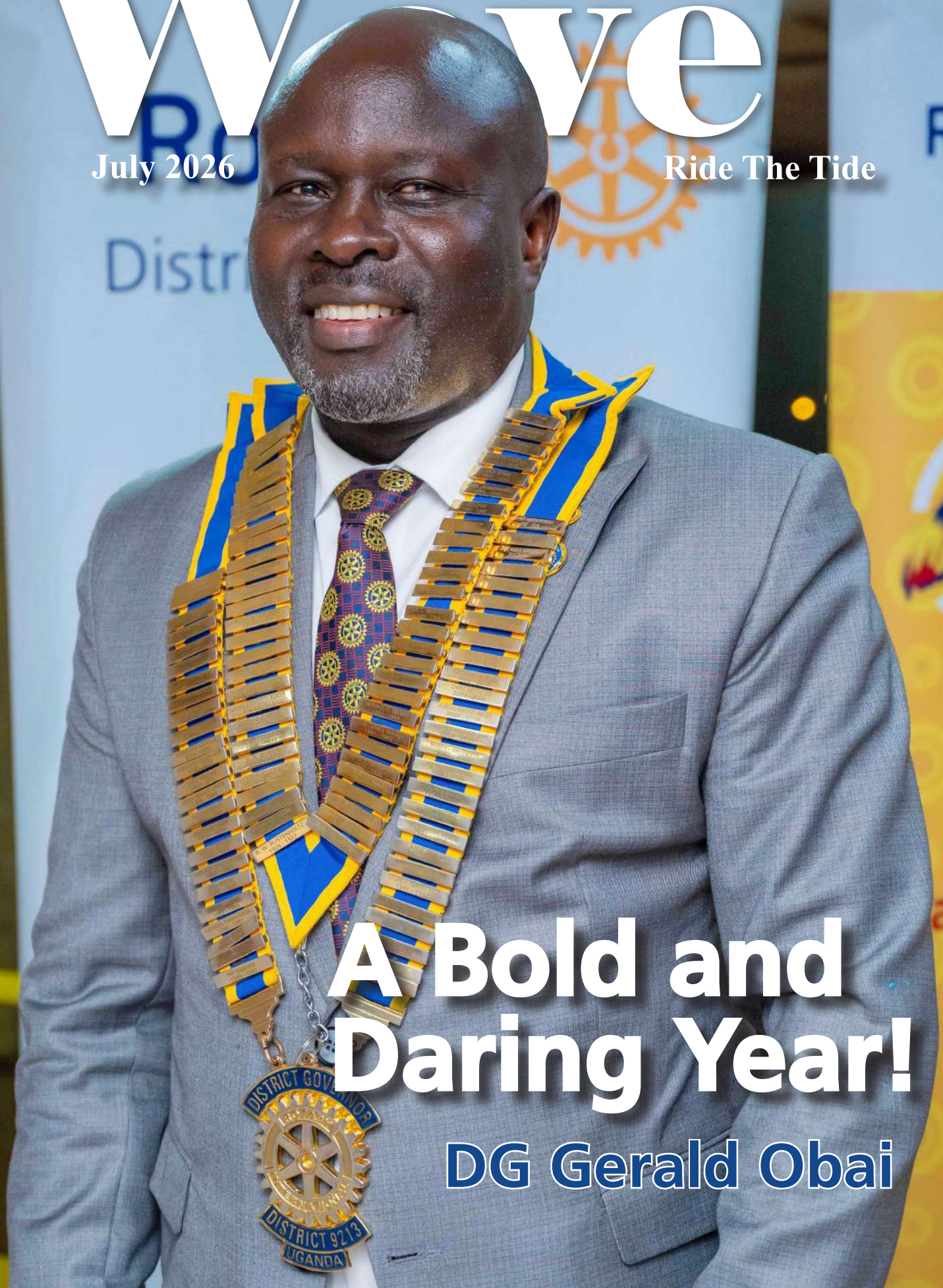


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July 2026

Ride The Tide



A Bold and Daring Year!

DG Gerald Obai



GGWANGA MUJJE

LET'S RUN TO RESTORE HOPE

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

KOLOLO INDEPENDENCE GROUNDS & MAJOR TOWNS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

6:00AM SUN 30TH AUG 2026



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UGX 30,000 comes with a vest

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Making It A Crazy Year to Remember

These are exciting times to be a Rotarian in District 9213, a time when we are about to do what few other districts ever get to do - splitting into two separate districts. Districts 9217 and District 9218 will be born from 9213, a clear sign of the tremendous growth of Rotary in Uganda. All the talk about expanding our reach, opening clubs where there were none, and engaging more Ugandans in Service Above Self is finally showing it was not just talk. Rotarians literally walked their talk, and 9214 became too big to handle. And so, it birthed two new ones. Which means not just redistricting, but spreading and multiplying impact.

Which brings us to what Governor Gerald Obai has referred to as the 'crazy year'. And he does not mean chaotic. He means bold, and daring. He means crazy ideas, crazy faith in our members, crazy willingness to try what we have not tried before. Like expanding our reach so that a Rotarian in Karamoja or Sebei feels as seen as one in Kampala. Like road safety advocacy, because we cannot create lasting impact

if we are losing lives on our highways. And the little things — a thank you, a certificate, breakfast at a meeting — that remind members they are valued. This year being 'crazy' is about unlocking our creativity, and boldly going where no one has gone before. We will no longer play it safe, keep ideas to ourselves, or set the same targets year after year. This year we are being asked to think bigger, act sooner, and invite others in.

District 9213 will soon be history, but if Governor Obai has his way, it will finish big, happy, and in ways that will make people miss it. And this small but very professional and dedicated team at The Wave will be there to record history, and bring you all the exciting times when Rotarians in District 9213 went crazy, cared about the little things, and made a lasting impact that will be felt for generations.

In Rotary, the end always marks the beginning. So, let's make it crazy, in the best Rotary way.

Kalungi Kabuye,
RC Lugogo-Mango Tree

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District Calendar July 2026

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>01 New Rotary Year Launch and Road Safety Launch</p> <p>Presidential Installation RC Kira</p> <p>Road Safety Initiative Launch</p> | <p>18 Kisaasi-Kyanja DGs Installation and DGs visit</p> <p>PI Training for P1 Directors</p> <p>TRF Engagements</p> |
| <p>02 DGs Official Visit, RC Kampala Springs</p> | <p>19 RC Sonde DGs visit</p> |
| <p>03 DGs Official Visit At RC Nansana</p> | <p>20 RC Kampala Naguru DGs visit</p> |
| <p>04 Official Visit at RC Kampala Impala, Saturday E-Jaz</p> | <p>21 RC Kyadondo DGs visit</p> |
| <p>05 Presidents' Retreat</p> | <p>22 RC Portbell DGs visit</p> |
| <p>06 Presidential Installation RC Kampala Early Bird</p> <p>DGs Official Visit at Kampala South</p> | <p>23 RC Kampala Day Break DGs visit</p> <p>RC Wakiso DGs visit</p> |
| <p>07 DGs Official Visit at RC Makindye</p> | <p>24 Bweyogerere Central Installation and DGs visit</p> |
| <p>08 RC Kiwatule DGs visit</p> | <p>25 RC Kampala South-Project Launch 11am, Kajjansi</p> <p>RLI-33rd Intake</p> |
| <p>09 RC Kitanta DGs visit</p> | <p>27 Kampala North DGs visit</p> |
| <p>10 RC Kampala 7 hills DGs visit</p> | <p>28 Kampala Sunrise Project day</p> <p>RC Kampala Naalya DGs visit</p> |
| <p>11 Presidential Installation RC First Aid &...</p> | <p>29 RC -Naguru DGs visit</p> |
| <p>14 RC Kololo DGs Visit</p> | <p>30 Kampala Sesse DGs visit</p> |
| <p>15 RC Kampala Central DGs visit</p> | <p>31 Kampala Metropolitan DGs visit</p> |
| <p>16 RC Kampala DGs visit</p> | |
| <p>17 RC Kulambairo Installation and DGs visit</p> | |



Better Than Your Best

Rotary has a way of surprising you. It surprises you when a stranger across the table becomes a lifelong friend. It surprises you when a small project in one neighbourhood ripples outward in ways you never imagined. And it may surprise you when you realize that the person Rotary has changed most ... is you.

That is why this year, we are called to harness the change within ourselves, to look to the future, and to Create Lasting Impact.

Now, I want to be clear about what those words mean. Change is only the beginning. Impact is what endures. We must think of the long-term impact of every project.

How can a new water system contribute to the long-term health of a community? Can residents help other communities build their own? How can a new classroom be part of a wider strategy to improve education in the area? That is the sort of thinking we need.

As we prioritize impact, we must also consider how our actions can contribute to peacebuilding. Peace does not happen by accident. It must be built deliberately and strategically. As you plan your next project, ask yourself: "How does this create the conditions for peace?" Consult the Pillars of Positive Peace to learn how we can bring the world one step closer to peace in everything we do.

The more you change your community and the world, the more you will change. Don't just tell people about the projects you have run or the funds you have raised. Tell them how Rotary has shaped who you are. Those personal stories open doors, inspire new members, and remind all of us why we are here.

Storytelling is also an excellent way to recruit new members and raise funds. We need more people standing with us and more resources if we are to end polio, spread peace, and have a lasting impact on the world. We have set a goal of increasing membership to 1.25 million Rotarians and more than 125,000 Rotaractors by 2030, just in time for Rotary's 125th anniversary.

Sit down with your club and look back over your accomplishments in the last few years. Find your best year. Maybe it was a record year for new members. Maybe you reached a fundraising milestone. Maybe you completed a project that the whole community is still talking about. Once you find that year, I challenge you to do better than your best.

In these ways and more, we will Create Lasting Impact across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. Thank you, my dear friends. Now let's get to work.

YINKA
President, Rotary International

On June 29th, a day filled with pride, tradition, and anticipation, Rtn Gerald Obai of the Rotary Club of Gulu officially assumed office as Governor of Rotary International District 9213 for the Rotary Year 2026/2027. The symbolic 'chain handover' was a call to serve 5,500+ Rotarians across Uganda, and to lead District 9213 in its final year before it splits into Districts 9217 and 9218





We should be deliberate about growing Rotary into areas without a presence and doing more meaningful projects.

Crazy ideas mean being bold, daring, innovative

As District 9213 prepares to close its chapter and hand over to two new districts, Governor Gerald Obai is calling for a year defined not just by targets, but by intention, innovation, and care for members. Before taking office, he sat down with The Wave team, and in this wide-ranging interview, he speaks on the Rotary year's theme, membership engagement, impact across Uganda, Foundation giving, road safety, 'crazy ideas', and the responsibility of being the district's last governor. Excerpts:

Q It's a rhetorical question, but, why would anyone want to become a Governor?

A I know, it's a demanding, high-travel role — often I'm in Gulu in the morning, Kampala in the evening, then in Mbale the next day. But that movement is the job itself; a Governor who's just sitting in one place isn't doing the work. What people see is only about 40% of it. The rest is meetings, reviewing committee ideas, Rotary International correspondence, and personal adjustments. Luckily you have 24-36 months after being elected to prepare by balancing employment, family, and the Rotary year. The key is building a strong, self-motivated team you don't have to micromanage. With solid committees running their areas — Foundation, Public Image, Membership, etc. — the Governor can focus on encouraging clubs and Rotarians instead of day-to-day details.

What would you say your strength as a leader is? What kind of leader are you, in a few words?

An engaging leader, and that has really helped me. I always engage with the teams I work with, and through that engagement I get to understand people's strengths and weaknesses. But it's also about making sure the teams feel valued. When people feel you have confidence in them, they're not afraid to make mistakes. If they're afraid of making mistakes, then they won't think outside the box.

They'll limit themselves, yet you want to get the best out of everybody. If you're leading 100 people and they feel valued, you can end up with 80 different ideas. But if you're domineering, people sit back and you're left with maybe five outspoken voices and only what's in your own head. I also build relationships easily with the people I interact with. I don't believe in that kind of leadership where you're up there and people shrink when they see you, thinking "I can't reach out to this one." I relate with people at different levels. And I give my teams the freedom to decide how to do things, because through that they feel they have my backing and my full confidence.

This year's theme is Creating a Lasting Impact. What does that mean to you and for the district?

It starts with action. Before you talk about impact, you have to actually do something. Then comes 'lasting' — how do we make sure it doesn't end when the project ends? As Rotarians, we often forget about ourselves. We think only about people outside, as if we don't exist. But if Rotary is going to respond to what's out there, we have to start with ourselves. For us to create any lasting impact out there, we need to create it within ourselves first.

That means reflection. Why am I a Rotarian? Do I still believe in that reason? Do I live by the Four-Way Test? Does the Object of Rotary mean anything to me? Have I thought about growing membership or inviting someone new? If I'm deliberate about those questions, there will be impact, because it will be driving me from the inside. So, if we start with that reflection, we can then act.

We should be deliberate about growing Rotary into areas without a presence and doing more meaningful projects. Our global grant utilization is now reaching US\$5m, that translates into children educated, children protected from polio, mothers having safe deliveries, and peace in families.

But lasting impact is more than the outcome. It's not just "we paid school

Turn to page 10

From page 9

fees.” It’s about those children growing up, supporting families, contributing to the economy. It’s not just “safe deliveries at a health centre.” It’s mothers with peace of mind, and children who get to grow. You have to look at what the school or health facility means overall to the community.

Sustainability has to be in it. You cannot talk about lasting impact without sustainability. It begins with us.

Rotary has been here for years, how will this year be different?

It will be impact that goes beyond what we’ve had before. More intentional, more meaningful, and built to continue after projects ends.

How do you plan to do that?

We’re putting a few things in place. First, membership engagement. We have someone leading it from the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo, and we’re developing real guidelines. We’ve been saying “engage your members,” but if a president doesn’t know what engagement means, how will they do it? It’s like saying “eat healthy” when all you know is gobe. ‘Engage’ has become a song. On July 1st we launched an engagement guide so people can see what it should look like.

Second is conflicts in clubs. Our Governance and Ethics Committee has built strong guidelines. This year we’re taking that to the club level. If you promote governance and ethics, you remove things that make people leave Rotary. Then people focus on how to contribute.

We’re also partnering officially with the Rotary Fellowship of Fitness and Wellness to promote wellness in clubs. We live in a stressful world. If Rotarians feel valued, conflict reduces. When people focus on why they’re Rotarians, instead of what someone else is failing to do, they give more time and resources.

“Rotary has done great work, and the impact is massive. But, there’s a big gap. Regions with the greatest need often have little Rotary presence.”

If a club of 80 has 60 happy members, you’ll have 80 people in service. If only 15 are active because they’re close to the president, you can’t match the impact of 60. We’re about 5,500 Rotarians. If we engage 3,500 fully by removing distractions, it will show.

Right now, most clubs have less than 40% of members actively involved.

So, if Rotarians are happy, they’ll create lasting impact?

Part of it is people missing why they’re in Rotary. Onboarding is one issue. Do new members fully understand what it means to be a Rotarian before induction? Often by the time we discuss rules, they’re already full members. If we ensure people understand Rotary before they join, that helps.

Leaders are another part. How well do we prepare someone before they become president? If we only train on goals, membership, TRF, public image, we miss the core of leading volunteers. Leading people you don’t pay, who have families and businesses, requires emotional

intelligence.

We also need learning for members, not just on foundation or projects, but on what it means to be a Rotarian and maintain harmony. Clubs must look inward. Many are obsessed with guest speakers — four fellowships, four speakers, none about the club. One month it’s oil and gas, the next it’s about Iran. A club loses identity when nothing concerns the members.

In my club, ‘Rotary moments’ were sometimes more exciting than speakers. Have at least one fellowship a month dedicated to members. That’s why this year when I visit a club, we’ll talk specifically about that club and its membership.

How do you rate Rotary’s impact in Uganda? We’re visible, but what’s the actual effect on communities?

Rotary has done great work here, and the impact is massive. In Amuru, there’s a fully-fledged hospital that Rotary helped establish. People used to travel 60km to Lacho in emergencies, but now the hospital is there. There is the blood bank at Mengo. It’s hard to cross a border without someone having a Rotary story.

But, there’s a big gap. Regions with the greatest need often have little or no Rotary presence.

Karamoja only got a club in Abim a few years ago.

The north is vast — 12 clubs across over 30 districts. Maybe three to five of those clubs are actually doing projects. Big clubs draw from certain networks. When they go outside Kampala, they often go where a member comes from, not necessarily where need is greatest. I’d say Rotary has done massive work, but we have more to do to reach places where intervention will be truly felt. When you give five million to someone with money, they say thanks and move on. Give it to someone with nothing, and they’ll remember you for life. We need to go where the actual need is.

How will you encourage clubs to do that?

It starts with how we identify projects and the discussions we have. Too often it’s, “There’s a community here, let’s go.” But do we ask if there are projects with real impact? Clubs can ask members to share areas that need intervention, not just go where someone in the club is from. Partnering helps. Clubs need to be more open to working with others.

Let’s talk The Rotary Foundation targets

The target for next year is one million dollars. We’re almost at \$1.2m now. We set one million in February when we were at \$800,000. We’ll keep it at one million, and try to understand what got us to \$1.2m before we jump higher. More importantly, we’re moving away from ‘non-giving clubs’ to ‘non-giving Rotarians’. You can’t be a Rotary club and not give to the Foundation. The goal is every Rotarian gives something, however small. Instead of 20 clubs not giving, we’ll say: out of 5,000 Rotarians, we have 2,000 non-giving. Then 1,000. Until zero. One idea: on July 5th I’ll engage presidents. If 150 presidents can give UGX5,000 shillings for their birthdays, that’s about UGX750,000, roughly \$200 dollars.

Every club can start there so no club gives nothing. Then we move to each member. We’ll also engage corporations. Many member companies sponsor functions but not projects. Why not agree on a community project with their name on a signpost? With global grants, if 10 members each give a million through their business, that’s 10,000 dollars quickly. We broaden the base — individuals and their businesses.

What’s your signature project for the year?

Road safety. For 23 years I’ve been on the highway. I’ve seen too many depressing scenes — lifeless bodies, accidents that didn’t have to happen. In Kigumba earlier this year, two buses overtaking on a straight stretch killed about 46 people. Are all these accidents unavoidable? Can we change the statistic of 12 people dying

You’ll be the last governor of District 9213. How does that feel, and how do you want to be remembered?

It’s a huge responsibility. Beyond targets, I must prepare two new districts. You can’t drop goals because you’re preparing. You must do both. It’s also a privilege. Not many governors have done this. Governor Rosette did, but it’s rare. I want people to miss 9213.

That means a year that’s exciting in every sphere. I want a happy membership first. If people say, “I enjoyed Rotary,” that matters. If every Rotarian gives to the Foundation, that would be historic. If Rotary is vibrant in every corner — Mbale to Sebei to Karamoja — that’s significant. The new districts, 9217 and 9218, should start strong. 9217 comes in with about 3,900 members, 9218 around 3,000.

You only need 2,100 to form a district. If they start with 3,500+ and all clubs are giving, they can already plan their own future redistricting. I want to hand over two districts that already feel mature.

daily on our roads? Yes, we can.

I’m calling on every club and Rotarian to embrace road safety. I doubt there’s a Rotarian who hasn’t lost someone on the road. We can talk to school children, boda riders, put up signposts, identify black spots, and improve emergency response. With our numbers and presence, we can advocate and act.

You’ve called this a ‘crazy year’. What exactly do you mean by that?

Two parts: ‘crazy ideas’ and ‘the little things’. Crazy ideas are about being bold and innovative. We have ideas but fear to share them because they might break the norm.

That’s kept us stagnant at 1.2m

Rotarians in Uganda for years. If we don’t try, our grandchildren will still be Rotarians talking about 1.2m.

Crazy ideas mean trying things that haven’t been tried. Thinking outside the box, or without the box. Not being afraid to make mistakes, because you will make mistakes when you try new things. No innovation has happened without people saying, “Let’s try this.” If we think an idea will move us to the next level, let’s do it. Don’t think, “People won’t like this” or “This goes against the norm.” As long as it’s not criminal, doesn’t offend Rotary principles, religion, or societal norms, don’t be afraid

Look at Kampala Rotary Club: 70 years, 70 members, 70 projects, \$70,000 dollars. That’s crazy, and it motivates.

Saying we’ll end ‘non-giving clubs’ and move to ‘non-giving Rotarians’ is also a bit crazy. We’ll push it in practice, not just talk. We’re saying this year we won’t accept clubs that give nothing, and we’ll push it in implementation. When I visit clubs, I’ll ask: how do we make sure everyone has given something?

Then, the little things that matter. For someone earning UGX5m a month, a UGX100,000 envelope on Heroes Day brings more joy than salary. Salary is expected, but that envelope of UGX100,000 excites them. Publicly acknowledge someone. Give a certificate. Call and say thank you. I’m not going to prescribe what the little things are, club leaders should identify them and use them. The little things are designed to motivate and keep Rotarians engaged. The crazy ideas are designed to expand what we can do.

What do you want to be remembered for? Your legacy?

That I unlocked Rotarians’ creative minds. That I told them to think boldly, be innovative, bring new approaches that make Rotary exciting, so outsiders say, “I want to be part of Rotary.” Through crazy ideas, but never forgetting the little things.



Then District Governor Nominee Gerald Obai at the Gulu concourse in 2024

My Rotary Journey by Gerald Obai

My Rotary journey has been interesting, and I didn't start with any plan to be here. When I was a postgraduate student at Mbarara University, I saw 'Rotary in Action' with the Rotary Club of Mbarara, but I didn't know how to be part of it. After my studies I went back to Gulu University, and I didn't even know Gulu had a club, until I saw signposts for the Rotary Club of Gulu at Acholi Inn. They met every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. One day I walked in just to see who these people were. My boss was there. I asked him, "How can I join Rotary?" He said, "Please come, I'm so happy you want to join."

There was a club officers' training that same week, so I went. When it ended, I was inducted. That was 14th November 2007. I didn't have a mentor. Nobody explained Rotary to me in detail. I was just inducted.

But I was interested because of the work I had already seen Rotary do. So, I started asking members to guide me. I attended meetings, joined projects, and I never missed a meeting when I was in Gulu. When I came to Kampala, I made sure I attended

meetings too. Six months after I joined, the incoming president asked me to serve as Youth Service Chair. I started the formation of the Rotary Club of Gulu University and revived a few Interact clubs. Then I was moved to Service Projects because of what I had done as Youth Chair.

There was a big proposal with World Vision, and the president felt I could lead it. We worked with the Rotary Club of Edina, Minnesota. It was a long process, but we ended up with a nearly \$1 million matching grant for a WASH project.

That project changed me. It helped people who had spent 20 years in internally displaced persons' camps to resettle after the war. They were going back home, but there was no water, no sanitation. Seeing that impact gave me a deep feeling: somebody has to do something for those who cannot do it for themselves. That gave me energy, and since then I've remained grounded in Rotary. Five years after joining, I became president of my club. It was struggling, but I was determined to change it. We doubled membership from 11 to 22. We won our first district award. I also hosted RYLA with over 500 participants in Gulu.

Because of that work, I was noticed.

Governor Rosette asked me to serve as Assistant Governor. Then Governor John called and said: "I want us to work together as Lieutenant Governor." Before I even started that, Governor Mike said, "I want you to serve as Prime Chair." Then Governor Edward asked me to be his District Executive Secretary.

So, I knew my next roles before I finished the current one. That could make someone cocky. For me, it did the opposite. I thought, "I must do well here to be ready for what's next." I gave it my best.

Being Governor was never my goal. With my humble background, I thought you had to be a special kind of person. I didn't think I was made for it. But the more I served and worked closely with governors, the more I saw it is about leadership — sharing, inspiring, and motivating others. I asked myself if I had that, and I believed I did, from my workplace experience too. I don't want my Rotary journey to be defined by the title of Governor. I want it to be defined by what I do. From walking into Acholi Inn in 2007 with questions, to where I am now, my path has been about showing up, serving, and letting the impact lead.

To Inspire, Serve and create lasting impact supported by a strong Rotary public image.

ROTARY'S STRATEGIC PRIORITY

ENHANCE PARTICIPANT ENGAGEMENT



GOALS

SERVICE PARTICIPATION

- At least 85% of club members participating in service projects
- Each club to implement a community service project covering at least 2 areas of focus
- Encourage Rotary Alumni network engagements
- Promote programs for mentorship of leaders
- 450 youth mentorship series trainees per quarter linked to RYLA

TRF PARTICIPATION

- Conduct semi-annual regional Grants Learning Seminars for both Rotary and Rotaract
- Hold one Rotary open day during the Rotary year

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

- Member participation in at least 2 new Rotary Fellowships with a minimum of 130 Rotarians participating in the Fellowships (a minimum of one person per club)
- Member participation in at least 2 new Rotary Action Groups
- 100% club Family of Rotary Officers trained
- 100% club participation in Family of Rotary activities
- At least 1 District family of Rotary Day
- At least 85% clubs attending the 102 Discon
- 100% Rotaractors representation on all District committees
- 100% of Rotaract Clubs Professional Leadership Development (PLD) participation
- 100% of clubs attending learning sessions about service projects storytelling, new innovation reporting, and district learning events
- 1,200 delegates attending the 102 DISCON

DISTRICT GOALS & STRATEGY

ROTARY'S STRATEGIC PRIORITY

INCREASE OUR IMPACT



GOALS

TRF GIVING: \$1M

- Annual Fund: \$620,000
- Endowment Fund: \$80,000
- Polio Plus: \$150,000
- Other funds (giving): \$150,000
- All giving clubs
- 100% Rotarians giving to TRF

GRANTS

Utilisation of:

- At least \$5m Global Grants
- At least \$2.5m non-Global Grant community service projects
- ≥85% of clubs with at least 1 community service project
- ≥85% of clubs continuing with ongoing projects under the 7 Rotary 's Areas of Focus
- At least 60% of clubs implementing joint service projects
- Mobilise a minimum of 20 international partners to support club global grants

CLUB QUALIFICATION:

- At least 75% of Rotary clubs qualify and apply for GGs
- At least 20 Rotaract clubs qualify and at least 10 apply for GGs
- Each club with a minimum of 1 non-GG community service project
- All clubs incorporating road safety in their planned activities and service projects

CANCER RUN:

At least 80,000 registrations

ROTARY'S STRATEGIC PRIORITY

INCREASE OUR ABILITY TO ADAPT



GOALS

- Each club to meet at least 80% statutory compliance, i.e. approved RI Governance Structures and The Companies Act
- At least 80% of clubs complying with the local legal framework requirements i.e. audited books of account, filing of returns, etc
- 100% of clubs with up-to-date strategic plans (at least 3 years)
- Conduct 2 semi-annual learning sessions on governance structures
- 100% of clubs compliant with the governance scorecard
- At least 95% clubs adopt digital tools and data (My Rotary, RCC, online grant management & social media storytelling to promote People of Action)
- At least 95% of members active on My Rotary and District Club Runner

ROTARY'S STRATEGIC PRIORITY

EXPAND OUR REACH



GOALS

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH:

- A net growth of 1,500 members (an average increase of 8 new members per club)
- ≥90%-member retention
- At least 30 new Rotary clubs (bringing in a minimum of 450 new members)
- Continue with the choice and flexibility of club models to meet people where they are (satellite, passport, cause-based, e-clubs & institution-based clubs)
- Attract younger and diverse members beyond the traditional networks
- Establish Rotary Community Corps (RCCs) for all Global Grant Projects
- Net increase of 300 corporate members
- Induct at least 200 honorary members (non-Rotarians and Rotaractors)

ROTARACT:

- 15 new Rotaract clubs
- At least 100 Rotaractors transitioning into Rotary
- ≥90% -member retention

INTERACT:

- 40 new Interact clubs
- 100% retention of Interact clubs
- 70%-member retention
- RYLA participation: 450

BOOST COMPLIANCE, VISIBILITY, CREDIBILITY OF ROTARY'S IMAGE AND BRAND:

- 100% brand compliance
- A minimum of 2 media features per month (TV/radio/print/credible online platforms)
- Digital growth: Grow District social media following by +25-40%, and achieve ≥5% engagement rate
- Publish ≥2 impact stories per club per quarter, with photos/consent
- Establish a regional newsletter to increase visibility of clubs
- Leverage and promote regional partnerships and co-brand with businesses (the partners will become Rotary's ambassadors)

Rotary Reach Goal Statement: "Expand Rotary's reach by increasing visibility, modernizing engagement, strengthening partnerships, and making membership accessible to a broader, more diverse community." – source: Rotary International Action Plan (2019-present)



Gerald Obai: The Gentle Giant from Gulu Takes the Wheel of District 9213

By Rtn Sylvia Nankya

When Past District Governor John Magezi-Ndamira set out to build a new district team, he had a very specific person in mind. He wasn't looking for the loudest Rotarian. He wasn't searching for someone with an impressive title or a long list of accomplishments. He wanted someone outside Kampala who could grow Rotary in places often overlooked, someone whom Rotarians would trust and willingly follow.

Several names came up. And one of them was Gerald Obai, from the Rotary Club of Gulu. When he spoke to Gerald, he never looked any further.

"I knew I had somebody whom I was going to trust," PDG John Magezi-Ndamira recalls.

But what did he hear in that conversation? A calm and collected man.

A person committed to his word. Someone loyal enough to stand with you, but courageous enough to challenge your thinking and offer better ideas. Most importantly, someone who was ready to deliver results. In many ways, that sums up Gerald Obai.

This is how Gerald was introduced to the wider Rotary Family as the Lieutenant Governor, then a new title in the district, which had just been split from 9211 to create 9213 and 9214. Before this time, a person in this position was known as the

Country Chair.

Ask outgoing District Governor Geoffrey Martin Kitakule about him, and the first words that come to mind are 'respectful' and 'welcoming'.

"His humility immediately tells you this is a person I can work with," Kitakule said

Humility is a thread that runs through every story told about Obai. He is not a man who likes to be defined by titles. Instead, he prefers to let his work speak for him. And the lives he has touched tell his story.

For seventeen years, Gerald has proudly called the Rotary Club of Gulu, The Roving Elephant, his home. Along the way, he has served in nearly every significant leadership position imaginable in Rotary: Club President, Assistant Governor, pioneer Lieutenant Governor of District 9213, Chair of Planning, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation (PIME), District Executive Secretary, and Chair of District Strategy.

"He has been groomed for four years", says PDG John Magezi-Ndamira. "He understands how to manage people from different backgrounds, professions and skill sets."

The title of Lieutenant Governor itself owes much to him. When the district needed a role equivalent to a country chair, PDG John Magezi-Ndamira searched Rotary's structures and found inspiration from the United States. The role was created, and Gerald Obai became its pioneer.

But beyond the titles and

responsibilities lies the quality that those who know him admire most: He listens.

"He listened to everyone before he gave his input," says Kitakule. "That is important for a leader. In a world where everyone wants to be heard, Obai has mastered the art of hearing others first."

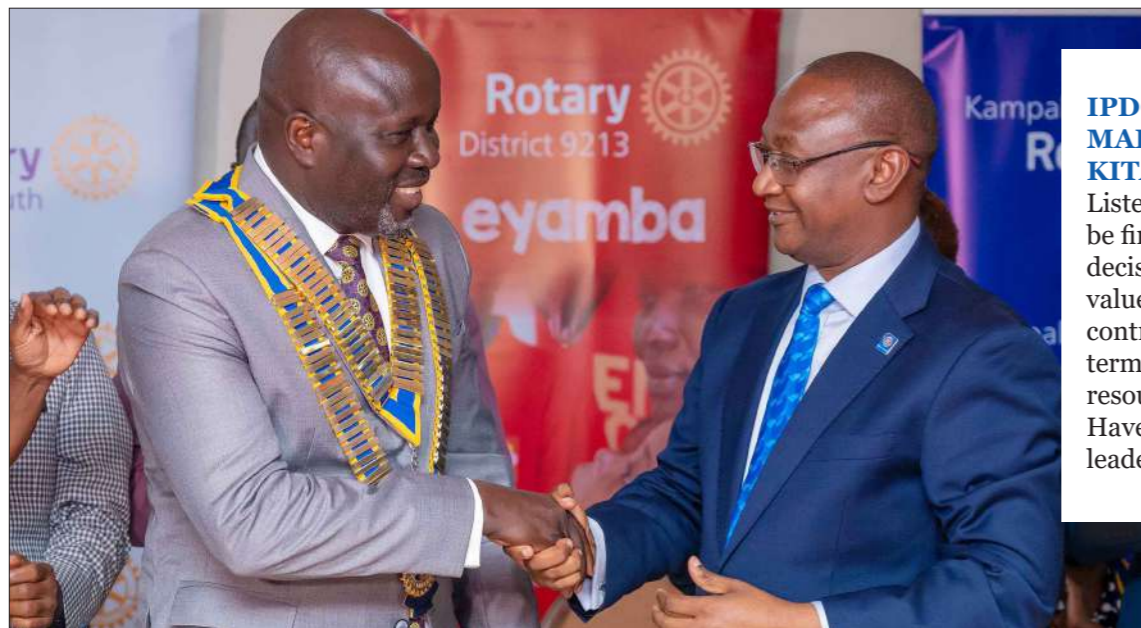
Professionally, he is equally accomplished. An academician at Gulu University's Faculty of Medicine, he has spent more than two decades training and mentoring young health professionals. Specialising in physiology and public health, he has also been a tireless advocate for the rights and welfare of research participants.

Yet, outside lecture halls and Rotary meetings, there is another side to him. Obai is outgoing, engaging, and a devoted supporter of Liverpool Football Club. He firmly believes in the club's famous motto, 'You'll Never Walk Alone', provided it is accompanied by commitment, respect and appreciation for one another.

Perhaps that philosophy explains why so many people trust him. Members of his club say he is a pacifier. He is not confrontational. He is thoughtful. He is humble. He builds relationships and values teamwork.

As he begins his tenure, Rotarians across the district are confident that District Governor Gerald Obai will listen, he will lead, and when the moment calls for action, he will deliver, just as he always has.

Advice from Past Governors



Governor Gerald Obai is congratulated by his predecessor, PDG Geoffrey Kitakule

IPDG GEOFFREY MARTIN KITAKULE

Listen to people, be firm in your decisions and value everyone's contribution, in terms of time, resources, and ideas. Have empathy as a leader.

PDG MIKE KENNEDY-SEBALU

I want to congratulate the district for having entrusted the leadership of District 9213 to someone outside Kampala, and more specifically, the northern region. During my tour of duty as governor, I emphasised Gulu as the epicentre of Rotary in the northern region, and my belief, which was and still is, that for Rotary to grow, we need to reach out to underserved areas, and the northern region is one such. I'm glad that he's started galvanising the northern region.

We witnessed an unprecedented joint installation of 12 presidents of the northern region, whom I dubbed the 12 disciples of Rotary, who are going to spread the gospel of Rotary within the entire northern region, and definitely it has come at the right time before he assumes office.

So, the message and the gospel are that let's rise, let's grow in numbers, let's grow in giving, let's grow in projects, let's grow in public image, and let's grow in Rotary extension.

And definitely the crazy ideas and little things that are

championed by Governor Gerald Obai will definitely make a difference. I therefore wish him a progressive and productive tour of duty as Governor.

I do pledge my support, I pledge my readiness, availability, and willingness to support him all the way and in every way. Indeed, he has got the goodwill of the past leaders, past District Governors and District Officials of District 9213.

He has served all of us well, and he has served all of us with a very high degree of commitment, so we owe it to him to support him as he prepares to give birth to the two districts that will come thereafter.

That is evidence that the district is growing, and with Gerald Obai, definitely the growth is going to be enhanced, and we will start a conversation about another redistricting soon.

I wish you well, Gerald. Be crazy, do crazy things in crazy ways. We are also ready to try out crazy things in crazy ways to ensure that those small things that do make a difference do happen at the club level, at the district level, and at all levels collectively, for clubs and individually as members.

PDG JOHN MAGEZI-NDAMIRA

You know, you are leading professionals from different backgrounds. Each one is passionate about something. Even when given an assignment, he probably wants to do it differently, which is okay. But it is important to differentiate those who can deliver, those who can partially deliver, and those who may not deliver.

As the year goes by, you will start noticing those. Treat everybody individually. Respect even those who are not going to deliver. Give them a chance. But do not move away from your agenda. Identify support structures for those who cannot deliver or those who partially deliver.

But maintain those whom you appointed. It's a sign of respect. Some may never tell you what challenges they are going through, and they may be real challenges. So, respect the fact that you appointed them.

At some point, they will tell you, either during the term or after the term. So, it's important to respect everyone and to continue engaging them. I believe, Gerald, you understand this.

And never to lose your composure. No. You are a leader.



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LEARN MORE: my.rotary.org/annual-fund

Alex Musinguzi - Creating Impact Beyond Moments



Leadership in Rotaract is not defined only by titles, but by the commitment to serve, inspire, and create lasting change. Alex Muwanguzi takes on the responsibility of guiding more than 3,000 Rotaractors across District 9213. His vision, 'Creating Impact Beyond Moments', challenges clubs to move beyond short-term activities and focus on sustainable initiatives that leave a lasting mark on communities. He spoke to The Wave's VICTORIA BUGEMBE NAMPALA. Excerpts:

Q Congratulations on your upcoming role, can you tell us about your Rotaract journey?

A I was the Charter President of the Rotaract Club of Jinja Vocational Training Institute (VTI) in 2018/2019, but I'm now in the Rotaract Club of Njeru. My District roles include Assistant DRR Eastern Area 1, Deputy PIME Chair, District Grants Stewardship Chair, Membership Growth & Retention Chair, and Strategic Planning Chair.

What inspired you to seek the DRR role?

A deep commitment to service and building on past leadership. From chartering a club to District roles, I learned unity, mentorship, and strategic growth. Being DRR is both a continuation and a call to empower others to embrace Rotary/Rotaract ideals with renewed energy.

How has your experience in Rotaract shaped your leadership style?

It has made me inclusive, results-oriented, and impact-driven. Balancing work, personal life, and voluntary service taught me efficiency. Chairing the team that delivered District 9213's first Strategic Plan reinforced listening, empowerment, and purpose. Rotary showed me two dimensions of impact: meeting community needs and celebrating the joy of service. My mantra is 'Leave a Stamp on History'.

Who has influenced you the most?

PDG Steven Mwanje and RI Director Emmanuel Katongole inspire me with their strength and commitment to transforming communities. Many

PDGs and PDRRs in District 9213 also motivate me through their stories of service.

What's your vision for 2026–2027?

Growing up in a village, I saw needs first-hand—a man with disabilities crawling 5km for water, and losing my aunt to cancer. Yet I also saw Rotary's power: Polio reduced through vaccination, Cancer Run's impact beyond statistics. My vision is 'Creating Impact Beyond Moments'. We'll build a legacy that outlives us, projects that resonate for a generation and leave a stamp on history.

What key priorities will guide you?

Guide Rotaractors to be 'System Architects' around five pillars: Strengthening club systems/structures, building capacity for the board and members, creating sustainable projects that live beyond handover, ensuring accountability to ourselves and those we serve, and fostering mentorship and purposeful growth, not just growth by numbers

What new initiatives will you introduce?

One, our quarterly cinema event at Century Cinemax Acacia Mall. Entry is UGX20,000 with UGX8,000 going to TRF personal accounts. Every Rotaractor donating \$100 to TRF gets a recognition pin. I challenge all to give at least \$25.

Two is the 'Rotaract Challenge', a forum for mentorship on Rotaract's roots, present, and future. Then, the Rotaract Festival, which will be an unforgettable member experience. And finally, project-wise, every club project should integrate environmental support and road safety, since we all share the environment and roads.

How will you strengthen collaboration among clubs?

Clubs are grouped into clusters of 5–6, with an ADRR to foster teamwork. Monthly assessments reward collaboration on projects, learning sessions, or activities. We'll

also encourage partnerships with Interact clubs, clubs outside the district, and community groups. Clubs are grouped by type (e-clubs, institution-based, membership tiers) with dedicated officers. Functional dockets will run collaborative activities: Rotaract Earth Initiative, Rotaract Ladies Initiative, and Professional & Leadership Forums. Collaboration is embedded in our culture.

What strategies for membership growth?

Priority one is to strengthen club health; we can't attract quality members without vibrant clubs. We'll empower clubs to tell their stories and showcase best practices so communities see impact. We'll also develop resource kits. Most importantly, every club needs a clear work plan and programs that meet member needs.

How can clubs engage young professionals/emerging leaders?

They need to strengthen internal systems, address stewardship, and design programs that position clubs as equal corporate partners. When young professionals see demonstrated value, not just explanations, they invest time and resources. Strong, well-structured clubs inspire quality membership and credibility, just like winning teams attract fans.

What Leadership development opportunities will there be?

Through our Professional and Leadership Development docket and Learning docket, Rotaractors should expect transformative opportunities. These will be supplemented with regular learning sessions, so members grow as Rotary leaders and professionals.

How will you support smaller or newer clubs?

Through a multi-layered approach. Recently chartered clubs and those still in formation will receive guidance to help them engage, learn, and grow. District goals are tailored to

membership tiers so smaller clubs aren't unfairly competing. ADRRs will identify clubs needing support and link them to committees. A membership satisfaction survey will give direct insights for tailored support.

Advice for Rotaractors aspiring to district leadership?

They should build strong leadership skills while upholding the reputation and Rotary/Rotaract values. District roles need passion, plus credibility, integrity, and consistency. Be proactive, keep learning, and stay updated on policies. Effective leaders combine competence with character.

How can clubs increase the sustainability and impact of their service projects?

By engaging communities from the start, building diverse teams, fostering collaboration, and embedding sustainable practices in project design and execution. The key is aligning projects with real community priorities while ensuring environmental, financial, and social longevity.

Any service project or cause that you are especially passionate about?

Environment and youth empowerment. They're connected: when youth steward the environment through tree planting, climate advocacy, or eco-entrepreneurship, they gain leadership skills and confidence.

Proudest Rotaract moment?

My installation as DRR in Entebbe at the recent District Conference. The energy was unmatched — a powerful affirmation of trust from the Rotaract family.

What does success look like at term's end?

A stronger, more united, more impactful District than I found. Clubs thriving with solid systems, sustainable membership growth, empowered leaders, and projects creating lasting change.

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE



GOVERNOR
Gerald Obai, RC Gulu



VICE GOVERNOR
Robert Waggwa Nsibirwa,
RC Kampala North



IMMEDIATE PAST DG
Geoffrey Kitakule, RC
Kampala South



DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT (9217)
Fabian Kasi, RC
Kiwatule



DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT (9218)
Jane Kabugo, RC
Sunrise-Kampala



DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE (9217)
Peter Dhamuzungu, RC
Bugiri



DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE (9218)
Kaziro Kyambadde, RC
Kampala East



DISTRICT EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Emily Mbabazi, RC
Sunrise-Kampala



DISTRICT TREASURER
Petra Ssansa Tenywa,
RC Kampala-Ssese



CHAIR, DISTRICT PIME
Sophie Nuwagira
Bamwoyeraki, RC Kasangati



VICE PIME CHAIR
Charles Odaga, Kampala
South



VICE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (GOVERNOR'S PROGRAM)
Maureen Kawombe Tumwebaze



VICE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR - EASTERN
Peter Dhamuzungu, RC Bugiri



IMMEDIATE PAST DRR
Abesage Nahabwe, RAC
Nangabo



VICE- PIME CHAIR-NORTH
Gladys Oyat, RC Kitgum



VICE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-NORTH
Lillian Ayikoru, RC Arua



VICE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR - WESTERN
Milton Tusingwire, RC
Kabarole



DISTRICT IT SUPPORT OFFICER
Nankya Faridah Nsubuga,
RC Kampala Impala



GENERAL ADVISOR
Ronald Oine, RC Upper Kololo



LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
Meddie Lutaaya, RC Kira



VICE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR-CENTRAL
Florence Lunkuse, Kiwatule



DISTRICT ROTARACT REPRESENTATIVE
Alex Muwanguzi, RAC Njeru



TRF CHAIR
John Magezi-Ndamira,
RC Kampala North

FULL DISTRICT TEAM

NAME	CLUB	DISTRICT POSITION
ROTARY LEADERSHIP		
1 Gerald Obai	Gulu	District Governor
2 Robert Waggwa Nsibirwa	Kampala North	Vice Governor
3 Fabian Kasi	Kiwatule	District Governor Elect D9217
4 Jane Kabugo	Sunrise-Kampala	District Governor Nominee D9218
5 Peter Dhamuzungu	Bugiri	District Governor Nominee Designate D9217
6 Kaziro Kyambadde	Kampala East	District Governor Nominee Designate D9218
ROTARACT LEADERSHIP		
7 Abesage Nahabwe	RAC Nangabo	Immediate Past DRR/ District Learning Facilitator
8 Alex Muwanguzi	RAC Njeru	DRR
9 Douglas Ssebadauka	RAC Kampala City	DRRE
10 Irene Tinka	RAC Naguru	DES
11 Vincent Onyango	RAC Jinja	Treasurer
12 Anguzu Alpha Moses Bayo	RAC Arua	PIME Chair
13 Aloysie Tumukunde	RAC Nansana	The Rotary Foundation Chair
14 Muhumuza Emanuel	RAC Kabarole	Grants Chair
15 Agaba Isaac Makanisa	RAC Cape Munyonyo	Qualification Chair
16 David Olenger	RAC Kampala Central	Stewardship Chair
17 Victor Nahurira	RAC Kampala North	Projects Chair (Rotaract)
SECRETARIAT		
18 Emily Mbabazi	Sunrise-Kampala	District Executive Secretary
19 Petra Ssansa Tenywa	Kampala Ssese Islands	District Treasurer
20 Meddie Lutaaya	Kira	Lieutenant Governor
21 Florence Lunkuse	Kiwatule	Vice LG - Central Region
22 Peter Dhamuzungu	Bugiri	Vice LG - Eastern Region
23 Milton Tusingwire	Kabarole	Vice LG - Western Region
24 Lilian Ayikoru	Arua	Vice LG - Northern Region
25 Maureen Kawombe Tumwebaze	Naalya States	Vice LG in charge of the Governor's Programs
PIME		
26 Sophie Bamwoyeraki	Kasangati	PIME Chair
27 Charles Odaga	Kampala South	Vice PIME Chair
28 Gladys Oyat	Kitgum	PIME Chair Northern Region
29 Michael Bazira	Iganga	PIME Chair Eastern Region
30 Esau Rogers Muhumuza	Hoima Kitara	PIME Chair Western Region
DISTRICT PERFORMANCE		
31 Phyllis K. Kwesiga	Kampala Ssese Islands	District Performance Analyst
ADVISORS		
32 Ronald Oine	Upper Kololo	General Advisory
STRATEGY		
33 Peter Mukuru	Kampala South	District Strategy Chair
34 Kaziro Kyambadde	Kampala East	District Strategy Vice Chair
35 Erina Nafula	Kampala Metropolitan	District Research and Innovations Committee Chair

NAME	CLUB	DISTRICT POSITION
ROTARY ACTION PLAN		
36 Evelyn Akello	E-Club of Naguru	Rotary Action Plan Chair
37		Rotary Action Plan Vice Chair
THE ROTARY FOUNDATION		
38 John Magezi-Ndamira	Kampala North	District Rotary Foundation Chair / Council on Legislation Representative
39 Emmy Kwesiga	Kampala Central	District Grants Chair
Milton Tusingwire	Kabarole	District Grants Vice Chair - District Grants
40 David Kintu	Kampala Ssese Islands	District Grants Vice Chair - Global Grants
41 Richard Mayebo	Kampala South	District Qualification Committee Chair
42 Satish Guna	Kampala Maisha	District Qualification Committee Vice Chair
43 Priscilla Nakiboneka	Kampala North	District Stewardship Chair
44 Maureen Birungi	Kasangati	District Annual Fund and Fundraising Officer
45 Millicent Bulafu	Kira	District Paul Harris Society Coordinator
46 Edith Mujwisa	Bukoto	District PolioPlus Officer
47 Mable Bajenja Abigaba	Makindye	Vice District PolioPlus Officer
48 Stella Leah Obwanga	Kyadondo	District Major Gifts and Endowments Officer
49 Marion Natukunda	Kiwatule	Special Project (Road Safety Program) Chair
50 Daphine Nafula	Kampala East	District Rotary Peace Center (RPC) Host Area Coordinator
51		District Vocational Training Teams Coordinator
52 Jane Frances Nakato	Kampala North	TRF Cadres
DISTRICT LEARNING		
53 DG Anne Nkutu	Kampala-Naalya	District Learning Facilitator 2025/26
54 Geoffrey Martin Kitakule	Kampala South	District Learning Facilitator 2026/27
55 Ronald Kawaddwa	Kasangati	Vice District Learning Facilitator and Chair District Training Academy
56 Dennis Mugarra	Kabarole	Regional Learning Coordinator - Western 2
57 JackStanley Onvua	Masindi	Regional Learning Coordinator - Western 1
58 Oscar Rwigyema	Mbale	Regional Learning Coordinator - Eastern
59 Harriet Laker	Gulu	Regional Learning Coordinator - Northern
60 Flavia Nabaasa	Kampala Central	Regional Learning Coordinator - Central
61 Hudson Mutalya	Kampala South	Regional Learning Coordinator - Central
102 DISCON		
62 Francis Gimara	Kampala	DISCON Chair
63 Pafra Ssekuuma	RAC Bweyogerere Namboole	Co-Chair (Rotaract)
64 Caroline Mbojana	Kampala Springs	DISCON Secretary
65 Valeria Bagaala	RAC Bweyogerere Namboole	Co-Secretary (Rotaract)

NAME	CLUB	DISTRICT POSITION
Harriet Laker	Gulu	Treasurer
66 Alfred Okidi	Kampala	Fundraising Chair
67 Jude Mwesigwa	Nangabo	Fundraising Co-Chair (Rotaract)
YOUTH SERVICES		
68 Patrick Lassu	Kampala South	District Youth Services Chair
69 Mark Asimwe	Saturday E-Jazz	District Youth Exchange Chair
70 Aju Daniel Odongo	Najeera	District Youth Protection Officer
71 Gift Ann Tryphine	Kampala Mahaba	District Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Chair
72 Paul Ssenyonga	Mukono	District Interact Chair
INTERNATIONAL SERVICE		
73 Brenda Daisy Anena	Kiwatule	International Service Chair
74 Joe Nuwamanya Okuuny	Kampala Metropolitan	Inter District/Country Committee Chair
75 Robert Semakula	Kitante	District Rotary Friendship Exchange Chair
76 Pauline Wantate	Sunrise-Kampala	District RI Convention Promotion Chair
77		House of Friendship Coordinator
PUBLIC IMAGE		
78 Diana Kagere	Sonde	District Public Image Chair
79		District Website & Online Tools Officer
80 Sylvia Nankya	Kampala Naalya	District Media Relations Officer
81 Kalungi Kabuye	Lugogo Mango Tree	The Wave Magazine Editor
Sylvia Nankya	Kampala Naalya	The Wave Magazine Deputy Editor
82 Michael Agaba	Kyanja Metro	The Wave Magazine - Member
83 Victoria Nampala	Bweyogerere-Namboole	The Wave Magazine - Member
84 Maureen Kawombe Tumwebaze	Naaalya States	The Wave Magazine - Advisor
85 Hilda Kengoma Khamasi	Upper Kololo	District Brand Officer
86 Mark Asimwe	Saturday E-Jazz	District Social Media Officer
87 Davidson Mugume	Kampala Ssese Islands	Content Development Officer
88		Rotary Year Documentation Officer
89 Faridah Nankya	Kampala Impala	District IT Support Officer
90 Julie Kamuze	Kasangati	Regional Newsletter Coordinator (New docket)
MEMBERSHIP		
91 Dorothy Kyeyune	Kampala Maisha	District Membership Chair
92 Elizabeth Kyomugisha	Upper Kololo	District Member Attraction Sub-Committee Chair
93 Jesca Nyanzi	Wobulenzi	District Member Engagement & Retention Director
94 Proscovia Arima	Arua	New Club Development Director

NAME	CLUB	DISTRICT POSITION
95 Mariam Mutalaga	Namugongo	District Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Director
96 Emmanuel Lukeera	Kampala	Rotaract-Rotary Transtion Advisor
97 Dorcas Tusubira	Sunrise-Kampala	District Rotary Fellowships Chair
98 Herbert Muhumuza	Kampala North	District Rotary Community Corps (RCC) Chair
99		District Rotary Action Groups Chair
100 Kenneth Kiiza	Kampala Springs	District Partnerships Chair
101 Timothy Basiima	Kampala Day Break	Vice District Partnerships Chair
102 Ronnie Mulindwa	Kampala Metropolitan	District Corporate Membership Chair
103 Margaret Okello	Kampala Naguru	District Family of Rotary Chair
104 Charity Namaganda	E-Club of Naguru	District eClubs Coordinator
105		District Family Health Days Chair
106 Safina Naggayi	Gulu	District Programs Coordinator
GOVERNANCE & ETHICS		
107 Flavia Serugo	Kampala Naalya	District Governance and Ethics Committee Chair
108 Blessing Owomugisha	RAC Kampala South	District Governance and Compliance - Rotaract
Emily Mbabazi	Sunrise-Kampala	Risk Management
Peter Dhamuzungu	Bugiri	Governance and Compliance - Eastern
109 Herbert Oloka	Kampala Naalya	Governance and Compliance - Central
Gladys Oyat	Kitgum	Governance and Compliance - Northern
Milton Tusingwire	Kabarole	Governance and Compliance - Western
110 Robina Namusisi	Kampala	Conflict Resolution & Mediation
COMMUNITY SERVICE		
111 Richard Kalungi	Kampala South	District Community Service Chair
112 Linda Atulinda	Kampala City	District Community Service Vice Chair
113 Moses Kafeero	Mukono-Central	District Area of Focus Champion - Peacebuilding & Conflict Prevention
114 Godfrey Musinguzi	Bulindo	District Area of Focus Champion - Environment
115		District Area of Focus Champion - Maternal & Child Health
116 Dennis Okwir	Gulu	District Area of Focus Champion - Disease Prevention & Treatment
117 Robert Okwera	Buloba	District Area of Focus Champion - Community Economic Development
118		District Area of Focus Champion - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)
119 Pross Logose	Sunrise-Kampala	District Area of Focus Champion - Basic Education & Literacy

PUBLIC IMAGE TEAM



Chair— Dianah Kagere, RC Sonde



Branding Officer - Hilda Kengoma Khamasi, RC Upper Kololo



Editor — The Wave Magazine
Kalungi Kabuye, RC Lugogo-
Mango Tree



Editor Regional Bulletins - Julie Kamuze Musoke, RC Kasangati



Media Engagement Officer - Sylvia Nankya, RC Kampala Naalya



Social Media Officer - Mark Asiimwe, RC Saturday E-Jazz

CONTENT CREATION TEAM

David Tugume — RC Kampala Ssesse Islands

David Kimera — Rotaract

Patricia Panabel — Rotaract

Rotary District 9213 Rotaract District 9213

A safer future begins

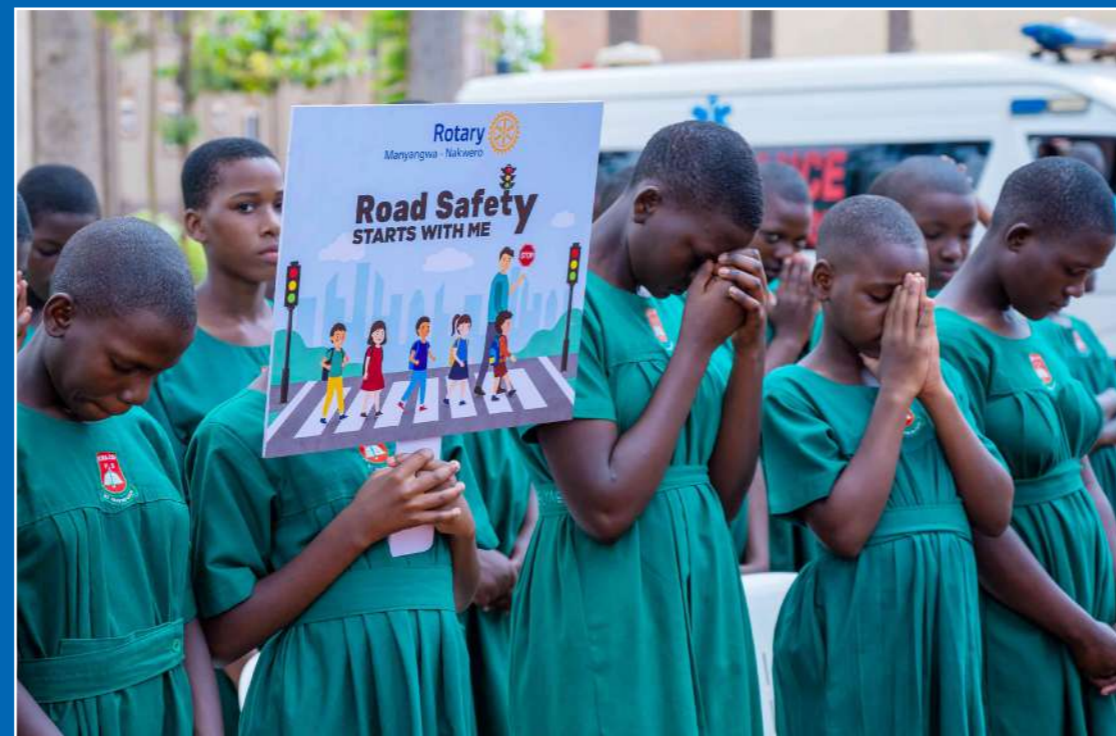
Rotary and partners launch ENROSU a coordinated effort to reduce road crashes, protect road users and build a culture of road safety across Uganda

Safe Roads Save Lives

#RotaryEyamba #RotaryKonyo

ROAD SAFETY LAUNCH

Governor Gerald Obai opened his term of office with the flagship initiative 'Enhancing Road Safety in Uganda', on 1st July. Accompanied by a team from the Ministry of Works and Transport Safety Officer, they were hosted by the Rotary clubs of RC Kampala Maisha and Bugolobi Morning Tide





Members of the Joe Walker Community paint a zebra crossing as part of a road safety campaign

A Shared Responsibility, A Rotary Opportunity



RTN. MARION NATUKUNDA
Chair District Road Safety

Every day, thousands of people around the world leave their homes expecting to return safely. Sadly, many never do. Road crashes remain one of the leading causes of death and injury globally, claiming over a million lives each year and leaving countless others with life-changing disabilities.

In our communities, the impact of road crashes extends beyond the individuals involved. Families lose breadwinners, children lose parents, businesses lose productive workers, and communities bear the emotional and economic burden.

Road safety is therefore not merely a transport issue; it is a public health, development, and humanitarian concern.

As Rotary begins a new year under the theme of creating a lasting impact, we are presented with a unique opportunity to make a meaningful contribution toward safer roads and safer communities.

Rotary's strength lies in its ability to bring together professionals, community leaders, young people, government agencies, and development partners around a common purpose. Road safety is one area where this collective influence can save lives.

As the incoming District Road Safety Chair, my vision is to foster a district-

wide movement that promotes safer road use through education, advocacy, partnerships, and community action. Working alongside Rotary and Rotaract clubs, we shall encourage initiatives that raise awareness on responsible road use, support vulnerable road users, engage young people as road safety champions, and collaborate with key stakeholders to strengthen road safety efforts.

This Rotary year, we shall focus on:

- Increasing road safety awareness in schools, communities, and workplaces.
- Strengthening partnerships with government agencies, law enforcement, transport operators, and civil society organisations.
- Promoting responsible road user behaviour among motorists, motorcyclists, cyclists, and pedestrians.
- Supporting evidence-based advocacy for safer roads and transport systems.
- Encouraging every Rotary and Rotaract club to participate in at least one road safety activity during the year.

Road safety is not the responsibility of a few, it is the responsibility of all of us. Whether we are drivers, passengers, pedestrians, cyclists, or policymakers, our actions can either contribute to safety or increase risk.

I invite every Rotarian, Rotaractor, and community partner across our district to join this important cause. Together, we can create awareness, influence behaviour, strengthen partnerships, and ultimately save lives.

The road to safer communities begins with each one of us. Let us make Rotary Year 2026/27 a year of action, collaboration, and impact for road safety.

Because every life matters, and every journey should end safely.



Building Hope in Kinoni: Rotary's Investment in Health and Community Transformation



By MD William Kaguma, Rotary Club of Kololo

Along the busy Kampala-Mbarara Highway in Western Uganda lies Kinoni, a vibrant rural community in Rwampara District. Home to thousands of families whose livelihoods depend largely on small-scale agriculture, Kinoni reflects both the resilience and the challenges faced by many rural

communities across Uganda.

For years, residents have struggled with poverty, limited access to quality healthcare, food insecurity, and inadequate opportunities for economic advancement. Rapid population growth has placed increasing pressure on available land, reducing agricultural productivity and making it difficult for families to earn a sustainable income. Women, who make up the majority of the agricultural workforce, bear much of this burden; while children remain vulnerable to preventable diseases, malnutrition, and limited access to healthcare.

For many residents, access to quality healthcare has long been a challenge. The growing population has outpaced the capacity of existing facilities, leaving healthcare workers stretched and patients underserved.

Recognising these challenges,

the Rotary Club of Kololo stepped forward with a bold and transformative initiative that combines healthcare infrastructure development with community empowerment. At the heart of this effort is the expansion and upgrading of Kinoni Health Centre IV, a project that is already reshaping the future of healthcare in the region.

A FOUNDATION FOR BETTER HEALTH

One of the most visible signs of progress today is the ongoing construction of new hospital blocks and the upgrading of the maternity ward at Kinoni Health Centre IV. Implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Health, the project represents a significant investment in strengthening healthcare services for a population estimated at more than 250,000 people.

The expanded health centre will provide improved infrastructure,

additional treatment space, and enhanced maternal healthcare services. The new facilities are being designed to support modern healthcare delivery, creating a safer and more efficient environment for both patients and medical personnel. Once construction is completed, Rotary partners intend to equip the facility with essential medical equipment, furniture, medicines, and supplies to ensure that the new infrastructure delivers its full impact.

The upgraded maternity ward is particularly significant. Every year, hundreds of mothers and newborns depend on the facility for care during pregnancy and childbirth. Enhanced maternity services will improve maternal and child health outcomes while reducing the risks associated with pregnancy and delivery.

BEYOND BUILDINGS: STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE DELIVERY

While the construction project forms the backbone of the initiative, the vision extends far beyond bricks and mortar.

The project includes the procurement of an ambulance that will improve emergency response and outreach services, particularly for expectant mothers, HIV patients, and individuals living in remote areas who struggle to access healthcare facilities. Healthcare workers will

receive training in modern health management practices and maternal and child healthcare, enabling them to deliver higher-quality services to the community. Village Health Teams (VHTs) will also play a critical role in community health education, disease prevention campaigns, and awareness programs targeting some of the most pressing health challenges facing the region.

These interventions are expected to improve the management of common illnesses such as malaria, strengthen HIV prevention and treatment programs, and reduce the incidence of adolescent pregnancies through targeted education and community engagement.

EMPOWERING WOMEN AND FAMILIES

Rotary's vision for Kinoni recognises that healthier communities are built not only through better healthcare, but also through stronger livelihoods.

Alongside the health interventions, the project will support women and youth through income-generating activities designed to improve household resilience and food security. Beneficiaries will receive livestock, including goats, rabbits, and piglets, as well as support for vocational enterprises such as tailoring and baking.

Priority will be given to women and young mothers, many of whom face

limited employment opportunities and economic hardship.

Through access to microcredit and livelihood support, these women will be better positioned to create sustainable sources of income, provide for their families, and contribute to the economic development of their communities.

Improved household incomes are expected to lead to better nutrition, particularly for children under five years of age, helping to address one of the underlying causes of poor health in the region.

ROTARY PARTNERSHIPS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

The Kinoni project demonstrates the power of Rotary partnerships in addressing complex community challenges. The initiative is being led by the Rotary Club of Kololo in collaboration with the Rotary Clubs of Kiwatule, Kampala Sunday Sunset, and Mbarara City; together with the Rotaract Club of Kololo and local community leadership through the Rotary Community Corps of Kinoni-Rugando.

By bringing together Rotary members, government institutions, healthcare professionals, and community leaders, the project reflects Rotary's commitment to sustainable and community-driven development.



Providing Maternal and Child Health Care Equipment to Health Facilities in Hoima District

RTN. JOHNSON KIIZA
RC Nansana

This project was conceived in August 2022, and when a needs assessment was done, it was found that many mothers and newborn babies were dying during birth and immediately after due to delayed health care. So, members of the Rotary clubs of Nansana and Bweyogerere-Nambole decided to combine for a project to alleviate these challenges.

The original proposal was two-fold: to provide maternal and child health care equipment to six health facilities, and also to provide water and sanitation. But due to challenges in raising funds and the magnitude of the project, it was agreed that the project be split into two:

- a) Provision of maternal and child health equipment to the health facilities
- b) Provision of safe, clean water and sanitation to the health facilities.

Once the split was done, the Rotary Club of Nansana was to implement 'a', while RC Bweyogerere-Nambole implemented 'b'.

RC Nansana approached several clubs in D9213, and also outside. D1980, in partnership with Basel am Rhein through Urs Herzog, was approached and agreed to partner with RC Nansana. The club also approached business organization locally in Hoima to solicit support to raise the funds for the project.

However, the going was not easy. But with support from RC Bweyogerere-Nambole, led by



Rtn Nkooka James, we continued knocking on doors of several clubs and organisations seeking support to raise funds for the project, not forgetting our various presidents of RC Nansana, who encouraged members to contribute towards TRF, where the funds were tagged to the project.

Through these efforts, we were able to raise the funds required for the project, which was USD 50,000. Among the notable clubs that partnered with us were RC Basel Am Rhein (D1980), RC Allschwil-Regio-Basel, RC Kampala Muyenga (9214) through PDG Emmanuel Katongole; RC Kampala Kawempe, RC Kasubi, RC Wakiso and RC Hoima-Kitara.

The project funds were fully raised in December 2025. During that time,

several online meetings were held with the international partners, and we continue to date to give them the status report on the project.

Once the funds had been fully raised, it was found necessary to do a fresh needs assessment so as to supply the equipment that was required by the health facilities. This was done in collaboration with the District Health Officer, Dr Lawrence Tumusiime, and a team of the partnering clubs from D9213. It took place in January 2026.

Once the new needs assessment had been done, it was found that some equipment previously assessed as required had been supplied to some of the health facilities by other organisations when the club was soliciting for funds. This, therefore, implied that they were no longer



required as per the fresh assessment.

From the resulting savings, we were able to equip more health facilities. Therefore, a total of seven health facilities benefited from the project instead of six, and these are: HC IV Kigoroby, HCIII Mparangasi and five (5) HCII's, Kibaire, Kasomoro, Mbarara, Kiseke

and Kibiro. The project is being implemented in collaboration with Hoima District Local government, represented by the District Health Officer (DHO), who is organising the training for the trainers, Village health teams (VHTs) and community members on the rights to access health services in the respective health facilities. And also, the collection of data regarding the impact of the project on the community. These health centres serve a population of about 100,000 people, who come from the neighbouring districts and also from the Democratic Republic of Congo DRC.



DG Martin Kitakule sanitises the hands of Health ministry officials during the graduation of Health workers at St Francis Hospital Nsambya

Rotary Trains First Cohort of Health Workers in Newborn Care

By Rtn. Michael Agaba,
RC Kyanja-Metro

Rotary Clubs of Uganda marked a milestone in maternal and child health on Friday, June 5, 2026 with the graduation of the first cohort of health workers trained in comprehensive in-service newborn care. The ceremony, held at St. Francis Hospital Nsambya, was officiated by Rotary District 9213 Governor, Geoffrey Martin Kitakule.

The four-week intensive program equipped nine health workers from nine districts with hands-on skills to improve neonatal survival. Funded through a USD 551,000 Rotary Foundation grant, the initiative is supported through 45 Rotary and Rotaract clubs alongside partners including Bulamu Health Care and Seed Global Health.

Training will be scaled across 31

Training will be scaled across 31 high-volume health facilities in 14 districts, targeting both Health Centre IVs and IIIs.

high-volume health facilities in 14 districts, targeting both Health Centre IVs and IIIs.

Uganda continues to face high neonatal mortality, with an estimated

27 deaths per 1,000 live births according to the 2023 Situation Analysis by Makerere University's Centre of Excellence for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health. The program aims to strengthen frontline capacity and reduce preventable deaths.

Graduates shared their experiences, highlighting the importance of techniques such as Kangaroo Mother Care (KMC) — a low-cost, evidence-based method where newborns are placed on the mother's chest to provide warmth and security.

"This training has given us the skills to save lives," said health worker Christine. Neonatologist Dr Victoria Nakibuuka emphasised that KMC can reduce neonatal deaths by up to 40%, underscoring its potential impact.

The initiative reflects Rotary's commitment to advancing healthcare and ensuring that every child has a chance at survival.



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PAG JAMES NKOOKA
Past District Grants Chair,
D9213

The District Grants Officer: Transforming Good Intentions into Sustainable Projects

The Mengo Hospital Rotary Blood Bank in Kampala shows Rotary's transformative power.

Rotary service starts with simple observations: a child struggling for education, a mother at risk during childbirth, a patient waiting for treatment, or families without clean water. Rotary treats these not as problems to discuss, but as opportunities for lasting change.

Behind successful projects are planning, accountability, partnership, and stewardship. At the centre is the District Grants Officer—the guide, mentor, and guardian who connects clubs to The Rotary Foundation's resources and ensures every contribution creates real community impact.

The Grants Officer helps clubs develop strong applications, comply with Rotary Foundation requirements, monitor implementation, and support clubs through the full grant cycle. More importantly, they transform good intentions into structured, sustainable projects that keep benefiting communities after Rotary's funding ends.

Motivation for District Grants leadership comes from seeing community needs first-hand, and having project planning, management, and governance experience to help clubs respond effectively.

My journey began in 2016/17 as Country Grants Chair, leading to years of supporting clubs to design projects aligned with Rotary's seven

areas of focus: disease prevention and treatment; economic and community development; basic education and literacy; peace and conflict prevention; water, sanitation and hygiene; maternal and child health; and environment.

THE POWER OF ROTARY GRANTS

Grants move clubs from small ideas to large, sustainable interventions. Global Grants are key, they combine local commitment with international partnerships and funding to address major humanitarian needs.

Unlike short-term projects, Global Grants require evidence of community need, clear sustainability plans, measurable outcomes, and collaboration between Rotary partners. Before approval, clubs must listen to communities through needs assessments. This ensures projects reflect real priorities,

not assumptions. It builds trust, encourages ownership, and designs solutions with the people who will benefit. Sustainability is the core principle. Success isn't just delivering equipment or building a structure. Real success means the community can operate, maintain, and benefit from the project independently after Rotary exits. That's why grants emphasise skills transfer, local ownership, financial planning, and partnerships with institutions that can support the project long-term. A water system, health facility, or training program must have people with skills and resources to manage it.

A LIFE-SAVING EXAMPLE: MENGÓ HOSPITAL ROTARY BLOOD BANK

The Mengo Hospital Rotary Blood Bank in Kampala shows Rotary's transformative power. It was born from a personal tragedy and a national challenge: blood shortages that cost lives, including mothers with postpartum haemorrhage.

Inspired by PDG Emmanuel Katongole after losing his sister, Rotary partners chose a permanent solution over temporary blood drives - a modern blood bank to strengthen Uganda's healthcare system. Through collaboration between Mengo Hospital, District 9211, donors, and partners, the project secured major investment. A Rotary Foundation Global Grant funded advanced



blood processing equipment from Germany.

Opened in 2017, the blood bank runs 24/7 and supplies a significant share of blood for the Kampala metro area. It proves what happens when community need, strong partnerships, and sustainable planning align.

BUILDING STRONGER GRANT APPLICATIONS

Many clubs have great ideas but struggle to turn them into strong proposals. Successful applications rest on evidence, clear objectives, realistic budgets, and sustainability plans. Clubs should start by deeply understanding their communities before choosing solutions.

A strong proposal answers: Why is this needed? Who benefits? How will success be measured? Who maintains it? New applicants should start with manageable projects, learn grant stewardship principles, and build capacity for larger Global

Grants. Working with experienced mentors and assigning clear team responsibilities makes the journey smoother.

STEWARDSHIP: PROTECTING ROTARY'S PROMISE

Every grant rests on stewardship—responsible management of donor resources. Stewardship protects donor confidence, ensures transparency, and safeguards Rotary's ability to fund future projects. Through financial controls, accurate reporting, dedicated accounts, documentation, and monitoring, Rotary ensures every contribution is used as intended. Good stewardship isn't just admin; it reflects Rotary's values and integrity.

THE FUTURE: COLLABORATION FOR BIGGER IMPACT

The biggest opportunity ahead is collaboration. Clubs achieve more by pooling resources, sharing expertise,

and using multi-club partnerships. Small clubs shouldn't feel limited by size; together, they can create projects large enough for Global Grant support and wider impact.

Rotaract clubs also have a critical role. With energy, professional skills, and community connections, Rotaractors can lead needs assessments, support monitoring and evaluation, contribute technical expertise, and participate as equal partners in grant projects.

The future of Rotary service is moving beyond short-term fixes to invest in sustainable transformation. The greatest projects aren't those that help today, but those that keep changing lives for years.

The message to Rotary and Rotaract clubs: dream bigger, collaborate more, use grants to build lasting legacies. Every community has challenges, but with thoughtful planning, responsible stewardship, and collective action, Rotary clubs can turn ideas into impact.



The Rotary Club of Evanstone Nouveau in the USA came up with a crazy idea and created a 'pink' beer to raise funds for the fight against polio.

Crazy Ideas, Little Things

By Maureen K Tumwebaze
Vice Lieutenant Governor
(Governor's Program)

As we usher in a new Rotary year, we are reminded that every successful season of service begins with leadership. Not leadership defined by titles, but leadership demonstrated through action, influence, humility, and a genuine commitment to people.

During the leaders' trainings and Presidents-Elect Seminars across the regions, PDG Stephen Mwanje carried a powerful message to the leaders of the year: "Everything rises and falls on leadership." He reminded leaders that strong clubs are built by people who understand their values, lead by example, embrace learning, and create meaningful relationships.

This message speaks directly to the leadership philosophy of our incoming District Governor, Gerald Obai – 'Crazy Ideas, Little Things'.

For Governor Gerald, this is more than a phrase; it is a belief that challenges us to rethink how we lead, engage our members, and serve our communities.

The 'crazy ideas' speak to our courage to imagine differently.

Let us pursue the crazy ideas that can transform communities while remembering the little things that transform lives.

Every transformation begins when someone dares to ask, "What if?" As Rotarians, we must create room for creativity and innovation. We should not be afraid to explore new approaches, challenge old assumptions, and try new things.

This does not mean abandoning wisdom or structure. It means having the courage to think beyond the usual while remaining guided by integrity, respect, and the spirit of service. Leadership requires us to be bold enough to attempt what may

seem impossible and humble enough to learn along the way.

But while we pursue big ideas, we must never forget the little things that matter.

Rotary is built on human connections. It is found in the small moments that create trust and belonging: the welcome given to a new member, the encouragement offered to someone who needs it, the appreciation shown to a volunteer, and the smile we put on the face of someone we serve.

These little things may seem ordinary, but they often leave the greatest impact.

As leaders, our success will not only be measured by the projects we complete but also by the experiences we create. Members stay where they feel valued, inspired, and connected.

Communities remember not only what we did, but how we made them feel.

This year calls us to lead differently. To dream boldly. To embrace creativity. To pay attention to the details that matter.

Let us pursue the crazy ideas that can transform communities while remembering the little things that transform lives.

Crazy Ideas, Little Things. A leadership belief that inspires us to imagine more, care deeply, and create lasting impact.



Jennifer Mugasha, middle, is installed as the 10th President of the Rotary Club of Lugogo-Mango Tree, at a joint installation function with the Rotary Club of Kampala Maisha, held at the Shell Club, Lugogo on Saturday

Leadership transition and handover key for club success

By District Governance & Ethics Team – 2026/7

As a new Rotary year begins, clubs across our District will embark on a leadership transition which is fundamentally a governance process that ensures continuity, accountability, and effective stewardship of the club. It is a time for the deliberate transfer of knowledge, responsibilities, records, resources, and strategic priorities from one leadership team to the next, ensuring that the club remains focused on its mission and continued success.

In Rotary, leadership transitioning is structured as a relay race, passing on the baton from one runner to the next runner. Each incoming leader inherits the achievements, challenges and aspirations of those who have served before them in order to build on existing successes rather than starting from scratch. Similar to a race, a successful transition begins with preparation. Outgoing club officers are expected to provide comprehensive handover reports including strategic plans, membership records, financial statements, project updates, committee reports, and key contacts. This information equips incoming leaders with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions and sustain club operations.

For club presidents, secretaries, and treasurers, the handover process is particularly critical. While secretaries serve as custodians of governance

and club records, treasurers safeguard financial integrity and accountability. With accurate documentation, organized records, and transparent reporting, leadership transitions occur smoothly and responsibly. It is important to note though that beyond documents and reports, effective handover includes mentorship and dialogue. Outgoing leaders should share lessons learned, challenges encountered, and best practices that can guide their successors. These conversations help transfer valuable institutional knowledge and strengthen leadership capacity within the club.

Leadership transition also provides an opportunity to review club goals, assess performance, and align priorities for the year ahead. Incoming leaders should engage members in developing a shared vision that reflects Rotary's values and strategic objectives while responding to the unique needs of their communities. Strong clubs thrive when leadership continuity is supported by sound governance, accountability, and teamwork. By embracing a culture of effective transition and handover, Rotary clubs can maintain stability, strengthen member confidence, and enhance their impact in service.

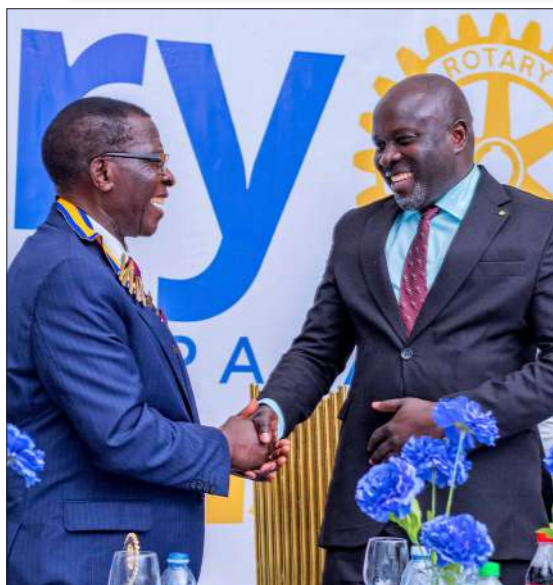
As we take on leadership in the new Rotary year, let us remember that leadership is not defined by a position held but by a legacy entrusted to others. Together, let us build on the past, strengthen the present, and inspire the future.

**CLUB INSTALLATIONS
RC BUGOLOBI + BUGOLOBI**









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RC LUGOGO-MANGO TREE & KAMPALA MAISHA JOINT INSTALLATIONS



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