest in vehicles could learn motor vehicle repair. Electrical installation will offer another technical pathway; while tailoring, garment-making, fashion design, hairdressing and catering will provide opportunities particularly relevant to women and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Computer skills and entrepreneurship training will complement the vocational programmes. The centre's organisers envisage 360 youth and women being trained in its first year. Of these, 40 are expected to undertake woodwork and carpentry, another 40 building construction, and 40 textile, garment-making and fashion design. Metalwork and auto-repair will take another 40, while electrical installation will have 40 participants.

Hairdressing, computer skills and cooking and catering are each expected to attract 30 or 40 trainees, while 50 people will participate in adult literacy and entrepreneurship training. The courses are expected to run for six to nine months. But the ambition is bigger than the numbers. The project is intended to create people who can take their skills beyond the classroom and into the marketplace, repairing vehicles,

making furniture, constructing buildings, tailoring clothes, preparing food, installing electrical systems or starting small businesses.

In that sense, the centre is being designed as both a school and an economic engine.

Its sustainability plan reflects that ambition. Trainees will pay modest administrative and certification fees, while the Rotary Club intends to find sponsors for disadvantaged learners.

The workshops themselves are expected to generate income. Trainees and instructors will undertake practical repair and other services for members of the public for a fee, allowing students to gain experience while contributing to the centre's running costs.

A showroom will display and sell products made by trainees. The facility will also be available for hire for training and related activities, while the computer laboratory is expected to operate an internet café.

Completing that vision, however, will require substantial investment.

The current estimated construction budget is UGX1.0725 billion, approximately US\$268,125 at the exchange rate used in the project's original budget.

UGX450 million is earmarked for the ground floor and first-floor slab,

while UGX300 million is budgeted for the first floor and roof. Contingencies account for UGX75 million and labour for another UGX247.5 million.

The construction phase is currently described as unfunded. The Rotary Club is therefore looking to mobilise resources locally, draw on member contributions, seek support from partner Rotary clubs and local government, organise fundraising activities and attract development partners.

The club also plans to seek a Rotary Global Grant to equip the practical workshops, including facilities for motor vehicle mechanics, carpentry and woodwork, metalwork and sewing, as well as the computer laboratory and library.

For the young people and women the centre is intended to serve, its importance will ultimately be measured not in concrete, classrooms or budget lines, but in what happens after training.

A certificate alone may not create a job. A workshop, however, can provide a place to practise. A skill can become a service, a service can become a business, and a business can create work for someone else.

That is the chain of opportunity the Rotary Jubilewo Centre of Excellence is being built to create.



Artist's impression of the Centre of Excellence

# Rotary Community Corps: Putting Communities at the Heart of Rotary Service

By Rtn Sylvia Nankya,  
RC Kampala Naalya

**M**any Rotary projects begin with promises and hope for better communities, but struggle to sustain their impact after implementation. A borehole breaks down, school equipment goes unused, or a community health facility loses momentum once the Rotary team steps away, raising questions about the work of Rotary clubs in communities.

For Rotary District 9213, the answer increasingly lies in Rotary Community Corps (RCCs), which turn Rotary projects from interventions delivered to communities into solutions developed and sustained with them.

An RCC is a group of non-Rotarians who share Rotary's commitment to service and community development. Sponsored by a Rotary club, its members work alongside Rotarians to identify community needs, plan projects and participate in implementation. The idea behind RCCs is that communities should have a voice in determining the solutions intended to benefit them.

The Chairman of the District RCC Committee, Rtn Herbert Muhumuza, explains that the District has now made strengthening this partnership a key priority for the 2026-2027 Rotary year, with a work plan targeting 10 new RCCs, 100 trained RCC leaders and stronger collaboration between clubs and

community corps.

"The purpose of Rotary Community Corps is to bring Rotary closer to the communities we serve," Muhumuza said during the District Membership Mentoring Series session on 'Demystifying Rotary Community Corps'. "An RCC can bring together an entire village, neighbourhood or community association, or a diverse group of people who are committed to service. It allows communities not only to participate in development, but to take ownership of the solutions to their own challenges.

This makes RCCs valuable partners at virtually every stage of a project, from needs assessment and beneficiary identification to mobilisation, implementation and follow-up.

The district work plan specifically requires RCCs and clubs to identify priority community needs and link RCCs with sponsoring clubs for project activities. It targets joint RCC-Rotary projects and an annual showcase of successful RCC initiatives.

"Establishing an RCC is not the end goal," Muhumuza said. "We want active RCCs that meet regularly, implement projects, report on their activities and demonstrate measurable results. Our target is for at least 80 per cent of active RCCs to be meeting regularly and implementing at least one programme every year."

According to Rotary International, RCC's are designed to promote sustainable solutions to community

needs, supporting communities to identify their own priorities and solutions, and building partnerships between Rotarians and non-Rotarians. Records indicate that there are more than 13,000 RCCs across 103 countries and 272 districts. About 300,000 volunteers have so far signed up to work with RCC's.

'District 9123 has 156 active RCCs, spread across a wide network of Rotary clubs, with the largest concentrations under the Rotary Club of Mubende, which sponsors 18 active RCCs. It is followed by RC Mbale with 15, RC Jinja with 10, RC Kampala South with 9, and RC Tororo with 8.'

## GROWING THE RCC NETWORK IN D9213

The District Committee is now taking the RCC message directly to Rotary clubs by creating awareness of RCC formation, assessing the suitability of communities to establish RCCs and supporting clubs to charter at least 10 new RCCs during the Rotary year.

RCC membership is open to adults in the community who are committed to service but are not Rotary members. This enables clubs to engage people who possess local knowledge, skills and community networks without requiring them to first become Rotarians.

The district is also undertaking a needs assessment of all existing RCCs, leadership training for RCC leaders, and promoting the RCC operational guide. According to Muhumuza, that support is critical if RCCs are to become active partners

rather than structures that exist only on paper.

Past District Governor Stephen Mwanje equally explains that when local people help identify the problem, shape the solution, implement the project and monitor its progress, Rotary gains something essential to sustainable service: community ownership.

He said clubs that have projects in Distant areas (pointing out the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya, which has a project in Akwang Sub County, Agago District) need to build on the existence of Rotary Community Corps to ensure effective community implementation, management and sustainability.

He particularly emphasised the need for Rotary clubs to establish Rotary Community Corps (RCCs) around projects implemented through Global Grants, arguing that the community should not only be a beneficiary of a project but also an active partner in its implementation and sustainability.

"Every Global Grant project should have a strong community structure behind it. Establishing RCCs around Global Grant projects helps ensure that communities are involved, that projects respond to real needs and that the benefits can be sustained beyond the life of the grant," he said.

He explained that linking Global Grant projects to RCCs would strengthen the connection between Rotary clubs and the communities they serve, while also creating a local mechanism for monitoring projects, mobilising community participation and identifying emerging needs as well as improving stewardship.

"A Global Grant should not end when the funding cycle ends. We need structures within the community that can continue to protect the investment, monitor the outcomes and build on what has been achieved. That is where RCCs become very important," PDG Stephen added.



A member of the RCC Kachumbala, Bukedea district, helps an old lady to go see a doctor during a medical camp organised by RC Lugogo-Mango Tree

# From Four Cows to Digital Classrooms, Rotary Is Empowering Don Bosco Schools

By Rtn. Victoria Bugembe Nampala, RC Bweyogerere-Namboole

For children at Don Bosco Schools, a school day begins with the simple things that make learning possible: a nutritious meal, a comfortable environment, and access to the tools needed to understand the world beyond the classroom.

At Don Bosco, the Rotary Club of Bweyogerere Namboole has supported a series of projects that touch these different moments of a child's day. From a dairy farm that began with four cows to an eco-friendly kitchen, a computer laboratory and a refurbished library, the projects are helping shape the environment in which pupils live and learn.

The story begins on the farm Introduced during the Magical Rotary Year under the leadership of MD Michael Nuwagaba, the dairy project was designed to provide fresh milk for vulnerable children while creating a resource that could grow with the school. The journey has not been without setbacks. One of the original cows died, while another failed to conceive and was later exchanged. Despite this, the herd has continued to grow, with two calves born and two cows currently pregnant. For Fr. Henry Ssemakula, Rector of Don Bosco Schools, the farm represents part of the transformation of an institution that began as a home for vulnerable children.

"Given the background that this was a home for vulnerable children, people are amazed when they see how the children have been transformed," he says. For the children, the impact is both nutritional and educational. Milk contributes to their diet, while the farm provides a living classroom

where they can observe animal care and learn about agriculture, responsibility and livelihoods. During holidays, surplus milk is sold to members of the surrounding community. After the farm comes the kitchen, the place where some of the produce and other food resources become the meals that fuel the school day.

For years, Don Bosco School in Kiira spent more than UGX400,000 every week on firewood. The smoke produced during cooking made the kitchen an uncomfortable working environment.

With Rotary support, the school introduced an eco-friendly kitchen using briquettes made from coffee husks. The fuel has reduced reliance on firewood, while making cooking and cleaning easier.

For a pupil, the benefit is straightforward: a meal prepared more conveniently and served in a better kitchen environment.

With breakfast or lunch behind them, pupils return to the part of the day where curiosity takes centre stage, the classroom. Here, another Rotary-supported investment comes into view. The club refurbished and equipped Don Bosco Primary School, Kiira, with a modern computer library containing 50 computers and fibre internet. Pupils can now develop basic computer skills and gain practical experience with digital technology.

The facility also supports teachers, who use the laboratory for teaching purposes, while computers and internet connectivity assist with some administrative work.

For children growing up in an increasingly digital world, the laboratory offers an opportunity to learn by doing rather than simply hearing about technology.

But when the computers are switched off, learning does not stop. Another resource waits on the shelves.

The school library was refurbished and stocked with books aligned with the new, improved curriculum. Pupils and teachers can use the books to reinforce classroom lessons, conduct research and develop independent reading habits.

For a pupil, the two facilities offer different paths to knowledge: a computer for exploring digital information and a book for reading, reflection and research.

Seen through the rhythm of a school day, the Rotary-supported projects become interconnected. The day can begin with nourishment supported by the dairy project, continue with meals prepared in the improved kitchen, move into lessons supported by technology and end with a pupil reaching for a book to understand something more deeply.

According to Rotarian Robert Ayume, Public Image Director of the Rotary Club of Bweyogerere Namboole, continuity is central to the club's approach.

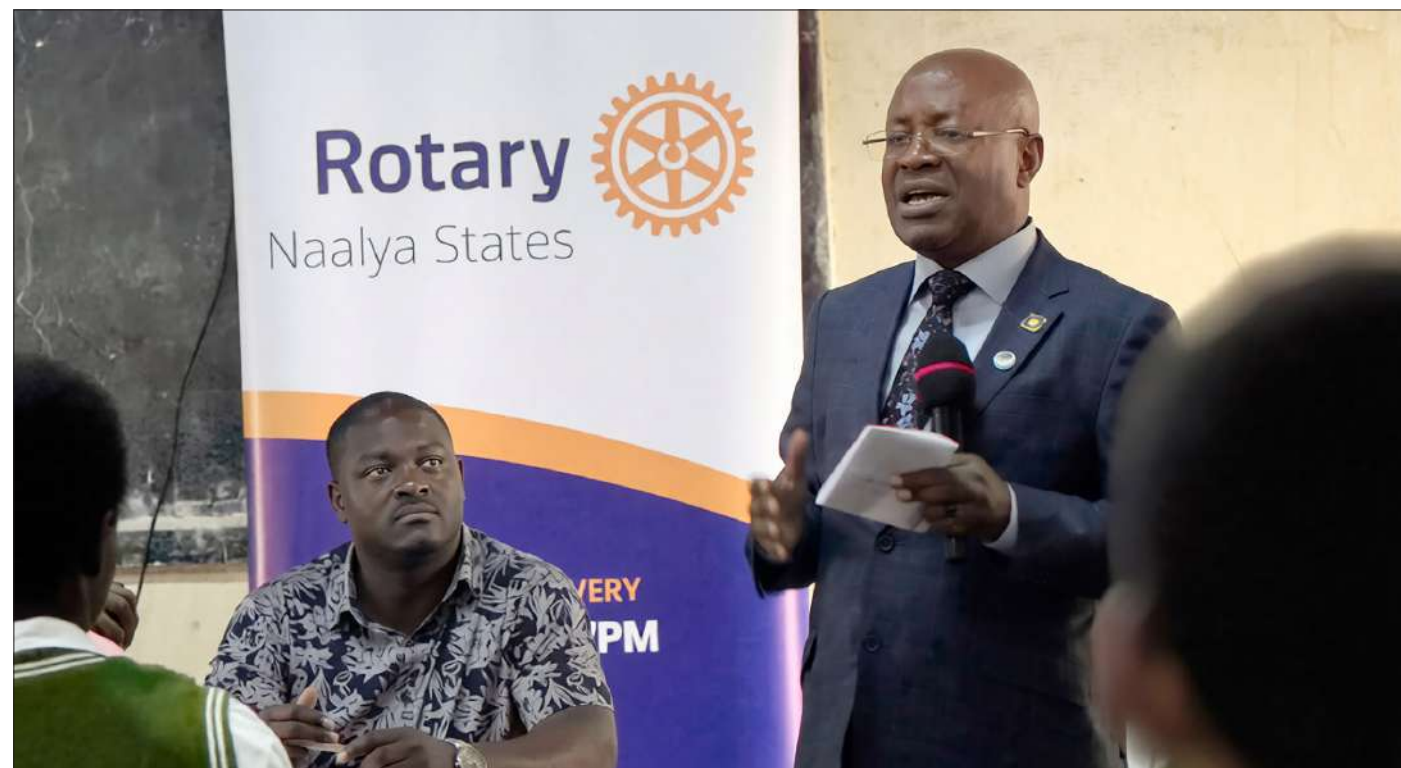
"Rotary is not only about responding to immediate needs, it is also about creating solutions that continue making a difference," he says.

From four cows to a growing herd, from firewood to coffee-husk briquettes, and from limited access to technology and books to modern learning facilities, the partnership has touched different moments in the life of a child. For the Rotary Club of Bweyogerere Namboole, community empowerment is ultimately about creating the conditions in which children can arrive at school ready to learn, stay engaged throughout the day and leave with knowledge and skills that can shape their future.



The refurbished library

Rotary is not only about responding to **immediate needs**, it is also about **creating solutions** that continue making a difference.



## The 'Towards A Purpose-Driven Future' Initiative with Amazing Presidents



By **Edgar Roy Katusiime**  
PR DIRECTOR, ROTARY  
CLUB OF NAALYA STATES

**W**hat began as a commitment to supporting young people in the 2022/23 Rotary year is continuing to create opportunities for a new generation, demonstrating the power of partnerships and the lasting impact of service.

On 25 September 2026, the Rotary Club of Naalya States and the Rotary Club of Kyadondo Rugby, in partnership with the Amazing Presidents, brought the 'Towards a Purpose-Driven Future' initiative to Kalinabiri Secondary School in Ntinda, engaging 163 Senior Five and Senior Six students.

The initiative builds on the legacy of the Amazing Presidents, who in the 2022/23 Rotary Year championed

BELEP (Basic Education and Literacy Enhancement Program), creating opportunities for young people to receive mentorship, guidance and support. Their return to partner in initiatives of this nature demonstrates that Rotary service does not have to end with a Rotary year. When good work is carried forward, one leadership team can lay the foundation for another to build upon.

At the heart of Towards a Purpose-Driven Future is mentorship. The programme created a platform for students to explore career pathways, discuss personal wellbeing, understand the changing digital landscape and discover networks through which they can continue

**RC Naalya States brought its members and resources, RC Kyadondo Rugby contributed expertise and support.**



developing as young leaders.

The programme was graced by PDG Mike Kennedy Sebalu, the Amazing Governor, who delivered the keynote address, setting the tone for an afternoon centred on purpose, possibility and personal development.

The keynote was followed by focused conversations on issues relevant to the students' present and future. Rtn Olive Kyogabiirwe spoke on The Value of Vocational and Technical Skills, encouraging learners to appreciate practical skills as valuable pathways to employment, entrepreneurship and problem-solving.

Joanita Umutesi addressed Mental Health Awareness, while Maureen K Tumwebaze explored the Use of Social Media and Artificial Intelligence, encouraging students

to use technology responsibly and as a tool for learning, creativity and opportunity.

The students were also introduced to the legal profession through Demystifying the Legal Profession, delivered by President Robert Jurua, while Connie Magomu highlighted the opportunities available through the Interact and Rotaract network.

The partnership extended beyond the conversations. Scholastic materials in the form of books, pens and science laboratory kits were provided to support learning at the school. The project offered a practical demonstration of what can happen when people and organisations bring their strengths together around a shared purpose. RC Naalya States brought its members and resources,

RC Kyadondo Rugby contributed expertise and support, while the Amazing Presidents brought the strength of a legacy that began in 2022/23.

For the students, the result was an afternoon of exposure, encouragement and practical support. For Rotary, it was a reminder that partnerships multiply impact. A project may begin with one club, one leadership team or one idea, but when others choose to join, its reach can extend much further.

Towards a Purpose-Driven Future therefore became more than a career clinic. It became an example of how legacy, partnership and service can come together to create opportunities for young people and inspire them to approach their futures with purpose.

# The RC Kampala East Endowment Fund Story



By Prof. Rachel Mindra  
Katoroogo President, RC  
Kampala East

**R**otary is remarkably good at mobilising resources to transform communities. We give, serve, contribute to The Rotary Foundation and volunteer our professional expertise. But there is another conversation worth having: As we empower communities, how deliberately are we financially empowering our own members? Can Rotary fellowship cultivate a culture of saving? Can we encourage Rotarians not only to give, but also to save, invest and build financial resilience?

At the Rotary Club of Kampala East, we decided to explore that possibility. Six years later, our members have voluntarily mobilised savings and built the Kampala East Endowment Fund Ltd (KEEF) to nearly UGX 500 million. The real story, however, is bigger than the number. It is about the habit of saving, the power of collective investment and the institution we built around members' trust.

## FROM A CLUB CONVERSATION TO AN INSTITUTION

KEEF began during one of our annual Club retreats. As members reflected on the future of the Club and the wellbeing of its membership, an idea

**ROTARY SHOULD TALK ABOUT FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT TOO**  
Rotary teaches generosity exceptionally well, we should become equally intentional about financial resilience. Financial empowerment does not compete with Service Above Self. Financially resilient Rotarians may be better positioned to support their families, contribute to Rotary, invest in their communities and sustain a lifetime of service. Our clubs should therefore also be spaces where members learn about saving, investment, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, retirement planning and responsible wealth creation.

**Rotary already possesses an extraordinary asset for doing this - social capital. Among us are academics, bankers, accountants, lawyers, entrepreneurs, investment professionals, regulators and business leaders. What if we deliberately harnessed some of that expertise to strengthen the financial wellbeing of our members?**

emerged: could we create a structured mechanism through which members could save consistently, pool resources and invest collectively for their long-term financial wellbeing?

I was subsequently entrusted by the Club to take the idea forward and translate it into something practical and sustainable. I had the privilege of working closely with PAG Bernard Bamwine (Company Secretary) and Rtn. Patience Kobusingye (Financial Controller) and investment lead,

who became central to turning that aspiration into an operational institution.

The challenge was not simply to mobilise money. We needed to create an institution that members could trust with their money. We built systems, policies and processes; established a Board and Board Committees, strengthened financial and investment oversight, engaged professional legal and audit support; and institutionalised reporting and the Annual General Meeting as an important accountability platform.

That journey taught us a lesson worth sharing: Do not simply build a fund - build the governance, systems and institution capable of managing the fund.

## SMALL SAVINGS, SERIOUS CAPITAL

KEEF formally started in 2020 with only six founding members. The proposition was deliberately simple: a minimum monthly remittance of UGX 100,000 with members encouraged to save more voluntarily according to their ability. By December 2020, membership had grown to 22 and subsequently expanded further.

There was no donor funding and no huge injection of capital. There were simply members deciding to save (some more than the minimum) and continuing to save. Assets under management grew from UGX79.9 million in 2021 to UGX385.5 million by June 2025, and that year generated UGX 36 million in interest income. Today, the Fund is approaching UGX 500 million.

The lesson is powerful: We do not have to begin with wealth to build wealth, we can begin with discipline. Small money consistently saved does not remain small money.

## ROTARY SHOULD TALK ABOUT FINANCIAL



## EMPOWERMENT TOO

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## TRUST NEEDS GOVERNANCE

The KEEF experience also carries an important caution: collective investment cannot survive on friendship alone. Friendship brings people together; governance protects

what they build. KEEF's investment philosophy has remained anchored on capital preservation, sustainable income generation, liquidity management and prudent risk-taking.

As Managing Director and Board Chair during this formative journey, one of the achievements of which I am most proud is not simply helping establish the Fund, but helping build an institution capable of continuing beyond its founders. The larger an institution becomes, the less it should depend on the individuals who created it. Systems must become stronger than personalities, governance stronger than individual discretion, and succession part of responsible leadership.

## FROM SAVING TOGETHER TO SHARED PROSPERITY

KEEF now looks to its next chapter under new leadership. Our vision is to become a trusted and resilient endowment investment company that secures the financial future of members and fosters shared prosperity. Our strategic direction is towards UGX 1 billion in assets under management by 2030, greater investment diversification, stronger governance and risk management, and an improved member experience.

But UGX 1 billion is not the ultimate destination. Financial empowerment is.

## A LEAF FOR THE ROTARY FAMILY

KEEF is not a template that every club must copy exactly. Legal, regulatory and governance considerations matter. But the principle is transferable. What if more Rotary clubs deliberately encouraged their members to save? What if younger Rotarians joined clubs where, alongside fellowship and service, they found mentors encouraging them to start investing early? What if Rotary became known not only for transforming communities, but also for cultivating financially knowledgeable and resilient members?

At Kampala East, we decided to save together. We learnt to invest together. We built governance around our trust. And gradually, voluntarily and consistently, we began building wealth together.

Nearly UGX 500 million later, the lesson is compelling. When Rotarians combine fellowship with financial discipline, we can serve together, save together, invest together and prosper together.

# Seeing with our Hearts



True generosity transforms you into a much better version of yourself. It changes how you relate to family and others.

Early in my Rotary days as Club President, my Governor, Nelson Kawalya (RIP), volunteered me as an expert for a pre-project site visit in Arusha. I asked what I was supposed to do. He said, “The Rotary Foundation will tell you”. The Rotary Foundation???

During and after that visit, I realised I was the eyes of the Trustees and Staff of the Foundation on site. It struck me that while the Foundation is a legal entity, it has neither arms nor legs. We Rotarians and Rotaractors are the hands, feet, eyes, and ears of the Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Foundation gives us a platform where local action achieves global impact, creating that uplifting sense of internationalism: we make a difference to lives around the world. It is the anchor of trust enabling collaborations between clubs whose members have never met. It shows us approaches to sustainable community interventions, even when we fully fund projects ourselves.

What amazes me is how the Foundation helps us break down cultural barriers and create understanding, even without a common language.

Smiles and nods carry unwritten messages. Open arms welcome you in, inviting you to feel at home and be part of the family.

The reason many of us either fail to give to the Foundation, or make giving a tick-box token, is because we have not seen with our hearts how much suffering exists around us. Our eyes instinctively focus on what benefits or threaten us. Going beyond that animal nature requires connecting our hearts to our eyes so that in everything we see, we also feel. Feel that

man trekking home with worry because his family waits without food. Feel your security guard secretly packing the food you give him for his meal, to take to his family. Feel the worry of that girl walking home reluctantly because she faces rape again tonight.

When you start seeing with your heart, giving shifts from an obligation to an uplifting experience. As Mother Teresa said (paraphrasing Mahatma Gandhi), “It is not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving.”

Yes, we are initially driven by recognition — this is only human. Then it moves to appreciation of what our giving achieves. When you start seeing and feeling the impact of service, it becomes an uplifting way of life. True generosity transforms you into a much better version of yourself. It changes how you relate to family and others. It gives you an outward rather than inward focus, making others’ good greater than your own — an attribute of contentment. Service above self. Leaders, friends, Africans — let us actualise ‘It is time for Africa’ through real action, not wishful celebration. Let us grow quality membership as the human resource that actualises our hope.

Let us collectively support and mobilise support for our Foundation through both giving and effective service projects—setting an example and a challenge to the rest of the Rotary World. Only then shall we Create Lasting Impact and earn the right to celebrate.

I look forward to learning from you all and working with you!

**Rtn Tusu, RC Kampala  
North Rotary, Foundation  
Trustee, 2026-2030**

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# Rotary's Eight-Decade Journey of Building Peace

By Rtn Sylvia Nankya

“Peace must be built. And it is our shared responsibility to build it.”

The words of United Nations General Assembly President Dr Khalilur Rahman capture the central message of this year's International Day of Peace, observed on September 21 under the theme, 'Invest in Peace: For Everyone, Everywhere, Every Day'.

The theme comes at a time when conflicts are deepening, communities are divided, and the international system faces growing pressure to find peaceful solutions to increasingly complex crises.

In his message for the day, UN Secretary-General António Guterres reminded the world that peace does not happen by accident.

“Achieving peace is not something that just happens. It is a shared and decisive choice to invest in a better future,” he said.

Guterres also highlighted the contribution of volunteers, advocates, civil society leaders, peacekeepers and peacemakers who are “building peace from the ground up” by bridging divides, bringing communities together and promoting dialogue.

He urged the world to invest not only in diplomacy and peacekeeping, but also in health, education, nutrition, social protection, human rights and inclusive communities — foundations that allow peace to take root.

That message resonates strongly with Rotary's model of service.

For more than eight decades, Rotary has been part of the international conversation on peace. Its engagement stretches back to the years before the United Nations was created and continues today through programmes, partnerships and community initiatives aimed at promoting understanding and preventing conflict.



As the United Nations marks its 81st anniversary, the International Day of Peace provides an opportunity to reflect on the long relationship between the two organisations.

At the UN Peace Bell Ceremony this September, Guterres said: “Peace is never a passive achievement. Peace is hard work. Peace is action.”

Those words could equally describe Rotary's approach. Its contribution to peace has never been limited to declarations. It has been expressed through relationships, service projects, education, leadership development and efforts to address some of the social and economic conditions that can contribute to instability.

## ROTARY AND THE BIRTH OF THE UNITED NATIONS

During the Second World War, while much of the world was consumed by conflict, Rotarians were already

considering what kind of international order would be needed after the fighting ended.

The failure of the League of Nations had demonstrated the difficulty of maintaining international peace without effective cooperation among nations.

Rotary therefore began educating its members about proposals for a new international organisation dedicated to peace, cooperation and understanding.

Through The Rotarian and publications such as From Here On!, Rotary encouraged members to consider the responsibilities citizens and civic organisations would have in supporting a peaceful international system.

The philosophy was that peace could not be secured by governments alone. It required citizens who understood the value of international cooperation and were willing to build relationships



Ringling the Peace Bell at the United Nations

across national, cultural and religious boundaries.

That thinking was reflected in Rotary's Institutes of International Understanding, which began in the 1930s and brought community leaders and experts together to discuss issues ranging from world peace and economics to science and international affairs.

When representatives gathered in San Francisco in 1945 to draft the United Nations Charter, 49 of the approximately 800 delegates were active Rotarians.

Rotary International was also among the organisations invited to participate as consultants to the US delegation.

Among the Rotarians involved were Carlos P. Romulo of the Philippines, who later became President of the UN General Assembly; former Rotary International President Thomas J. Davis; and Luther Hodges, who later served as a Rotary International president and US Secretary of Commerce. Other participants included Jan Smuts of South Africa, Jan Masaryk of Czechoslovakia and Gabriel Dennis of Liberia.

## PEACE THROUGH UNDERSTANDING AND SERVICE

Over the decades, Rotary's peace work has evolved with changing global circumstances, but international understanding has remained central.

Through its Youth Exchange programme, generations of young people have lived, studied and formed relationships in cultures different from their own. Such experiences can challenge stereotypes and deepen understanding across borders.

Rotary's international service projects similarly bring clubs and communities together to address shared humanitarian challenges. Work in areas such as clean water and sanitation, education, disease prevention, maternal and child health and economic development may not always be labelled peacebuilding, but they help create stronger and more resilient communities.

Perhaps the clearest expression of Rotary's commitment to peace is the Rotary Peace Centres and Peace Fellowship programme, which supports the education and professional development of specialists in peace and conflict

resolution. Over the past 20 years, The Rotary Foundation has committed more than US\$125 million towards community grants, scholarships and initiatives led by Rotary members that promote peace around the world.

Through its Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention area of focus, Rotary supports initiatives addressing the causes and consequences of conflict, including prevention, reconciliation, dialogue and peace education.

Rotary International President Olayinka Hakeem Babalola has also placed peacebuilding prominently within his 2026–27 presidential year.

“Rotary gives people the opportunity not only to make a difference in their communities, but also to grow through meaningful relationships, collaboration, and a deeper appreciation of different perspectives,” Babalola said.

At a time of division and uncertainty, Rotary's long history offers a reminder that peace is not simply an agreement signed by governments. It is built through relationships, understanding, opportunity and service — one community and one person at a time.



# One Day, One Focus — Ending Polio

By Maureen K. Tumwebaze, RC Naalya States

It is a message we heard last year, and one we hear again as World Polio Day approaches on 24 October. Not because Rotary has run out of ideas. Quite the opposite, we still have a job to finish. Polio is a highly infectious viral disease that can invade the nervous system and cause permanent paralysis, particularly in children under five. There is no cure for polio, but vaccination can prevent it. Rotary began its global fight against polio in 1979, launched PolioPlus in 1985 and, together with its partners, helped establish the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988. The results have been extraordinary. In 1988, polio was endemic in 125 countries. Today, wild poliovirus remains endemic in only Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the world has reduced cases by more than 99.9%. The global effort has prevented an estimated 20 million cases of paralysis.

**THE FINAL MILE**  
But ‘almost eradicated’ is not eradicated. The progress is extraordinary, but it also makes the final mile more important, not less. If all eradication efforts stopped today, within 10 years polio could paralyse as many as 200,000 children every year, according to Rotary International. That is the danger of pausing. Polio does not recognise borders; as long as the virus continues to circulate anywhere, other countries remain at risk. A single infected traveller can carry the virus across continents, even without showing symptoms. The 2022 case in New York, genetically linked to viruses detected in London and Jerusalem, was a stark reminder that polio anywhere remains a risk everywhere. So, the final mile requires persistence. Vaccination must continue, surveillance must continue, and health workers must continue reaching children. Communities must remain engaged, and the funding that supports this work must continue. We are extraordinarily close. But

close is not the same as finished, so this is where District 9213 comes in. Last Rotary year, our district contributed more than US\$200,000 to PolioPlus. That achievement is worth acknowledging, but this year’s story does not have to be about beating a number. It can be about keeping a promise. And perhaps this Rotary year, with its spirit of crazy ideas and little things, we can find even more ways to do that. A fundraiser. A walk. A conversation. A creative club activity. A contribution that seems small on its own but becomes significant when multiplied across hundreds of Rotarians. Because eradication has always been a story of people doing their part. The world has already come 99.9% of the way. The last part may be the hardest. But it is still within reach. So, on 24 October, District 9213 will join Rotarians around the world with the same focus, the same determination and the same promise: One Day. One Focus. Ending Polio. And then, after that one day, we keep going.

Last Rotary year, our district contributed more than US\$200,000 to PolioPlus.

# Strengthening Clubs Through Effective Risk Management



By Flavia Serugo District Governance & Ethics Committee

Effective risk management is about identifying potential risks early, assessing their impact, taking appropriate action and continuously monitoring them. In Rotary, it helps clubs protect their members, finances, projects, reputation and partnerships while strengthening good governance and accountability.

The first month of our Governance risk reporting has given us something invaluable. It was not just a report but a snapshot of the health, strengths and opportunities across our clubs.

We are pleased to report that 104 of our 151 Clubs responded to the July Risk Register. This represents a strong beginning and demonstrates that many clubs are willing to identify challenges early and mitigate the risks internally or work with the District to address them.

What did the July report tell us? The Risk Register highlighted a wide range of issues across

membership, club operations and administration, financial management, governance compliance, partnerships, reputation, ethics and conflict management. We also saw encouraging signs. Some clubs reported high attendance, strong visitor numbers and engagement with young people, demonstrating practices that other clubs can learn from and replicate. At the same time, the reporting identified areas requiring attention, including:

- Low attendance and limited engagement of members and guests.
- Clubs struggling to attract Rotaractors and young people into their activities and teams.
- Difficulty securing partners for club projects.
- Rotary Clubs failing to attract other Rotarian guests.
- Clubs having challenges with meeting venue, no strategic plans & updated bylaws
- Members falling into arrears or struggling with rising membership dues.
- Member attrition and low motivation.
- Clique formation and challenges around club unity and inclusion.
- Limited youth representation in some club teams.
- New Clubs needing greater awareness of their Bylaws, governance requirements and committee roles.
- Irregular club reporting. Financial reports and Board resolutions not shared
- Delays in updating bank signatories and payment of dues.
- Unethical or undisciplined

behaviour and concerns around online bullying.

- Limited awareness of corporate partnership information and policies, including Youth Protection requirements.

These findings are not simply a list of problems. They are early warning signals. The purpose of the monthly reporting therefore is not to police clubs or find fault. It is to simply help us identify risks early, understand where support is needed and act before small challenges become major problems. Reporting is not a sign of weakness; it is a sign of responsible leadership.

Among other things, we noted the problem-solving capacity of our clubs.

The majority of the clubs that identified risks were able to address and mitigate them internally, drawing on the leadership, experience and resources within their own clubs.

A few clubs that required additional guidance or support from the District Governance & Ethics Committee were also reached out to, and appropriate assistance was provided to help them address their identified challenges.

As we approach the end of Quarter 1 on 30th September, we encourage every Club to use the August Risk Register as an opportunity to pause and ask: What is working well? What risks are emerging? What needs our attention now? What support do we need from the District?

The reporting link will be



Members of the RC Lugogo-Mngo Tree at a medical camp in Kachumbala, Bukedea district

circulated again through our Governance Champions, i.e. the Club Secretaries, and we strongly encourage all clubs to participate. For clubs that reported challenges in July, please use the August report not only to indicate whether the risk remains, but also to show what action has been taken and what support may still be required. For clubs that did not submit in July,

this is an opportunity to join the process. Every report matters!

A complete picture of the District can only be achieved when clubs report honestly and consistently. Let us continue to build a culture where we are comfortable saying: “This is working well.” “This is a risk.” “This is where we need help.” “This is what we are doing about

it.” Together, let us strengthen our clubs through good governance, ethical leadership, accountability and early action. i.e. “Doing Things Right.

**Doing the Right Thing.”**  
**For further assistance, please feel free to reach out to us on 0772120208(Rotary Clubs) or 0784437870 (Rotaract clubs).**

# Stories That Move People

ROTARIANS AND ROTARACTORS LEARN TO DESIGN BETTER PROJECTS AND TELL BETTER STORIES



By Rtn Tina Wamala,  
Storytelling Champion, District  
Community Service Committee

The room was buzzing long before the first presentation began. Close to 50 Rotarians, community service leaders and project champions from across District 9213 gathered for a unique learning experience that set out to answer an important question: How do we ensure that our good work is not only done well, but also remembered, replicated and supported??

The answer lay at the intersection of project design and storytelling. The District Community Service Committee hosted the inaugural Project Design and Storytelling Workshop in Kampala on 5 September 2026 at Emin Pasha Hotel, where participants heard from experts in project planning and implementation, including professionals from the Project Management Institute of Uganda, M Consults Ltd., and experienced Community Transformation specialists. Together, we explored how stronger project design, clear objectives and meaningful measurement create the foundation for sustainable impact.

But as the conversations unfolded, another message became equally clear: even the best projects can remain invisible if their stories are



Rotarians and Rotaractors engage in a practical exercise on Project Design and Storytelling

never told.

During the storytelling session, participants explored The Anatomy of a Powerful Story through three simple but transformative elements: Character, Conflict and Change. Rather than focusing on activities and events, Rotarians were encouraged to place people at the centre of every story, identify the challenge that was overcome, and demonstrate the change that followed. The workshop also introduced the three story types that can help clubs amplify their impact:

- Impact Stories, which show measurable results;
- People Stories, which build connection through personal experiences;
- Need Stories, which inspire action by highlighting service opportunities.

Participants learned how compelling action photos, authentic videos, the Hook–Story–Ask formula, and ethical community engagement can turn ordinary project updates into stories that inspire, persuade and mobilise.

Following the launch of the District Storytelling Challenge in August, the workshop aimed to make a clear distinction between reporting

and storytelling and to further equip participants and build their confidence to start telling their project stories

Clubs are encouraged to submit stories that demonstrate impact, showcase community voices and reflect Rotary's People of Action spirit.

Through the challenge, the Community Service Committee hopes to build a culture where every project leaves behind not only a physical legacy, but also a story that can inspire others to serve.

Clubs should submit their stories to [rotarypublicimage9213@gmail.com](mailto:rotarypublicimage9213@gmail.com) to stand a chance to be recognised on a monthly basis and potentially exhibit their projects at the DISCON102.

Appreciation goes to the District Community Service Committee team that supported the execution. Following the inaugural work in Kampala, plans are underway to hold regional workshops in Mukono, Jinja and West Nile.

As the workshop drew to a close, one thought lingered in the room: projects change communities, but stories change hearts. And when Rotary combines both, its impact becomes impossible to ignore.

Rotary  
District 9213

Rotaract  
District 9213



## DISTRICT 9213 PROJECTS STORYTELLING CHALLENGE

### 01 PURPOSE OF THE CHALLENGE

To inspire participation, showcase Rotary's impact, and encourage Clubs to document and share the stories behind their service projects.

**The goal:** Move from "doing projects" to "telling the impact so others are moved to act."

### 02 WHO CAN PARTICIPATE

All Rotary and Rotaract Clubs in District 9213.

Clubs are encouraged to involve members, beneficiaries, and project partners in telling the story.

**Clubs with the best/most stories are to be Recognised**

#### WHERE TO POST

- Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn, Club Website, Club Newsletter, The Wave and Media outlets
- Send link of story/attachment to [rotarypublicimage9213@gmail.com](mailto:rotarypublicimage9213@gmail.com)

#### Tagging Requirements:

Tag the following in every post:

- Rotary International: @rotary
- District 9213: @rotaryd9213
- Rotaract District 9213 @RotaractD213
- District Governor: @@dgrotaryd9213
- Hashtags: #RotaryEyamba #RotaryKonyo #StoriesForImpact

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Left to right: Henry, Maureen the Marshall, Maureen the Route Chair, and Maureen the runner

# When Strangers Run Together

A chance meeting, a 21-kilometre journey, and two runners who refused to finish alone

They did not start together. They did not know each other. And neither expected that, somewhere along the 21-kilometre route of the 2026 Rotary Cancer Run, they would find a running partner.

But on a road in Nakasero, with most of the runners already far ahead, Henry Foxx met Maureen. What began as a chance encounter became a partnership that lasted all the way to the finish line.

Henry had started the morning with a very different plan.

“I had actually told everyone I was doing 10km,” he says.

Ten kilometres was supposed to be enough. But as he started running, another voice in his head began challenging that plan. 21 kilometres.

At first, he was scared. Twenty-one kilometres was a significant leap from the distance he had told everyone he would run. But Henry admits he enjoys daring himself from time to time and pushing himself a little beyond his comfort zone.

So, when he reached Acacia Avenue City Oil and saw people branching off from the route, he had another opportunity to reconsider. Instead, he decided to continue.

“No, let me continue. Come what may.” And continue he did. The route took him through Nakasero and Kololo, where Henry found himself enjoying the scenery and experiencing Kampala differently from the usual view of a city from a car. At one point, he simply followed the map, partly out of curiosity.

“It was a good run,” he says with a laugh.

But as the kilometres accumulated, the road became quieter. That was when he met Maureen. She was also doing the 21-kilometre route. Unlike Henry, this was not her first run. She

It is a small detail, but perhaps it captures the spirit of the Cancer Run beautifully.

knew what it took to keep moving when the excitement of the start had disappeared, and the finish line still seemed far away.

So, they stayed together. They encouraged each other. And according to Henry, Maureen did considerably more of the encouraging.

“She encouraged me more because it wasn’t her first run. She guided me most of the run. In case I wanted to take a shortcut, she put me back on track,” he says, laughing.

It is a small detail, but perhaps it captures the spirit of the Cancer Run beautifully. Two people who had never met before were now making sure that neither gave up.

## A COINCIDENCE OF MAUREENS

There was another delightful coincidence in their story. The runner who stayed with Henry was Maureen. The GUTSV marshal who gracefully walked them through the route was also Maureen, Maureen Chelimo Koech, herself a GUTSV runner. And the team leader of the route managers was, yours truly, Maureen.

Three Maureens. One Cancer Run. Two runners who eventually became one little team on the road. Perhaps it was simply coincidence. But it

made for a fitting story within a much bigger one.

## A RUN BIGGER THAN THE NUMBERS

The 2026 Rotary Cancer Run brought together more than 100,000 runners across several cities, united by a common purpose: supporting the fight against cancer. Together, they raised an extraordinary UGX 5.62 billion.

For Henry, who had known about the Cancer Run for some time but was attending for the very first time, the scale of the event was striking.

“I’ve known about the run since, but this was my very first to attend,” he says.

And then came the number that made him stop and think.

“5 billion shillings is a serious amount. That means this Cancer Run pulls masses from all over.”

But beyond the crowds and the money, Henry also recognised the bigger purpose behind the event.

“And that’s a good mission and vision at large for communities in need.”

His observation captures something important about the Cancer Run. The thousands who turn up, the money raised and the kilometres covered all come together to serve a purpose far beyond the individual runner. Every participant becomes part of a collective effort to create greater hope, care and support for people and communities affected by cancer.

And within that enormous collective effort, thousands of individual stories unfold.

When they finally arrived at the finish line, the clock read 11:49 am. Only this time, there were two. Henry had planned to run 10 kilometres. Maureen knew what it meant to run 21km. They met by chance in Nakasero, when there were few runners left on the road, and decided to keep going together.

They didn’t start together. But they finished together.



(L-R) Maureen Tumwebaze, Olive Kyogabiirwe, Hellen Abodu and Stella Okwadi

# Four Women, One Man and a Whole Lot of Zeal

**By Maureen K Tumwebaze, Charter President, Rotary Club of Naalya States**

**W**hen the Rotary 5-Aside Tournament called for teams to field at least one female player, the Rotary Club of Naalya States decided to take the instruction quite literally, and then some. Instead of one woman, Naalya States fielded four female players and one male player, making them the most female-dominated team in the tournament.

But this was not a team assembled simply to meet a requirement. They came ready to play, and they brought the energy with them. At the heart of the team was Captain Olive, the energetic captain whose enthusiasm seemed to keep everyone moving, whether they knew exactly where they were supposed to be or not.

Then there was Hellen, the striker, who had apparently made a promise back home that she was going to

score. She carried that promise onto the pitch with determination, looking for every opportunity to make good on it. Maureen was a story of her own. A midfielder who somehow found herself as goalkeeper, she spent much of the tournament seemingly wondering where she actually belonged. Midfield? Goalkeeping? Somewhere in between? Whatever the answer was, she showed up and played the role she had been given.

And then there was Stella, who, like Maureen, was not entirely sure whether she was here or there. But she was there. And she played. In fact, the team's unofficial philosophy seemed to become simple: everyone had to touch the ball.

Their first match was against the Rotary Club of Najeera, followed by a second match against the Rotary Club of Kampala 7 Hills. Naalya States lost both matches, but the scores did not tell the whole story.

What the team lacked in tournament experience, they made up for in zeal,

enthusiasm and pure enjoyment of the game. Every touch of the ball was celebrated. Every run brought encouragement. Every near miss became another reason to cheer. The team stayed together, laughed together and kept the vibe alive from one match to the next.

And they were not alone.

The male members of the Rotary Club of Naalya States turned up to support and celebrate the team after the matches. Their presence made it clear that while four women had taken the field, the entire club was behind them.

The tournament may not have delivered a win for Naalya States, but it delivered something else: a team that enjoyed the experience, represented their club proudly and proved that sometimes the best part of sport is simply getting out there and playing. For Captain Olive, Hellen, Maureen, Stella and their teammate, the mission was never just about the final score. It was about showing up.





## Riding on a Boda Boda – the Dos and Don'ts

**A**bout 90% of workers in Uganda use bodas daily, so safety is not about avoiding them; it's about choosing the right rider and setting rules. These dos and don'ts were sourced from Uganda Police reports, media, the Traffic and Road Safety Regulations, the Ministry of Works + Road Safety Initiative, and the Traffic and Road Safety Act 1998.

### THE LEGAL DOS - FROM POLICE / ROAD SAFETY INITIATIVE

**1 Do wear a helmet - both rider and passenger:** It's the law. The second helmet must have the same number as the rider's helmet/jacket. Ask for a hairnet.

**2 Do sit astride, facing forward:** Traffic law says the passenger MUST NOT sit sideways. No long, loose clothing, gomesi, or bags that can catch in the wheel.

**3 Do check the bike:** Is it in good repair? 2 mirrors, working lights, reflector jacket with number, proper shoes. Don't board a bike that looks

battered.

**4 Do verify the rider:** If using Safe Boda/Bolt/: number on the app must match the number on the helmet/jacket. Note the plate number. If on stage, know your rider - test a few and keep one regular. That is what the police advise parents to do.

**5 Do dictate the ride:** You are the boss. Tell him: "Mpola mpola", use slip lanes, especially on Northern Bypass and flyovers, obey lights, one passenger only. If you feel unsafe, tell him to stop and get off.

### OFFICIAL DON'TS

**1 Don't overload:** One passenger per bike. Not 2 adults and a child. Not bags of cement and you.

**2 Don't ride under the influence:** Don't board a rider who has been drinking. Muslim riders are often recommended locally for this reason - they don't drink.

**3 Don't ignore your own visibility:** Wear bright clothes

at night; don't wear black on a black bike.

### STREET-SMART DOS/DON'TS

**1 Don't admit you don't know the place:** The first price is always inflated. Use the first 2 bodas for price research; take the 3rd. Speak Luganda ('Gwe guy, oli clear?'), not English, if you want a fair price.

**2 Don't bargain on behalf of your girlfriend when you're a guy:** You will be charged double - you look like you're trying to impress.

**3 Do keep eyes forward:** Don't look behind in traffic - you'll panic and try to jump off. That's how most passenger injuries happen. Trust the rider once you're on; correct him before you move.

**4 Do tip your regular guy:** A trusted boda guy is life and death in Kampala - he can run errands, deliver, and not overcharge. Test him with small shop errands and balance honesty.

**90% of workers in Uganda use bodas daily.**



By George Mulongo.  
President, RC Kampala-  
Mahaba

**A**s Rotary founder Paul Harris observed, “Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves.”

That message came to life on September 17, 2026, when the Rotary Club of Kampala Mahaba hosted District Governor Dr Gerald Obai for a day of service, learning, partnership and fellowship.

Held in partnership with King Ceaser University and the Rotaract Club of King Ceaser University, the visit reflected Rotary’s 2026–27 priorities, including membership growth, stronger clubs, youth engagement, increased contributions to The Rotary Foundation and visible, impactful community projects.

The programme brought together the Vice Chancellor of King Ceaser University, officers from District 9213, Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors. Two prospective members also attended, demonstrating the Club’s commitment to expanding its membership. The participation of Interactors from St. Augustine International School and Rotaract members from King Ceaser University and Kampala Mahaba reinforced the importance of creating a strong pathway from Interact and Rotaract into Rotary.

The visit began with discussions between the District Governor, Club President George Mulongo, President-Elect Dr Brian Kalenge and King Ceaser University management. The discussions explored opportunities for collaboration in youth mentorship, mental wellness, community service and the growth of Rotaract.

Dr Obai also paid a courtesy call on Vice Chancellor Dr Charity Basaza Mulenga. Deputy Vice Chancellor Prof. Charkes

## A day of service, learning, partnership and fellowship

Mondo Kiiza commended Rotary’s contribution to community health, citing the Cancer Run, support for equipping the Blood Bank and financial assistance for children with heart problems.

Mental wellness was a major focus of the visit. In partnership with Mind Nest Uganda, participants engaged in a session titled ‘Recognising distress, breaking the silence, and supporting student mental health: Is Artificial Intelligence an option?’ The session brought together students, Interactors, Rotaractors, Rotarians and guests to discuss emotional wellbeing, self-care and seeking help during difficult moments.

The session also opened the door to a possible future partnership between Mind Nest Uganda and King Ceaser University, supported by Rotary Club of Kampala Mahaba, to continue

conversations on mental health among students and staff.

The District Governor also launched a Road Safety Project. Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors painted zebra crossings near King Ceaser University to improve pedestrian safety and visibility. Reflector jackets were distributed to boda boda riders to improve their visibility, particularly at night and during poor weather.

The initiative emphasised shared responsibility among motorists, riders and pedestrians, with the message: “Every life on the road matters.”

NBS TV and UBC TV provided media coverage, extending the mental wellness and road safety messages to a wider audience while supporting Rotary’s public-image objectives.

The day concluded with a Club Assembly and fellowship at Las Vegas Garden Hotel, Bunga. District

Governor Obai and Assistant Governor Daniel Babonereirwe reviewed the Club’s progress and offered guidance on membership growth, participation in the District Conference in Gulu, RYLA and contributions to The Rotary Foundation.

And, naturally, no Rotary gathering would be complete without ‘swallowship’. Lively conversations, laughter, refreshments, karaoke, dancing and storytelling created memorable Mahaba moments.

By the end of the visit, what began as an official engagement had become a celebration of service, partnership and friendship. At Rotary Club of Kampala Mahaba, service brings members together, fellowship sustains relationships, and the Mahaba moments in between make Rotary memorable.





# Transforming Lives at Asante Lane: RC Kasangati's First Female Adult Literacy Class



By Rtn Sophie Nuwagira Bamwoyeraki, RC Kasangati

In Manyangwa village, at Asante Lane, a quiet revolution is taking place. Seventeen women have stepped into a classroom, choosing to rewrite their futures. Armed

with notebooks, pens, and shared determination, they form the historic first cohort of the Rotary Club of Kasangati's Adult Education Class.

### A MILESTONE LAUNCH

The program officially launched on 24th August 2026, during the official visit by Rotary District Governor Gerald Obai. By personally inaugurating this class, District Governor Obai underscored the vital importance of the project, titled "Empowering Women Through Functional Literacy, Numeracy & Creativity." This initiative brings Rotary International's global focus on Basic Education and Literacy down to a deeply personal level. Over the next 6 to 12 months, this modular program will offer these seventeen women a flexible, dignified, and

practical path to self-reliance.

### BREAKING THE CYCLE OF ILLITERACY

For many women in Manyangwa village, Wakiso District, formal education ends abruptly. Broken dreams are often the result of early pregnancies or a lack of school fees. Over time, these young girls become adult women who must navigate an increasingly complex world without the ability to read, write, or calculate. Living without literacy is a silent, stressful vulnerability. In the local marketplace, these women face constant exploitation because they cannot independently verify financial transactions. They are excluded from local leadership roles, cut off from digital tools, and left unable to safely read medical prescriptions for their



children. Despite a powerful work ethic and a desire to contribute to their neighbourhood, standard school systems offer them no way back. The Asante Lane classroom changes everything. They are now reading and adding with understanding.

### LEARNING TAILORED FOR REAL LIFE

Adult learning requires a different approach than teaching children. The Rotary Club of Kasangati has designed this program around the real-world rhythms of the learners' lives. Class times are flexible, working around local market schedules, farming seasons, and household chores to ensure no woman is left behind. Most importantly, Asante Lane is a safe space entirely free from shame or stigma.

The curriculum is immediately useful. Instead of abstract theories, lessons focus on daily survival and growth. The women are learning functional literacy to read signs and communication tools, and practical numeracy to manage money. They are also being trained in financial literacy to build savings, use mobile

Instead of abstract theories, lessons focus on daily survival and growth.

banking safely, and avoid predatory lenders. They have begun learning to add without using a calculator, how to take a church lesson, and speak confidently.

### CRAFTING ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

Beyond numbers and letters, the program heavily emphasises immediate economic independence through a dedicated creativity module. The seventeen learners are already working on several different handcrafts, creating beautiful, practical items like doormats. This

hands-on training gives them immediate skills to produce, market, and sell unique goods, creating a new line of household income.

### A POWERFUL COMMUNITY MULTIPLIER

The impact of these seventeen pioneers will extend far beyond Asante Lane. A literate mother is a powerful force; she can actively guide her children's homework, read and understand her child's school report, significantly reducing school dropout rates for the next generation. As these women gain financial literacy and craft skills, they will run independent micro-enterprises with confidence, secure fair prices in the market, and uplift the local economy.

Higher female literacy directly correlates with healthier households, better nutrition, better community leaders and more resilient neighbourhoods. By investing in this first cohort, the Rotary Club of Kasangati is not just teaching individuals to read—they are building a sustainable model of empowerment that can be replicated across the region.

# RC Upper Kololo Helps Young Lives at Naguru Remand Home to Flourish



By Elizabeth Mushabe  
President RC Upper Kololo

At a recent visit made by D9213 Governor Gerald Obai, I watched a lively market display that meant much more than market day for the young children at the city remand home in Naguru. It told a much bigger story and attracted many Rotary district leaders and Rotarians from the Club of RC Upper Kololo and other clubs in the District.

As Rotarians carefully selected fresh vegetables from the tables, each counted every bunch, discussed the price, and giggled with joy as the purchase swelled.

“Who is going to carry them?” the DG asked at one point.

It was a light-hearted moment, and for me, the abundance on that table represented something powerful: what happens when young people are given practical skills and an opportunity to succeed.

This belief drives the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo’s support for children in conflict with the law at Naguru Remand Home.

These children may be facing allegations or consequences for their actions, but their present circumstances must never be allowed to claim their destiny. Behind every case is still a young person with abilities, dreams, and the capacity to change.

Through vocational training in poultry farming, hairdressing, and urban farming, the children are gaining more than technical knowledge. They are developing discipline, creativity, responsibility, and confidence. Their recent completion of UVTAB assessments marked an important milestone in that journey.

The produce displayed reflects the practical value of such training. A seed planted today can become food for a family and income for a young entrepreneur. A lesson in poultry can grow into a sustainable business. Hairdressing skills can provide immediate employment and restore

dignity through self-reliance.

RC Upper Kololo’s intervention is founded on a simple conviction: accountability and rehabilitation must go together.

Supporting these children does not excuse wrongdoing; it helps ensure that one difficult chapter does not write their entire life story.

These young people must be seen not only for what they are alleged to have done but also for what they can become. With skills, mentorship, and acceptance, they can return to their communities prepared to work, contribute, and flourish.

The vegetables being counted and purchased, therefore, represent more than a successful market transaction. They are evidence that investment in practical skills can produce visible results and that hope, when properly nurtured, can grow.

For the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo, this is service with lasting purpose: looking beyond a child’s circumstances, recognising their potential, and creating a pathway towards a productive future.

“A charge may describe one chapter in a child’s life, but it must never be allowed to write their entire destiny.”

**This is service with lasting purpose:  
Looking beyond a child’s circumstances,  
recognising their potential, and creating  
a pathway.**





# 80 Desks, One Big Difference: Rotary Transforms Ayelembe PS

By Alice Jema

What began as a casual conversation during a weekly club meeting grew into a transformative intervention for pupils at Ayelembe Primary School in Vurra County, Arua District.

For years, pupils at the school faced a critical shortage of classroom desks, creating an uncomfortable and congested learning environment. The shortage affected pupils' sitting posture, concentration and classroom participation, ultimately making it more difficult for them to learn effectively.

The challenge came to the attention of Rtn. Alice Drazuru, an old girl of the school, who observed severe overcrowding in classes from

**The Rotary Club delivered 80 classroom desks, six tables and six chairs to Ayelembe Primary School.**

P1 to P5 during a visit. The pupil-to-desk ratio averaged 7:1. The school's head teacher confirmed that the shortage of desks was among the challenges affecting the learning environment and pupils' overall academic experience.

Driven by Rotary's commitment to Basic Education and Literacy, the Rotary Club of Manyangwa-Nakwero launched an ambitious campaign to transform the classrooms into more suitable learning environments. With a budget of UGX 27.68 million and a target implementation period from July 1 to September 30, 2026, the club set out to procure 80 learners' desks, each designed to comfortably seat four pupils, as well as essential furniture for teachers.

On Saturday, September 12, 2026, the Rotary Club of Manyangwa-

The club supported Primary Seven candidates by providing mathematical sets and success cards to encourage and support them.



Nakwero delivered 80 classroom desks, six tables and six chairs to Ayelembe Primary School.

The donation is expected to reduce classroom congestion, improve pupils' comfort and create a more conducive environment for teaching and learning.

The intervention went beyond classroom furniture. During the handover ceremony, Rotary members distributed 248 ready-made four-pack reusable sanitary pads and conducted a practical menstrual hygiene management session for young girls. The girls were taught how to make reusable sanitary pads, equipping them

with practical skills to manage menstruation with greater dignity and confidence while helping to address menstrual-related school absenteeism.

The club also supported Primary Seven candidates preparing for the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE) by providing mathematical sets and success cards to encourage and support them during their examination preparation.

Together, these interventions are expected to reduce classroom congestion, improve pupils' comfort and encourage greater academic engagement. The

combined focus on basic education, examination support, and menstrual health and hygiene also seeks to empower pupils, particularly girls, to remain in school and pursue their academic aspirations.

The journey from one Rotarian's concern about her former school to a club-wide commitment and a completed community project is a powerful reminder of what Rotary means by being 'People of Action who Create Lasting Impact'.

At Ayelembe Primary School, that commitment has moved from conversation to action — and from action to lasting impact.

## PICTORIAL 5-A-SIDE

The 10th 5-A-Side Tournament was held on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at the Kampala Quality Sports Complex near the Bahai Temple, bringing together Rotarians, Rotaractors, corporates and friends of Rotary for a day where competition met camaraderie. From thunderous goals to last-minute saves, from the sideline cheers to the networking off the pitch, it was Rotary at its most vibrant.



DG'S VISIT: RC KAMPALA MAHABA



RC MUKONO-NAMILYANGO



RC MAPEERA

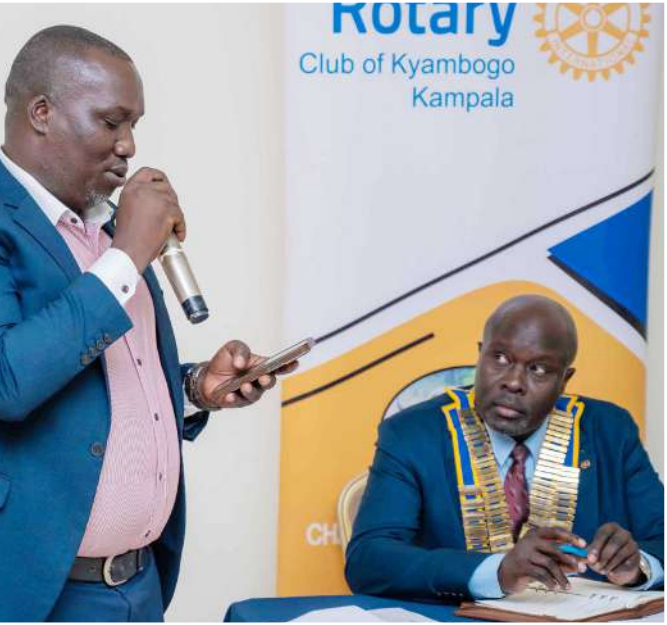


RC SUNRISE-KAMPALA





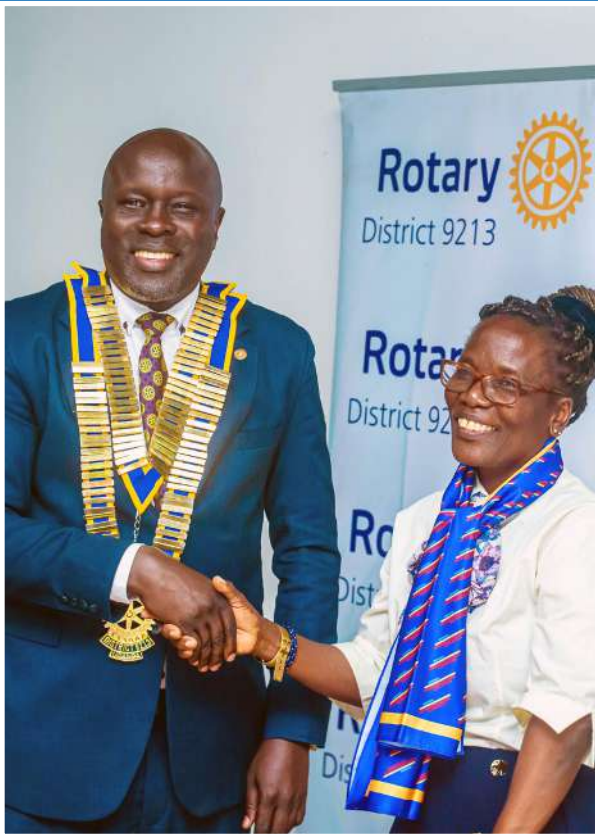
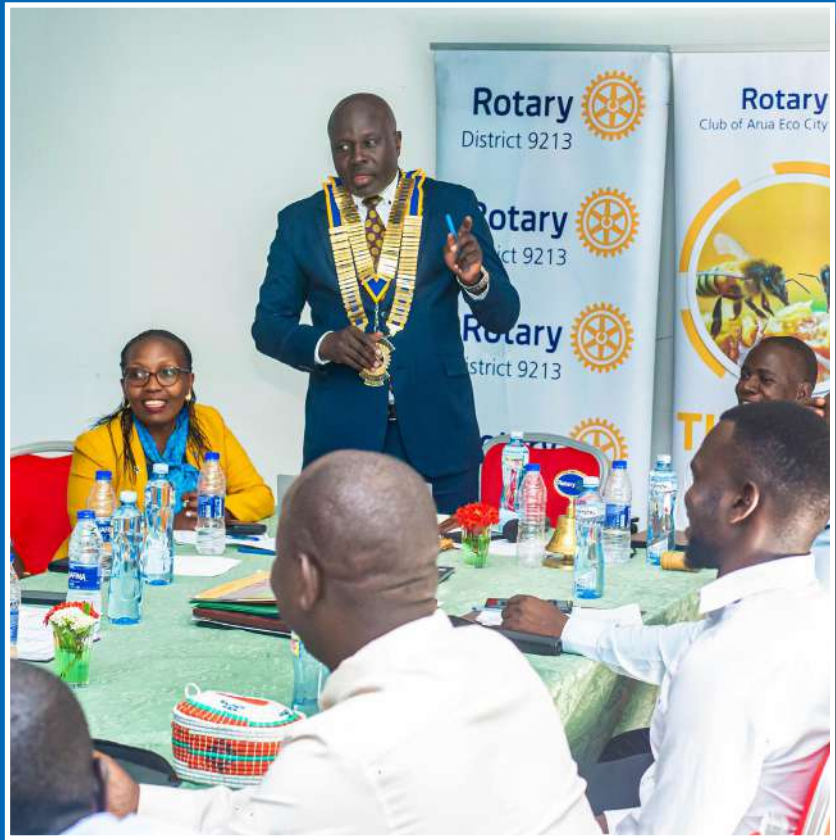
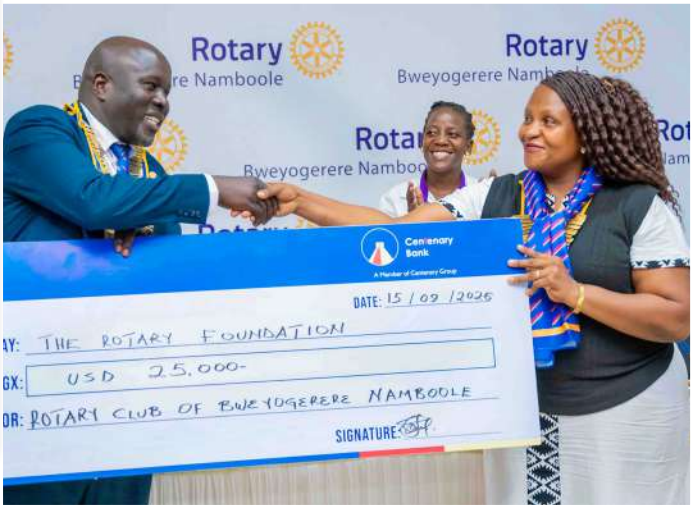
DG'S VISIT: RC KYAMBOGO KAMPALA



RC ARUA AND RC ARUA ECO CITY



RC BWEYOGERERE NAMBOOLE



DG'S VISIT RC MUKONO



RC GULU CITY



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