

The Wave

Rotary
District 9213



September 2026

Ride The Tide

Cancer Run:
So much done,
so much more to do



7th ALL AFRICA
ZONE INSTITUTE
UGANDA 2026

 **VENUE:**
SPEKE RESORT
Munyonyo Kampala

 **26th - 28th**
November 2026

**GRAB THIS
INCREDIBLE
EARLY BIRD RATE**

**LAST
DATE
30th**
September 2026

Rotarians - Us\$380
Rotaractors - Us\$220

Register Now
africazoneinstitute.org

Follow Us



EDITOR'S NOTE	4	DHAMUZUNGU'S HOMECOMING	42
DISTRICT CALENDAR	5	OUR CLUBS – CAMPING FELLOWSHIPS	44
ROTARY PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	6	OUR CLUBS - RC PORTBELL	46
DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE	8	OUR CLUBS - JINJA ROAD CORRIDOR MEDICAL CAMP	48
CANCER RUN	10	OUR CLUBS – RC KAMPALA	50
BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY - BELEP	14	OUR CLUBS – RC UPPER KOLOLO	52
BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY - IREAD	16	PICTORIAL – ISLANDERS CHARTER NIGHT	53
BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY - ALIKER	18	PICTORIAL – CAMPING FELLOWSHIP	54
BELEP - PALSY	20	PICTORIAL DG VISIT – RC MUKONO CENTRAL	56
BELEP - VOCATIONAL	22	PICTORIAL DG VISIT – RC ACAIA SUNSET KAMPALA	57
BELEP - LITERACY	24	PICTORIAL DG VISIT – RC BUGOLOBI	58
5-A-SIDE	26	PICTORIAL DG VISIT – RC BUWATE	59
ROAD SAFETY- DRIVING SCHOOL	30	PICTORIAL DG VISIT – RC NAKASERO CENTRAL	60
ROAD SAFETY – WHAT CLUBS CAN DO	32	PICTORIAL DG VISIT – RC KAMPALA KIBULI	61
ROAD SAFETY – RC SUNRISE KAMPALA	34	PICTORIAL DG VISIT – RC BUTABIKA ROYALS	62
ROAD SAFETY – CHILDREN'S SAFETY	36		
GOVERNANCE	38		
MWANJE ADDRESS	40		

EDITOR'S NOTE

So Much Done, So Much More to Do

The Baganda of central Uganda have a saying that captures the spirit of what Rotarians in Uganda are doing. When building a house, you first put up the walls. To the onlooker, it looks like a lot of work has been done, and many offer congratulations.

But the Muganda will say, 'Gakyali mabaga', that he has put up the walls, but he still has to put on the roof. In effect, he is saying that although he has done a lot, there is still a lot more to be done.

This came alive for Rotarians on Sunday, 30th August 2026, when the results of the latest Cancer Run were announced by PDG Stephen Mwanje. An amazing UGX 5.6bn had been collected, meaning the target to finish building the Cancer Centre at Nsambya Hospital has been achieved, a year earlier than expected.

This was much anticipated, and many expected a huge celebration to commemorate the 15 years that Rotarians and friends have invested in the Cancer Run.

But PDG Mwanje quickly brought everyone back to earth. Yes, a big dream had been realised, but there were other dreams to chase. However much it looks, the money collected is only enough to finish the superstructure of the Cancer Centre. It still has to be equipped to become fully functional, and funds have to be found for that.

He also pointed out that Uganda needs 50 linear accelerators for its population of 50 million. But after the installation of two at Nsambya, there will be only five in the country. So there is a gap of 47 that still has to be filled.

He spoke of building cancer centres in Arua, Kasese and other places. So while Rotarians in Uganda

can celebrate the remarkable achievement of completing the Nsambya Cancer Centre, there is still much more to be done. *Gakyali mabaga*. We cannot stop running.

TEN YEARS OF 5-A-SIDE, FOUR OF BELEP

Another milestone has been reached this year. It will be the tenth edition of the 5-A-Side football tournament organised by the Rotary Club of Kiwatule (twelve years since it started, with two years lost to COVID-19).

More than UGX 500m has been mobilised for different projects across the country. But, just like the Cancer Run, while celebrating the tenth edition, they cannot stop. They have to plan for more. Then there is BELEP, the brainchild of PDG Mike Ssebalu. In its four years of existence, the Basic Education and Literacy Enhancement Programme has transitioned from a programme into a platform, with measurable three-year targets.

As PAG Frederick Kitakule notes in his article: "...BELEP was built on four durable priorities: enhance literacy by building a reading culture; empower teachers with better pedagogy and locally made materials; increase access to basic education, especially for girls and vulnerable children; and influence national education policy through evidence and advocacy."

Four years on, the government also agrees, which led to the Early Childhood Care and Education Policy (ECCE) of 2025.

Yes, Rotary Uganda has done a lot, but there is still much more to be done.

**Kalungi Kabuye,
RC Lugogo-Mango Tree**

EDITORIAL BOARD



EDITOR
Kalungi Kabuye, RC
Lugogo-Mango Tree



DEPUTY EDITOR
Sylvia Nankya,
Kampala-Naalya



VICTORIA NAMPALA
RC Bweyogerere-
Namboole



MICHAEL AGABA
RC Kyanja-Metro



ADVISOR
Maureen Kawombe
Tumwebaze, Naalya-
States

District Calendar September 2026

02

RC Kitgum DGs visit

03

RC Gulu Project and DGs visit

04

Meeting with
Rotaractors

05

RC Adjumani DGs visit

07

RC Greater Nebbi DGs visit
and Project visit

08

Meeting with Rotaractors

RC Koboko DGs visit

RC Yumbe project&DGs visit

09

RC Arua Eco city Project&DGs
visit

RC Arua Project and
DGs visi

11

Kalisoliso Dinner

12

RLI Graduation

15

RC Bweyogerere
Namboole DGs visit

16

RC Kyambogo DGs
visit

17

RC Kampala Mahaba DGs visit

18

Paul Kavuma's event

RC UpTown Kampala

19

5-Aside

20

RC Mukono Namilyango
DGs visit

21

RC Mapeera DGs visit

22

RC Kampala Sunrise DGs visit

23

RC Kampala Maisha DGs
visit

RC Kampala Platinum DGs
visit

24

RC Kampala East DGs visit

25

RC Kiteezi DGs visit

26

RC Kampala City DGs visit
RLI

27

RC Semuto DGs visit

29

7th All Africa Zone Institute
Pre-Independence Fellowship
Family of Rotary



1.25 million is more than a number

Rotary has always been about people. Not projects. Not numbers. People. Our goal of reaching 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors by our 125th anniversary in 2030 is also about people.

I bring up this goal again not because I expect the number itself to move you. Numbers rarely do. I bring it up because I worry that a goal this large can begin to feel abstract, distant from the everyday work of our clubs. I do not want that to happen. So, let us talk, once more, about what is truly behind it.

I want to offer your club a simple exercise. Look back over the last five to seven years and find your best year. Maybe it was a year new members arrived and, more meaningfully, stayed. Maybe it was a year your meetings became something members looked forward to, rather than another obligation on a crowded calendar. Find that year. Then I ask you to do better than your best.

This is not a call to outpace the club across town or the district next door. It is never meant to be a competition between Rotary members. It is, instead, an invitation to hold ourselves to our own highest standard — and to rise to meet it again.

Why does this 2030 membership goal matter enough to me that I keep returning to it? Because behind every one of those numbers is a person whose life

could be changed by this organisation, just as mine and yours have been changed by it. Rotary has given me friendships that have lasted decades, a sense of purpose I did not know I was searching for, and something that, in time, came to feel like an extension of my family. I suspect many of you understand this in your own lives, in your own way.

That life-changing experience is what we offer when we invite someone to join us. There are people in your communities right now who would find real meaning here if only someone thought to ask them. So, tell them your story. Tell them honestly how Rotary changed you, not just about the projects you led or the funds you raised but about the person you became along the way. Those stories have a way of reaching people when little else does.

If we hope to Create Lasting Impact, the kind that resounds for generations, we will need more people standing beside us to help carry our work forward. Let us come together, not only this month but every month of every year, to make Rotary stronger, more joyful, and more like the family it has always been to me.

Find your best year. Then let us be better than our best, together

YINKA
President, Rotary International



TOGETHER, WE

EMPOWER

Potential shines brightest when it's inspired. That's why Rotary clubs invest time and expertise in encouraging others to be the best they can be. Empowering those who have big dreams to achieve great things — that's what people of action do. Learn more at Rotary.org.

Rotary  **PEOPLE OF ACTION**

Growing Our Family, Educating Our Future

My dear Rotarians, Rotaractors and Friends,

The Rotary year moves swiftly. July and August are now well behind us. Although we still have ten months to go, the speed at which the first two months have flown by is a reminder of how short a year is. This calls upon us to make every day count if we are to realise our goals. Whether it is giving to The Rotary Foundation, implementing a community service project, or growing our membership, let us not miss any opportunity. Being intentional is key.

August and September offer us two powerful opportunities to reflect on who we are and why we exist.

August reminded us that Rotary is first and foremost about people. Reflecting on our theme, “Create Lasting Impact,” it is clear that to create impact, we must first grow. It was delightful to see many clubs grow their numbers and, more importantly, actively engage their members. A happy membership creates a feed-forward effect — positive energy that makes a club attractive not only to prospective members but also to partners.

I personally welcome all who have joined our Rotary family since the start of this Rotary year. To those who invited and mentored guests, congratulations. To the clubs that have grown, please make it a habit. To those yet to grow, increasing our numbers is the right thing to do.

The District Membership Soiree & Laurels Gala was a true celebration of our Rotary spirit and our number one internal priority. My sincere thanks to the Membership

Committee led by the indefatigable Rtn. Dorothy Kyeyune and the Thursday Clubs that spearheaded the event. On that day, we welcomed our 152nd club, the Rotary Club of Kampala Islanders. Congratulations to Charter President Bernard Ochan and the entire membership. Your energy was palpable, and I look forward to fully harnessing it.

But membership is not just about numbers; it is about meaning. Every new member is a new pair of hands for service, a new mind for ideas, and a new heart for compassion. My challenge to every Rotarian and Rotaractor is simple: Have you asked someone to join Rotary this month? Growth is every Rotarian’s responsibility.

Let us not just invite people to our meetings; let us invite them to our mission. Let us make our clubs warm, welcoming, and engaging — where people come for service and stay for fellowship. Let us pay special attention to retaining our members and nurturing our Rotaractors, who are the now and tomorrow of this District.

September: Basic Education and Literacy Month

As we step into September, we do not shift away from growing our family; we ride on that strength to drive the activities of this new month.

Basic Education and Literacy is one of Rotary’s Seven Areas of Focus, and it is the foundation upon which all other development rests. A child who cannot read cannot thrive. A community that cannot learn cannot develop.

In Uganda, many children still go to school without basic scholastic materials, and many schools lack

libraries and trained teachers. This is our call to action.

Across D9213, I have already seen inspiring action — clubs donating books and setting up reading corners, paying school fees for vulnerable children, mentoring girls to stay in school, and supporting adult literacy classes.

This September, I call upon every club to undertake at least ONE impactful literacy project: equip a school library, conduct a career guidance and mentorship session, donate reading materials to a rural school, or support teacher training. The possibilities are endless.

Remember, when we teach someone to read, we give them a key that unlocks a lifetime of opportunity. That is one of the greatest gifts we can give as Rotarians.

On a sad note, the passing of His Majesty Omukama Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV was a tough one for all of us. I extend my sincere condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Tooro. May you find comfort in the remarkable legacy he leaves behind. To all who have lost loved ones during this period, we stand in solidarity with you.

Dear friends, August taught us to grow our family. September challenges us to educate our future. Both months perfectly embody what it means to _Create Lasting Impact._

Thank you to all clubs that continue to make District 9213 shine. Let us keep the momentum.

Gerald Obai
District Governor



*“As we step into September, we do not shift away from growing our family; we ride on that strength to drive the activities of this new month,” — Gerald Obai
District Governor*



The very first Cancer Run in 2012

“We want to make it affordable so that everybody with cancer can be treated. That is our long-term plan.”

How A Dream Became A Movement



Past District Governor Stephen Mwanje, founder of the Uganda Rotary Cancer Run, speaks to The Wave

Q After 15 years, the dream of the Cancer Run is almost here. How does that make you feel?

A It is extremely exciting. But I give thanks to God. Many things we have achieved to date, I would never have imagined when we began. Originally our idea was just to build a cancer ward in five years. We began running in 2012, and by 2015 we had already raised enough money to finish that ward. It was operational by 2016. So, we achieved the original dream ahead of schedule.

But because of the challenges in the cancer space, we decided to continue running to create an even bigger impact — to set up a radiotherapy centre.

We have a 36-bed ward in Nsambya. It treats people who need chemotherapy or surgery. But if you

need radiotherapy, Nsambya cannot treat you. You have to be referred to Mulago. That is why we have to extend the dream from a ward to a centre.

So how did it all start?

It started with a sad story — the loss of my best friend at that time, the late Rotarian Martin Kiyaga. He was from the Rotary Club of Mengo. He got cancer around 2009. By that time, I was District Governor-elect. He died on 10th July 2010 at 4 a.m. That morning I was travelling with Dorothy, my wife, to the International Assembly for training. I was not even here to bury him. It was extremely painful.

When I came back and began my year of service in July 2010, I called corporate CEOs for breakfast at Serena Hotel. The intention then was public image — I wanted corporate leaders to know that Rotary exists and that we can work together on projects.

Then I was challenged. When they began asking me for a project, Martin’s name came to mind. So, I told them we can do something about cancer. That is how this whole thing started.

The Cancer Run, as you know it today, is just the fundraising arm of a bigger thing called the Uganda Rotary Cancer Programme. The programme has four pillars. The first is creating awareness. We go to communities all over the country to talk about cancer.

The second is screening. Cancer kills so many people because it is discovered too late. Late diagnosis is the cause of high mortality. So, we create awareness, offer free screening services, and when you are diagnosed, we do a referral.

That leads to the third pillar, which is infrastructure. That is what most

Turn to page 10

THE CANCER RUN 2026

Continued from page 9

people see — the construction of the cancer ward and now the cancer centre.

The fourth pillar, which is not very visible, is training. We focus on training doctors and nurses who handle cancer patients.

What was the original target when you started?

When we started our aim was to raise UGX1.5bn, which we raised in three years, mainly from corporate support. For example, the roofing materials were given to us by National Housing. Hima Cement gave us the cement. We got paint and other materials as well. After three runs, we had enough money and materials to complete the ward.

Ideally, we should have stopped there. But when we finished the ward, the only radiotherapy machine at Mulago — the Cobalt-60, a very old machine — totally collapsed. That meant anyone in Uganda who needed radiotherapy was effectively under a death sentence. There was nowhere to go.

So together with my board, we reviewed our strategic plan and decided to focus on something bigger at Nsambya Hospital.

Why did you decide on a run, instead of other means of fundraising?

At first, we got UGX300m from Centenary Bank. But that money could not go beyond the wall plate.

Then I remembered a friend in Dar es Salaam who raised a lot of money by organising the Dar marathon. When I got stuck in 2012 after the Centenary Bank money ran out, I thought about the Dar Marathon. So, I called a few friends and said, “I have been participating in the Dar Marathon. They are raising millions with only six clubs in Dar. In Kampala we have 30 clubs. If six clubs can raise that money, why can’t we?”

Of course, it wasn’t easy at the beginning. People couldn’t be convinced. For them, running for a



The late Rtn Frederick Klyaga, whose death to cancer in 2010 gave birth to the Cancer Run

cause in Uganda was strange. They had never heard about it. But that is how it started.

What was the hardest year of the Cancer Run?

The hardest years were the two lockdown years — 2020 and 2021. But they also offered us a unique opportunity. That is when the run became global. We told people they could run from their homes and share videos. The message went global, and we had people running in Canada, in Russia, in South Africa. Literally in every African country, people were running. So, it was the hardest year in terms of mobilisation, but it made the Cancer Run truly global.

Which year did you raise the least money?

The very first year. We raised about 68 million shillings. Of that, 50 million came from Pepsi Cola alone. So, we raised 18 million. That was the lowest.

After that we went to 90 million, then 200 million, then 300 million, then 700 million. Then we had 700 million again. During lockdown, we went back to 200 and 300 million. Since then, we have been growing progressively.

Was there any point where you felt like giving up?

Yes. I’ll tell you a story. In 2016, when the machine in Mulago collapsed, I called my board and we focused on something bigger — a radiotherapy centre. I never

imagined what it would cost.

I thought I would need 1.5 billion. By that time, we had finished the runs for 2016 and 2017, collecting about 350 million per year. But the figure I was given was US\$4.5m for two bunkers alone with equipment. That translates to UGX15bn. If you are collecting 350 million a year, you can do the arithmetic — how many years do you need to run to finish the bunkers?

When I got that information, at first I panicked. I was tempted to call my team and call off the ambitious project. But something at the back of my mind told me: “Stephen, in the beginning you never had even one shilling, you never had a team, you never had a plan, you just had a weird dream, and you were able to convince people to put up this ward in Nsambya within three years and raise 1.5 billion. What makes you think you can’t raise 15 billion now that you already have a team, a proof of concept, and people who believe in you?”

Yes, at that point I almost gave up. But the power of belief told me, “You can’t give up because people are dying of cancer. If you give up, they will lose hope.”

So, I stayed. And before long, from 700 million, we began collecting a billion shillings. Then corporates came on board, Parliament came on board, and many others. The run has grown and grown. Last year alone, we raised 3.5 billion. Who could have thought?

I can now confidently say that come what may, next year we are finishing this infrastructure because we have a gap of 6 billion, and this year alone we are targeting to raise no less than 5 billion. In parallel, we are engaging partners to get the equipment. Our dream of finishing physical construction by 2027 and opening the centre by 2028 is quite in sight.

There has been a very positive public response to the Cancer Run; did that surprise you?

Yes and no. The rate at which it has grown surprised me, but I am not surprised that it has grown, because

Ugandans are extremely generous — as long as they are sure where their money is going.

From the word go, my message to my team was: you must be accountable, you must be transparent. Every penny must go to the cause. The day someone discovers that 1,000 shillings was stolen from this cause is the day the Cancer Run will collapse.

My team has done extremely well. We focused on governance from the start. Ugandans will give you their money anytime. Until they find you wanting — then you are dead.

What has been your biggest lesson in raising such huge amounts of money?

I’ve learnt quite a few things. Number one is that nothing is impossible in this world once you have the right team. Nothing is impossible; you just need the right focus, the right team, and you remain focused. That is my biggest lesson.

The other thing is the power of belief. I always tell people that belief can take you to the skies. Those two have made me succeed in this Cancer Run.

In some way, the Cancer Run has become the face of Rotary. People know Rotary from the Cancer Run. What are your thoughts on that?

That is very true. And as Rotarians, we should take advantage of that. This year we are expecting 85,000 runners. Of those, over 90% are non-Rotarians, and about 50% would qualify to be Rotarians because they are leaders in their communities. Ideally, as Rotarians, we should see that as an opportunity.

Why aren’t we taking advantage of that?

I don’t know. I think we are not trying hard enough; it is an easy sale. By the time somebody comes here, he cannot ask you what Rotary is because he knows what Rotary does. Anybody wants to associate with something successful, and that is why we should never be struggling for membership.

OUR TARGET

There is talk that this year you will hit the target for the centre.

Our gap is 6 billion shillings to finish the superstructure — the bunkers alone. The other parallel track is to get equipment, which does not have to come from the run. Our previous target was 9 billion over three years — 3 billion per year.

After hitting 3 billion last year, I challenged the team to go beyond that. They challenged themselves and said, “We are going for 5 billion.” So even if they get 4 billion instead of 5 billion, then we can get the other 2 billion next year. We are sure that in the next two years, the 6 billion will be done.

Here is a success story from Kisoro. We started a Rotary club there, but in two years it collapsed. We tried to revive it, and it took eight years. For five years the President tried to start a new club but never got more than three people attending. But last year the Rotary Club of Kabale organised the Cancer Run in Kisoro, and after the run he called people — 37 people attended. Immediately the club started.

This can be replicated. We can start 50 clubs every year by just doing that. Go to an area, do a medical camp and then do a Cancer Run. You don’t have to put big meetings in halls to explain what Rotary is. Nobody wants to listen to that. They want to see what Rotary does. When they see what Rotary does, they ask, “How can I join you?” Don’t start by explaining Rotary. Start by showing what Rotary does.

What happens next after you hit the target?

The World Health Organisation says for every one million people you need one linear accelerator. Uganda’s population is approaching 50 million, and right now the whole country has

only three linear accelerators, all at the Cancer Institute. That means we have a gap of 47. Our plan is to put two linear accelerators in Nsambya. That makes five, and the gap will be 45.

So, we can’t stop running. Given the experience we have, the partnerships we have established and the awareness we have created, we don’t need to run for ten years to do bunkers. We can run for two years and do bunkers elsewhere.

Our target as a programme is that after Nsambya, we go to Arua. After Arua, we go to Kasese. We want to set up two other centres, even bigger than Nsambya, with possibly three or four bunkers each. Instead of running for ten years to do one set of bunkers, we will do this within six years. Every three years we will finish a centre — Arua in three years and Kasese in another three.

Secondly, we want a policy of not turning away a cancer patient. Cancer is extremely expensive — the medicines are expensive, maintenance of equipment is expensive. So, we are setting up a Rotary Cancer Foundation, and from the run, 50% goes to the foundation, and 50% goes to infrastructure.

So that when someone gets to Nsambya, they will be treated at no cost to them. We must find a way of subsidising costs. We are not just setting up infrastructure; we are also focusing on the patient. We want to make it affordable so that everybody with cancer can be treated.

That is our long-term plan.

Those who can afford it will pay something, but those who cannot afford it will not be sent home either.

Today, that is what happens — if you have no money, you just have to die. We want to give free treatment. That is our dream.

EDITOR’S NOTE: The 2026 Rotary Cancer Run raised UGX5.62 billion, surpassing its UGX 5 billion fundraising target.



A young girl does her school homework while selling roasted maize in Ntinda

Literacy is the ultimate ladder out of poverty



By Pross Logose, Basic Education and Literacy Champion

The core philosophy of Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy focus area is simple: functional literacy is the ultimate ladder out of poverty. Without the ability to read and write, people cannot access healthcare, secure decent jobs, or fully participate in society.

Rotary's approach moves beyond short-term charity. We pursue long-term educational transformation that

reduces poverty, improves health, and fosters peace by strengthening educational foundations.

KEY CHALLENGES IN EDUCATION TODAY

Uganda's education sector still faces major challenges: weak curriculum structure and infrastructure, outdated delivery methods, and widespread "learning poverty" and low literacy rates. We are grateful for progress already made, especially through the BELEP signature program.

For the Rotary Year 2026/27, the

District launched the Road Safety signature project. This is urgent. While we mourn children who die on school trips, the daily risk is even greater. Children are packed onto boda bodas, school vans are dangerously overcrowded, and there is a silent risk that is rarely discussed: the abuse of the last children to be dropped off by van drivers.

Transport safety must also include Uganda's marine communities. One-fifth of Uganda's area is covered by water. Many children cross lakes and rivers by unsafe boats to reach school. They risk drowning, often miss school, and face delays in national exams like PLE when lakes are rough. At a minimum, we can provide life jackets.

Other barriers persist. The cost of education continues to rise despite billions in government funding. The Internet and digital tools are now daily realities, yet they remain out of reach for many rural and urban poor schools.

This is an area where Rotary must intervene. Health and sanitation are inseparable from education. It is unacceptable in 2026 to hear of schools closing because latrines are full. Even a small Rotary Club can afford to dig a latrine or sink a borehole in a neighbouring school through member contributions.

STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR 2026/27

According to a road safety development specialist, the 2026/27 signature program is a huge opportunity to integrate road safety education from early childhood. The Ministry of Education currently has no standard preschool curriculum. Rotary can fill this gap in the ECDs we support. For ages 0-5, we can use the alphabet for literacy and numbers for numeracy, teach different modes of transport, identify associated risks, and use games to teach road safety in a way that matches children's brain

Provide life jackets for students crossing water, supplement school meals, and scholastic materials so poverty does not keep children home.

reading and writing materials, including Braille materials for the blind and tools for the deaf. Pin all community libraries in the district for public access.

●TACKLE TRANSPORT SAFETY:

- ◆ECD: Introduce road safety through alphabet, numbers, and games.
- ◆Primary: Empower teachers with safety knowledge and invite experts to speak to students.

●EASE COST OF EDUCATION WITH TECHNOLOGY:

- ◆Digital Literacy: Provide computer labs and ICT training.
- ◆E-Learning: Support schools with tablets and solar-powered devices.
- ◆Assistive Tech: Introduce screen readers and other tools for learners with disabilities.

●COMMUNITY LITERACY:

Launch mobile libraries using vans or bicycles. Recruit volunteers to teach adult literacy and numeracy so parents can read medicine labels, sign contracts, and support their children's education.

- ◆Remove Attendance Barriers: Provide life jackets for students crossing water, supplement school meals, and provide basic uniforms and scholastic materials so poverty does not keep children home.
- ◆Eco-Schools & Girls' Education: Integrate environmental education with tree planting. For girls, address cultural barriers by providing sanitary supplies, safe private toilets, and community advocacy.
- ◆Special Needs Education: Sensitise communities that disabilities are not witchcraft. Partner with advocates, medical camps, and vocational institutes. Support medical centres with equipment for early testing and fund training for more speech, occupational, and behavioural specialists.

development.

In primary schools, road safety is in the curriculum, but delivery is often superficial. We need to bring in road safety experts periodically to supplement teachers.

Inclusion remains another gap. Children with special needs have limited access to specialised teachers, speech and language therapists, and assistive resources like Braille. Their disability also brings stigma and seclusion. They often lack access to clean water and washrooms adapted to their needs.

Actions for September 2026: Basic Education and Literacy Month

Rotarians have many 'low-hanging fruit' we can act on immediately. This list is not exhaustive:

- Appreciate Teachers: Send appreciation messages to all teachers in schools in our databases. Materials will be designed by the Community Services team and shared with all clubs.
- Provide Resources: Donate books,



Books and materials donated by the Rotary Club of Lugogo-Mango Tree to Kiswa Primary School as part of the BELEP programme

BELEP - How District 9213 built a literacy movement



By PAG Fredrick Kitakule

On 1 July 2022, something unprecedented happened in Ugandan schools. In more than 500 schools, children put down their pens, picked up storybooks and simply read. Teachers read aloud. Parents sat on classroom floors and read with their children. Rotarians arrived with over 10,000 books and placed them in the hands of children, many of whom had never owned a book before.

It was D.E.A.R. Day (Drop

Everything And Read), the public face of a much bigger idea: the Basic Education and Literacy Enhancement Platform (BELEP).

Four years later, BELEP has grown from a single reading day into a district-wide literacy platform with government policy alignment, special-needs inclusion, teacher-training partnerships and a plan to scale to 300 clubs and 150,000 children.

WHERE IT BEGAN

BELEP was conceived under PDG Mike Kennedy Sebalu in Rotary

Year 2022/23. The context was stark: Uganda's Early Grade Reading programme had lifted P4 literacy proficiency from 3% to 49% over seven years, but two years of COVID-19 school closures erased those gains. When schools reopened, the learning loss was enormous, especially for children who missed the foundational years of reading.

In August 2022, BELEP was presented to the First Lady and Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Janet Kataaha Museveni, as a Rotary-led initiative designed to augment, not duplicate, government efforts. Its motto was direct: making reading a way of life.

It was built on four durable priorities: enhance literacy by building a reading culture; empower teachers with better pedagogy and locally-made materials; increase access to basic education, especially for girls and vulnerable children; and influence national education policy through evidence and advocacy.

WHAT THE FIRST PHASE ACHIEVED

BELEP's first phase in 2022/23 mobilised the district at unexpected scale: over 100 Rotary clubs, more than 100,000 book titles donated, over 500 schools participating, and the launch of National D.E.A.R. Day on 1 July. The Rotary Club of Wakiso added a dimension that would become central: a pilot training 25 teachers and 25 caregivers in special-needs inclusion, proving that literacy and disability inclusion could be delivered through the same infrastructure.

THEN THE POLICY LANDSCAPE CHANGED

In the last four years, three developments converged in BELEP's direction. First, the Education Policy Review Commission Report of 2025 (the Mushega Report with 284 recommendations) concluded that early childhood education is the single best national investment, recommending one year of free pre-primary integrated into public

primary schools, with mother-tongue instruction through P4.

Second, the ECCE (Early Childhood Care and Education Policy) of 2025 operationalised exactly that, targeting two million children in quality early childhood care and education by 2030 and marking a significant shift toward direct government operation of centres in underserved areas.

Third, the 2024 Uwezo learning assessment showed the crisis worsening: the share of P7 pupils unable to read a P2-level story doubled to 23.2% from 11.3% in 2021. The skill BELEP exists to build is the one in steepest decline.

In short, the government has now adopted as formal policy (with public provision), what District 9213 was already doing at community level.

BELEP 2.0 — FROM PROGRAMME TO PLATFORM

BELEP 2.0 is not a second project but a continuation, carrying proven credibility into an era of policy alignment. The shift from 'Programme' to 'Platform' is intentional. A programme ends. A platform is infrastructure that multiple actors (clubs, schools, government, partners) can build on, year after year, Governor after Governor.

It retains the original four objectives, now sharpened into measurable three-year targets and mapped to ECCE Policy strategies and EPRC recommendations:

Objective 1: Build a sustainable reading culture through school reading corners, community libraries, annual D.E.A.R. Day, and buddy-reading programmes for the critical 3–8 age band.

Objective 2: Equip teachers and caregivers with practical pedagogy, locally-made literacy materials, and scaled inclusion training for children with special needs, building on the Wakiso pilot.

Objective 3: Expand access to

early childhood and basic education, focusing on the underserved north, where 41 districts hold only 9.5% of pre-primary learners, and on girls and vulnerable children.

Objective 4: Influence policy implementation by generating community-level evidence of what the ECCE Policy envisions and feeding it back to the Ministry.

The scale is roughly threefold from Phase 1, with a funding architecture centred on a US\$ 500,000 Rotary Global Grant, supported by club contributions, partner co-financing and government alignment. The geographic focus shifts deliberately to the north, including Karamoja, Sebei and Bugisu.

WHY ROTARY?

BELEP is not Rotary doing the government's job. It is Rotary demonstrating, at community scale, what the new policy intends. That is a role no other organisation in Uganda is better positioned to play.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, AND HOW YOUR CLUB CAN BE PART OF IT

- BELEP 2.0 is now with district leadership for formal adoption. But any club can start today: adopt a school and establish a mother-tongue reading corner;
- organise a D.E.A.R. Day around 1 July;
- partner with a local special-needs organisation;
- invite a P1/P2 teacher to a club meeting and ask what would help learners read better;
- or contact the BELEP coordination team to register for the Global Grant.

BELEP began with a simple conviction: that every child in Uganda deserves the chance to learn to read, and that Rotary (with its reach, its resources, and its people) is uniquely equipped to help make that happen. Four years on, the conviction has not changed. What has changed is that the government now agrees.



How Rotary and IREAD-ECDL Are Reimagining Early Learning

By Rtn Dianah Kagere,
District PI Chair RY2026/27

A child's education does not begin on the first day of Primary One. It begins much earlier with the first story read aloud, the first question asked, the first game played, the first attempt to count, communicate and make sense of the world.

The centres combine learning spaces and play materials with educator training, community participation and technology-assisted learning. Digital learning resources can be accessed offline, helping to bring interactive and engaging content to communities where internet connectivity may be limited.

The aim is straightforward: to create environments where children can learn through play, develop social and cognitive skills, and arrive at primary school better prepared to learn. IREAD-ECDL reports a 42% increase in school readiness, alongside the training of hundreds of educators in early childhood pedagogy.

The four interventions supported through the IREAD-ECDL–Rotary partnership demonstrate different dimensions of this approach.

In Mpigi, Entebbe and Sironko, the investment has helped create spaces where young children can access structured early learning closer to their communities.

At Kyambogo University, however, the Child Study Centre adds another dimension: strengthening the people who teach. The centre, which is undergoing expansion, provides an environment where children can be observed and where educators can explore approaches to early childhood teaching. In doing so, the investment extends beyond today's learners to the educators who will influence generations of children to come.

This is where the Rotary partnership becomes particularly significant. At the heart of IREAD-ECDL's work is a conviction championed by its founder and CEO, Rtn May Virji: children should be allowed to dream.

Virji's passion for early childhood development has been shaped in part by leaders such as His Highness the Aga Khan and Nelson Mandela, whose emphasis on education reflects a belief she has carried throughout her work — that education is among the most powerful investments a society can make.

For her, early childhood is where

that investment should begin. The argument is straightforward.

"A child who enters primary school without exposure to early learning may already be playing catch-up. A child who has been encouraged to explore, communicate, play, count, read and interact with others arrives with a different foundation. That foundation can influence the rest of the education journey," says Mama May with passion.

Virji's work has therefore never been simply about constructing ECD centres; it is about changing what communities believe is possible for their youngest children. And that requires persistence.

It has become a model that brings together educators, communities, institutions and partners around one goal: giving children a stronger beginning. And that is perhaps the most important contribution of the partnership.

But behind the numbers is a much bigger ambition: to give children the foundation, confidence and opportunity to pursue their dreams. Because the greatest education investment may not be the one that produces the most classrooms, but the one that gives the most children a better beginning.



Rtn May Virji, Founder and CEO of IREAD celebrates her birthday with children

Dr Martin Alier Youth Skilling Centre receives UGX10m from Gulu Marathon



Norbert Mao officiates at the launch of the 2026 Gulu Marathon

By Rtn Sylvia Nankya ,
RC Kampala Naalya

The Gulu City Marathon has contributed 10 million Shillings towards the construction of the Dr Martin Alier Youth Skilling Centre in Koro-Abili, Omoro District, becoming one of the latest contributions to a 3.6 billion Shillings fundraising drive led by the Rotary Club of Kampala.

The proposed centre will provide vocational training and practical skills to young people in Northern Uganda, particularly those from communities still rebuilding after years of conflict.

The contribution, drawn from proceeds of the 2025 Gulu City Marathon, was announced during the launch of the 2026 edition at Sheraton Kampala Hotel. The launch was officiated by Justice and Constitutional Affairs Minister

Norbert Mao, who commended the marathon for expanding its contribution to community and national development before officially opening registration for this year's race.

The Rotary Club of Kampala is seeking to raise \$1m (UGX3.6bn) to construct and equip the centre in memory of the late Dr Martin Alier, the renowned dentist, businessman, politician and diplomat who died in 2024.

The project was conceived following consultations with communities in Northern Uganda on how best to honour Alier's legacy while addressing the needs of young people in the region. The centre is expected to equip beneficiaries with vocational skills that can improve their employment prospects and enable them to become economically self-reliant.

Francis Gimara, the team leader

and convener of the Gulu City Marathon, said the event was committed to ensuring that part of its proceeds was returned to communities.

"Each year, we will donate a portion of the proceeds to a project making a real contribution to society," Gimara said.

According to the Rotary Club of Kampala, UGX22m had already been raised over the previous two years through a golf tournament and the marathon. The club plans to hold additional fundraising activities, including another golf tournament, while also pursuing a Rotary International global grant as it works towards the UGX3.6bn target.

This year, the partnership between the Rotary Club of Kampala and the Gulu City Marathon will extend beyond

fundraising for the skilling centre. As part of the 2026 collaboration, the organisations will organise community health activities before and during the marathon, including medical consultations, health screening, HIV testing and counselling, health education and referrals for specialised care.

Rotary Club of Kampala President Shem Naggenda Nsubuga said the partnership would use sport as a platform to mobilise resources for skills development, health services and economic opportunities in Northern Uganda.

"This year's Gulu City Marathon builds on a shared vision by bringing together government, the private sector, development partners, civil society, athletes and communities to champion health, inclusion and regional development," Nsubuga said. He added that the club was

committed to ensuring that the partnership produces measurable benefits for communities.

"Rotary Club of Kampala will stand shoulder to shoulder with the Gulu City Marathon. From supporting community medical camps and HIV awareness campaigns to mobilising runners, partners and volunteers, we are committed to growing not only the marathon but also the positive impact it creates for generations to come," Nsubuga said.

The Gulu City Marathon began as an initiative by a group of friends seeking to celebrate Acholi culture and heritage but has since grown into an event combining sport, culture, tourism and community development.

Mark Ongom, the Chairman of the Gulu City Marathon, said the success of the event should not be measured only by the number of participants but also by what

it gives back to the community. The marathon is also being used to promote Acholi culture and tourism, with organisers encouraging visitors to experience local food, cultural activities and other attractions during the marathon weekend.

The 2026 Gulu City Marathon is scheduled for December 6. Beyond the race, organisers are positioning it as a platform for HIV awareness, community health, cultural promotion and tourism, while showcasing Northern Uganda as a destination for investment and development.

For the Rotary Club of Kampala, the partnership links sport to longer-term community development by using the marathon to support youth skilling, expand access to health services and create opportunities for communities in Northern Uganda.

No Child Left Behind: RC Sonde Opens Doors for Children with Cerebral Palsy

By Rtn Dianah Kagere,
District PI Chair RY2026/27

At St. Charles Lwanga Primary School in Bukerere, a three-room classroom block is creating new possibilities for children who were once learning in a single, crowded room.

The block is home to the St. Charles Lwanga Cerebral Palsy School and Day Care Centre, which provides education, care and support to more than 35 children living with cerebral palsy. The centre was established through the vision of Christine Kirungi, who leads the Umbrella Cerebral Palsy Network Association (UCPNA) and has championed the school's development.

When the Rotary Club of Sonde adopted the school during Rotary Year 2023/2024, the school operated from just one room, with learning, play and other activities taking place in the same limited space because there were not enough resources to complete the classroom block. The club invested UGX 26 million to complete and refurbish the three-room classroom block, which was handed over to the school in the same Rotary year.

What was once an overcrowded space was transformed into a more suitable environment where children could learn and receive care with greater dignity. But for RC Sonde, the intervention did not end with construction. For the past two years, the club has continued to support the centre with an assortment of food and non-food items to help meet the children's day-to-day needs.

The club has also facilitated two medical assessments to better understand the individual needs of the children, with support from a



Dr Byarugaba conducting a medical examination at the CP centre

paediatric neurologist and Rotarian, Dr Stephen Justus Byarugaba.

The assessments helped identify the need for mobility support, leading to the donation of 16 wheelchairs valued at UGX 25 million by the Ministry of Health, through support from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The centre's location within St. Charles Lwanga Primary School is deliberate. Rather than isolating children with disabilities, it places them within a mainstream school environment where they can interact with other pupils, participate in school life and experience a greater sense of belonging. But integration also requires spaces where children can simply be children. To support this, RC Sonde invested a further UGX 11 million to construct a play shade. The space serves multiple purposes: it provides a sheltered area for the children to play and interact with other pupils, while also serving as a

tea room and gathering space.

For children with cerebral palsy, access to education is about more than having a classroom. It means having an environment where they can learn, receive appropriate care, develop, play and interact with their peers.

For RC Sonde, the investment is part of a simple but important belief: every child deserves the opportunity to learn, regardless of their disability.

The journey at St. Charles Lwanga is one of steady progress. And for more than 35 children, it is a reminder that they have not been forgotten.

But as more children enrol, a new challenge is emerging. According to Kirungi, demand for the school's services continues to grow, putting pressure on the existing facilities. The school is now looking to expand its space and capacity so that more children with cerebral palsy can access education, care and the opportunity to thrive.



Junior at School as he received his new mobility device from RC Sonde

Every child deserves the opportunity to learn, regardless of disability.



From School Dropouts to Skilled Workers: Youth Find their Future Through Rotary



Youth empowerment must go beyond telling young people to work hard.

By Rtn Dianah Kagere, RC Sonde

At 23 years, Stella Andezu had already learned what it meant to have her plans for the future interrupted by circumstances beyond her control. Stella completed Primary Seven in 2016 but could not continue with secondary education because of

financial hardships at home. With school no longer an option, she left her village and moved in with her aunt and guardian, Phiona Kiconco, in Sonde, Mukono district, where she helped with her aunt's business. But Stella had no formal skills to offer an employer and few opportunities to earn a living of her own. That began to change when the

Rotary Club of Sonde, in partnership with Ntinda Vocational Institute and through the Local Council leadership, opened an opportunity for young people out of school in the community to access free vocational training. When Stella's aunt heard about the opportunity, she encouraged her to apply. "I told her to go and learn a skill. I knew that having a skill would give her a better chance at becoming independent," Phiona says. The response from young people was overwhelming. Forty-six youths turned up for verification, but only 14 met the requirements to proceed with vocational training. Following assessment and interviews, Stella was among those selected. The 14 young people were enrolled for free vocational training, while their parents and guardians supported

No	Skills	Female	Male
3	Plumbing	0	3
3	Welding	1	2
5	Fashion and Design	4	1
2	Motor Vehicle Repair and maintenance	0	2
1	Electrical Installation	0	1
Total		5	9



them with transport and meals. They chose courses based on their interests and opportunities they believed would help them earn a living: Stella initially had her eyes set on hairdressing. But conversations with her friends changed her mind. "They told me welding is more lucrative, so I decided to try it. My friend in the village was doing it, and I used to like how the work came out, the designs and all," she recalls. That decision placed Stella in a class where she was the only female student among the three young people training in welding under this sponsorship, although the whole class had five females in this course. In July 2026, Stella and her fellow trainees completed their course and moved into internship placements with different organisations to gain practical experience. For Stella, the internship became more than just another step in her training. She was placed at Steel Projects Limited in Sonde, where she has successfully completed her internship. Impressed by her work and

commitment, the company has opted to retain her. At the time of this interview, Stella was already at the workshop, carrying out her employment responsibilities. The transformation is striking: a young woman who once struggled to find an opportunity because she had no employable skills is now earning experience in a technical trade and looking ahead to a future in welding. She is expected to graduate with the rest of her cohort in November 2026. For Rtn. Harriet Kagezi, Principal of Ntinda Vocational Institute, programmes that connect young people to practical skills are critical in helping them move from dependence to economic participation. "Youth empowerment must go beyond telling young people to work hard. We have to give them practical skills, mentorship and opportunities to use those skills. When a young person can leave training and find an internship or employment, that is when education begins to translate into real impact," Kagezi says. Rotary Club of Sonde President

Rtn David Nsalasatta Sekabembe says the programme reflects Rotary's commitment to creating opportunities that enable young people to build sustainable livelihoods. "Youth empowerment is about giving young people the tools to shape their own future. We cannot simply talk about unemployment; we have to create pathways for young people to acquire skills, gain experience and ultimately earn a decent living. Stella's story and her 13 colleagues show what can happen when opportunity meets determination. I am impressed by their progress," he says. For Rotary, the project is not simply about training 14 young people. It is about creating a pathway from exclusion to opportunity, from a young person with limited options to one with a skill, experience and a potential employer. And Stella is already proving the point. This month, Stella will celebrate her 24th birthday. She says she could not have imagined a better gift. "This is the best gift I did not see coming. I never thought that I would learn welding for free and then get an opportunity to work. Now I have a skill, and I can see a future for myself." Her voice carries none of the uncertainty of the young woman who once struggled to find a job because she had no skills. Today, Stella has a trade, a workplace and, most importantly, confidence in what tomorrow can bring. And as she prepares for her graduation in November, she is no longer asking what opportunities might come her way. She is already building her future one weld at a time.



Ten Editions. One Big Goal

THE ROTARY 5-A-SIDE STORY | 2015–2026

By Arthur Ssewawa, RC Kiwatule

How a 5-a-side football tournament turned fellowship, friendly rivalry and a ball into more than UGX 500 million for service

WHEN THE FIRST WHISTLE BECAME A PROMISE

On Saturday 26 September 2015, at Lugogo Hockey Ground, a football rolled onto the pitch carrying far more than air. It carried an idea: that Rotary could trade Fellowship chairs for football boots, turn friendly rivalry into fundraising, and send every goal beyond the touchline into a community that needed it.

That idea came from Richard Obal, the young lawyer from Otuke many now know affectionately as the ‘Lead Petitioner’.

Long before he became famous for presenting arguments, he presented this one: let Rotary play football and

raise money for service. It shocked many of us that he could be this brilliant. Richard, we apologise for ever doubting you. The petition has now survived ten editions (Pun fully intended).

The event was then called the Rotary Charity Shield. Fourteen Rotary clubs, ten Rotaract clubs and two companies answered the first call. Nile Breweries through Castle Lite, KCB Bank and Bella Wine backed the experiment.

Letshego won the Rotary category, while the Rotaract Club of International Health Sciences University lifted the Rotaract title. Together, the inaugural edition raised UGX 10.5 million for community service, comfortably beating its UGX 7 million target and proving this was no one-season wonder.

Clues from the beginning suggested something special had started. The fixtures were serious, the service purpose was clearer still, and somewhere between the first pass and the final medal, Rotarians discovered

that ‘classification’ does not include ‘professional winger’. A few knees lodged formal objections, but fellowship won on appeal.

FROM CHARITY SHIELD TO NATIONAL MEETING PLACE

By the second edition in 2016, the prize pool had grown: UGX 3 million for the Rotary winner and UGX 2 million for the Rotaract winner, each directed to community projects.

In 2017, the tournament moved to a larger stage at KCCA Football Stadium. Twenty-four Rotary clubs and 17 Rotaract clubs registered. Corporate participation expanded, and the accounts recorded UGX 33.54 million in revenue and a UGX 23.945 million surplus for service. Rotary Club of Kampala Munyonyo, Rotaract Club of Mulago and Centenary Bank emerged champions in the Rotary, Rotaract and corporate categories.

Yet the deeper victory was the model itself. A club could win on the pitch and then win again in a community.



The Rotary Club of Bukoto, winner 2022



Action between RC Lugogo-Mango Tree and RC Mukono Central in the 2023 tournament

The prize was not simply a cheque; it was project capital wearing football boots.

A TOURNAMENT LEARNS TO SCALE

In 2018, more than 45 teams took part at the KCCA Philip Omondi Stadium. At least 11 corporate teams, 27 Rotary clubs and 7 Rotaract clubs. Centenary Bank retained corporate bragging rights. Rotary Club of Nansana and Rotaract Club of Mulago took their respective crowns.

DStv added a UGX 10 million sponsorship package, and the edition reported UGX 35.88 million in revenue with a UGX 14.348 million balance after expenditure and prize money.

The 2019 edition raised UGX 62.51 million in gross collections, bringing together 32 Rotary clubs, 12 Rotaract clubs and 14 corporate organisations.

Then the world blew the whistle.

The Two Seasons Nobody Wanted

There was no tournament in 2020

or 2021 because of COVID-19. When

the tournament returned in 2022, it

returned with memory and purpose.

The sound of boots, whistles and

the MC confidently pronouncing

club names over a lively public address system felt like a declaration: Fellowship was back, and service had not gone anywhere.

THE TENTH-EDITION MILESTONE

Eleven years after the first kick-off, the 2026 tournament marks ten editions played, two seasons lost to the pandemic, but not an ounce of purpose lost.

Across its journey, the Rotary 5-A-Side has mobilised more than UGX500 million. The tournament has created a practical bridge between generations and institutions. Rotarians bring networks, mentorship and project experience. Rotaractors bring energy, creativity and the stamina to play a fixture after everyone else has begun negotiating with their hamstrings.

Corporates bring finance, teams, visibility and long-term partnerships. Together, they demonstrate a simple truth: fundraising becomes more powerful when people enjoy belonging to it. The pitch also has economic impact. Vendors sell food, drinks and services. Photographers and media teams capture the stories.

Transporters, printers, equipment suppliers and event crews earn from the day. A football tournament becomes a small marketplace, a public image campaign, a membership experience and a service engine — all before the referee checks his watch.

THE TEAM SHEET IS MUCH LONGER THAN FIVE

Players give the tournament its drama: the audacious nutmegs, the heroic saves, the tactical discussions conducted at a volume normally reserved for constitutional amendments. Clubs give it identity and purpose. Corporate partners make ambition affordable. Vendors keep the crowd fed and prove, every year, that the quickest route to consensus is the smell of lunch.

Supporters lend every match its heartbeat. Referees bring order and accept the annual miracle of being told by both teams, at the same moment, that they have missed the same incident in opposite directions. MCs turn fixtures into theatre. Ball boys often cover more ground than some midfielders.

Then there are the back-office teams: registration desks, finance

teams, mobilisers, fixture planners, security, first aid, media, protocol, logistics, photographers, cleaners and volunteers. They arrive before the first team and leave after the last chair. Their match is played in spreadsheets, phone calls, bibs, wristbands and last-minute solutions. They rarely lift the trophy, but the tournament could not lift itself without them.

WHAT THE TENTH EDITION ASKS OF US

A 10th edition is not merely a birthday. It is a responsibility. The next chapter should protect what made the tournament beloved — its humour, accessibility, competitive spirit and fellowship — while strengthening how its impact is measured and told. Every shilling mobilised should be traceable to service outcomes. Every winning project should return with a short ‘where the prize went’ story.

The tournament can become an even stronger Rotary gateway: a place where a supporter meets a club, a corporate team discovers a project partner, a Rotaractor finds a mentor, and a family sees service as something joyful and close to home.

Ten editions after a modest beginning at Lugogo, Rotary 5-A-Side is now part of Uganda’s Rotary memory. It has survived scheduling surprises, questionable transfers, tired legs and a two-year global interruption. It has raised more than UGX 500 million, financed service, built partnerships and given the Rotary family a day each year when its heart can be heard from the stands.

So, to the player tightening a boot, the club registering a team, the company signing a sponsorship, the vendor lighting a stove, the supporter finding a seat, the referee checking a whistle, the MC testing a microphone, the ball boy watching the touchline and the volunteer opening the first spreadsheet — this tenth edition belongs to you.

And when the first whistle blows, remember what the tournament has taught us for a decade: the smallest team on the pitch can carry an enormous purpose.





Rotarians painting a Zebra Crossing in Jinja

What Will Really Keep Uganda’s Schoolchildren Safe?



BRIAN S ODAMAH
ROAD SAFETY ACTIVIST

The ultimate dread of any parent is sending a child to school in the morning, only to receive a phone call telling them to rush to an emergency ward. For many Ugandan families, this is not an abstract fear. Children navigate roads dominated by reckless motorcycle riders, speeding vehicles, inadequate pedestrian facilities and poorly controlled crossings. Yet instead of addressing these systemic vulnerabilities, public attention often gravitates towards highly visible but limited interventions — such as the colour of school buses. Recent directives requiring school

transport vehicles to be painted yellow may improve visibility and identification. However, treating colour as a central road-safety intervention risks distracting from far more important issues: vehicle fitness, driver competence, passenger protection, enforcement and road design. Uganda needs a preventive, evidence-based and sustainable road-safety policy — not one that reacts only after crashes have occurred. **ROAD SAFETY IS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS** Uganda’s road safety challenge is no longer simply a transport concern; it

is a public health crisis. Thousands are killed or seriously injured each year, with pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists and other vulnerable users bearing a disproportionate share. For children, the risk is particularly acute. Many walk along busy roads, cross high-speed corridors, or travel in vehicles and motorcycles where safety standards are inconsistently enforced. Globally, road traffic injuries are among the leading causes of death for children and young people. Uganda cannot treat these deaths as inevitable by-products of mobility and urbanisation. The question should not be whether a school bus is yellow. It should be whether the entire journey between home and school has been designed to minimise the possibility of death or serious injury.

FROM REACTION TO PREVENTION

Uganda should move decisively towards the Safe System Approach, which recognises a fundamental reality: people make mistakes, but those mistakes should not result in death or life-changing injury. The approach relies on layers of protection — safe road design, appropriate speeds, safer vehicles, competent road users, effective enforcement and timely emergency response. This is fundamentally different from a reactionary approach in which authorities introduce a new rule after a highly publicised crash without addressing the broader conditions that made it possible. A sustainable system must ask: what made the crash happen, and what can be changed so that the next mistake does not become a fatality?

SCHOOL ZONES MUST MEAN SOMETHING

In many parts of Uganda, a school zone is little more than a faded sign warning motorists that children may be crossing. There is often no meaningful reduction in speed,

no physical traffic calming and little certainty of consequences for dangerous driving. A genuine school zone should be a clearly defined safety environment in which children have priority and vehicle speeds are substantially reduced. International best practice strongly supports low speeds — typically around 30 km/h — where pedestrians and vehicles share space, particularly around schools. But posting a sign is not enough. If a road is physically designed for 60 km/h, many drivers will continue to drive at 60 km/h regardless of the sign. That is why regulations must be accompanied by self-enforcing infrastructure: raised pedestrian crossings, speed humps, refuge islands, narrower lanes, improved lighting, clear markings and properly placed signs. Safety must be built into the road, not left to driver goodwill.

REORDER THE REGULATORY PRIORITIES

If Uganda is serious about protecting schoolchildren, several priorities deserve urgent attention. First, strengthen vehicle and operational fitness. School transport regulation should focus on mechanical condition, roadworthiness inspections, proper seating and restraint systems, emergency equipment and regular compliance checks. Driver competence, licensing and medical fitness deserve equal scrutiny. A brightly painted vehicle is not necessarily a safe vehicle. Second, legally define and standardise school zones. The Ministry of Works and Transport, together with local governments and urban authorities, should establish national standards for design, speed limits, signage, markings, pedestrian facilities and traffic calming. Third, enforce licensing laws. Underage driving remains a serious concern. Uganda’s laws prohibit children below the prescribed age from operating motor vehicles, and

enforcement must be consistent. Road safety cannot be achieved if basic licensing is treated as optional. Fourth, address motorcycle and pedestrian safety. Boda-bodas are essential to Uganda’s transport system and provide livelihoods for thousands. The solution is not to condemn them, but to improve rider training, helmet compliance, passenger safety, vehicle standards, speed management, and to provide safer pedestrian infrastructure. Fifth, strengthen data-driven enforcement. Authorities need reliable crash data that shows where, when and why serious crashes occur, then direct resources to high-risk locations and behaviours.

INFRASTRUCTURE IS A SAFETY INVESTMENT

For too long, traffic-calming infrastructure has been treated as an unnecessary expense rather than a life-saving investment. A raised crossing outside a school may seem insignificant compared to a major road project, but its value should be measured in injuries prevented and lives saved. Every new road, junction, school development and urban expansion should be assessed not only for traffic capacity, but for pedestrian safety, accessibility and the needs of children.

CHILDREN CANNOT NEGOTIATE THEIR OWN SAFETY

Policies on paper do not save lives. Implementation, enforcement, engineering and accountability do. Children do not sit at policy tables. They cannot demand safer crossings, challenge dangerous drivers or redesign hazardous roads. That responsibility falls on adults — regulators, planners, engineers, school administrators, parents and drivers. A yellow bus may be easier to identify, but visibility alone does not prevent crashes.

Road Safety Starts With Us



By Ali Mbabazi, Operations Manager, Gram Driving School

Every day, thousands of Ugandans use our roads to travel, work and do business. Yet road accidents continue to claim lives and leave many families struggling with injuries, loss and financial hardship.

As Gram Driving School, we believe that reducing road accidents starts with responsible road use and proper driver education. Drivers should understand that arriving a few minutes late is far better than risking a life. Speeding must be addressed loud and clear as many times as

possible. Many crashes occur because drivers travel faster than the road, weather or traffic conditions allow.

Good driver training is one of the most important steps towards safer roads.

Driving schools should go beyond teaching learners how to operate a vehicle and prepare them to become responsible road users. Learners should be trained in defensive driving, speed control, hazard awareness, proper use of road signs and respect for other road users.

A driving license should not only prove that someone can drive, it should also prove that they understand how to drive responsibly.

Road signs also play a major role in keeping our roads safe. Imagine driving on an unfamiliar road and suddenly seeing a sign warning you of a sharp bend ahead. You slow down, become more alert and approach the bend carefully. That simple sign could be the difference between arriving safely and becoming another road accident statistic. Signs communicate warnings, restrictions, directions and important information. They communicate

important information without requiring drivers to stop and ask for directions. Speed-limit signs remind us when to slow down, pedestrian-crossing signs alert us to vulnerable road users, while warning signs prepare us for hazards such as sharp corners, road works or steep slopes.

A clearly visible STOP, GIVE WAY, SPEED LIMIT or PEDESTRIAN CROSSING sign can give a driver the information needed to make a safe decision. However, road signs are only effective when they are visible, properly positioned, well maintained and understood. Authorities should replace damaged or missing signs and ensure that road markings remain clear.

THE WAY FORWARD

Reducing road accidents requires cooperation between drivers, pedestrians, traffic authorities and other road users. We need better driver education, stronger enforcement of traffic laws, safer roads and greater respect for road signs.

Ultimately, road safety is everyone's responsibility. Every careful decision behind the wheel can prevent a tragedy and help make Uganda's roads safer for everyone.

Rotary
District 9213



Rotaract
District 9213



TAKE THE LEAP FROM GUEST TO MEMBER

Dive in with both feet into an experience that will positively change the way you interact with your community

#RotaryEyamba
#RotaryKonyo
#RotaryMembershipMonth

**Safe Roads
Save Lives**

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





Setting up a zebra crossing

A Rotary Opportunity

By Marion Natukunda,
District Road Safety Chair

Every day, thousands of people around the world leave their homes expecting to return safely. Sadly, many never do. Road traffic 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 Service Above

Self, 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 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 of 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.





District Governor Elect Jana Kabugo, AG Michael Mugerwa, President Hodge Semakiula and RC Sunrise Kampala launching the road safety activity by painting the zebra crossing at Ssezibwa near Nakasero Primary and donated the road stop signs to the school

RC Sunrise Kampala Launches Landmark Road Safety Campaign

By Rtn. Jude Aguma Atwooki

On Thursday, July 30, 2026, the Rotary Club of Sunrise Kampala, under the leadership of Club President Hodge Semakula, officially launched its flagship Road Safety Campaign at City High School Kampala. The landmark

event reaffirmed Rotary’s enduring commitment to saving lives through service, public education, and strategic community partnerships. The launch brought together Rotary leaders, government officials, educators, students, and local transport operators—all united by a single objective: making Uganda’s roads safer for everyone.

A POWERFUL GATHERING OF LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY
District Governor Gerald Obai officiated the event as Chief Guest, joined by Past District Governor Edward Kakembo and Hon. Mike Kennedy Sebalu. The occasion was further distinguished by key Rotary leaders, including Assistant

KEY FOCUS AREAS OF THE CAMPAIGN

- Youth & Student Awareness: Direct engagement and education in local schools.
 - Boda Outreach: Targeted training with commercial motorcycle associations.
 - Multi-Sector Collaboration: Strategic alignment with the Ministry of Works and Transport.
 - Behavioural Change Messaging: Widespread advocacy across District 9213.
- DG Obai candidly shared that during the initiative’s conceptual phase, he wondered how clubs

across the district would receive it. He expressed pride in seeing the vision evolve into a vibrant movement energising clubs, educational institutions, and civic leaders alike. In a poignant moment, DG Obai thanked City High School for hosting the launch and offered a warm acknowledgement to East Kololo Secondary School (his alma mater), noting that their participation served as a heartening reminder of our collective responsibility to protect the next generation.

Governor Edward Mugerwa, Past Assistant Governor Daphine Nafula, and dedicated members of the Rotary Club of Sunrise Kampala. Demonstrating strong grassroots involvement, leaders from the Central Kampala Boda Community participated alongside students and educators from neighbouring Kololo-area institutions, including host institution City High School Kampala, Shimoni Demonstration School, East Kololo Secondary School, and Kololo Secondary School.

ADDRESSING A CRITICAL NATIONAL CHALLENGE
In his welcoming address, President Hodge Semakula expressed deep gratitude to the attendees and extended special thanks to District Governor Gerald Obai for prioritising the event despite schedule adjustments due to the public holiday.

“Road safety is not merely a government issue—it is a public health imperative that requires collective action from every road user,” President Hodge emphasised. While the campaign marks the beginning of several high-impact community projects planned by the Rotary Club of Sunrise Kampala this Rotary year, its urgency cannot be overstated. Road traffic crashes continue to claim lives daily across

Road safety is not merely a government issue — it is a public health imperative that requires collective action from every road user.

Uganda, with school-going children, pedestrians, and boda riders remaining the most vulnerable. Through sustained education and strategic alliances, Rotary aims to measurably reduce these preventable tragedies. Representing the Ministry of Works and Transport, Ms Judith commended the Rotary Club of Sunrise Kampala for championing an initiative so closely aligned with the Ministry’s national agenda.

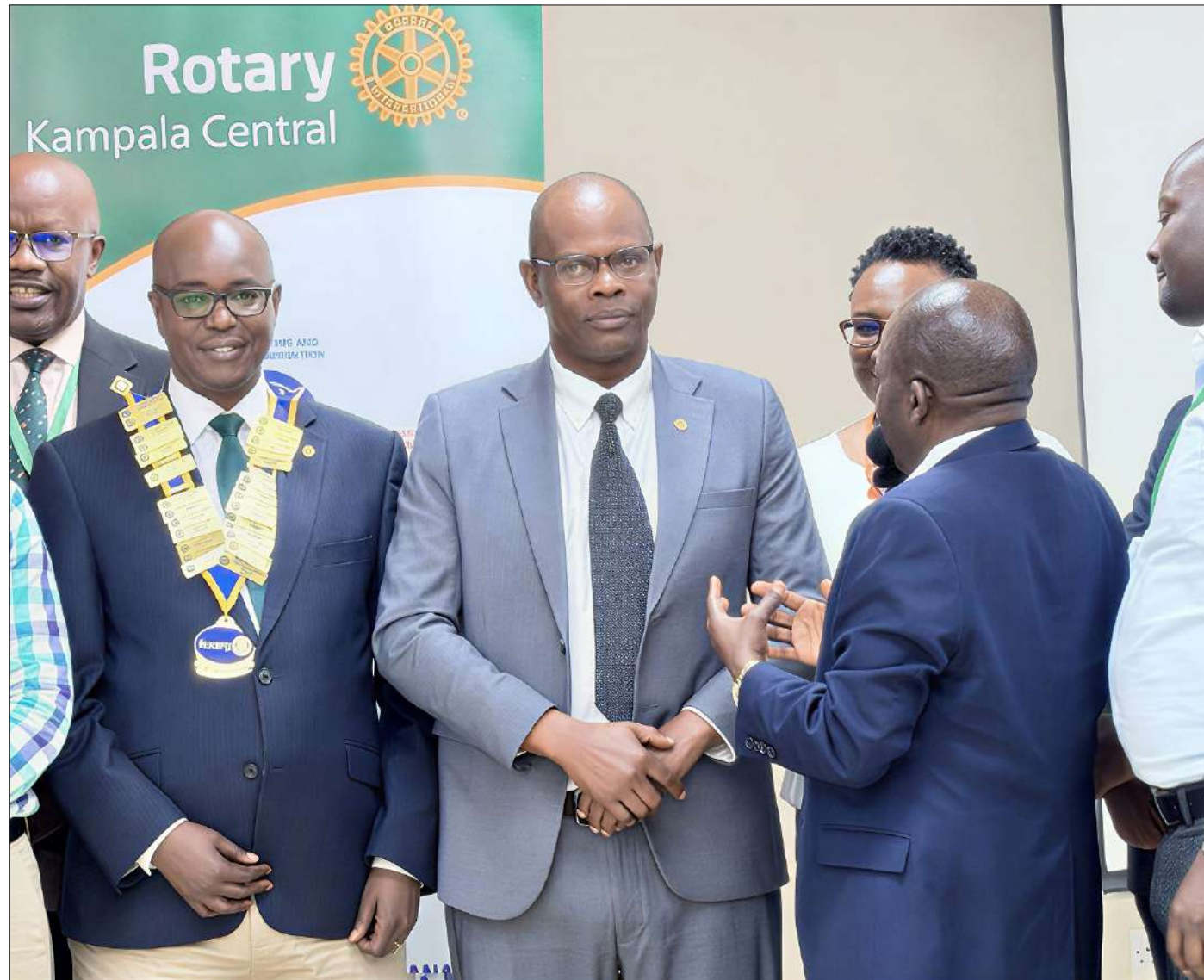
Pledging full government backing, she stressed that achieving long-term safety requires shared accountability across civil society, schools, and local communities.

THE VISION BEHIND THE FLAGSHIP INITIATIVE
In his keynote address, District Governor Gerald Obai shared the personal and professional inspiration behind selecting Road Safety as District 9213’s flagship program.

Drawing from his background in public health and years of Rotary leadership, DG Obai reflected on the tragic prevalence of road traffic crashes he has witnessed over the years. Those experiences forged a conviction that Rotary could drive tangible change by focusing on behavioural transformation, public awareness, and practical safety habits.

PRACTICAL SUPPORT AND THE ROAD AHEAD
Demonstrating immediate, practical action, the Rotary Club of Sunrise Kampala distributed Rotary-branded crash helmets and high-visibility reflector jackets to selected boda riders from the Nakawa Division during the event.

The launch concluded with a renewed call to action for all road users. By uniting district leadership, line ministries, educators, youth, and transport operators, the Rotary Club of Sunrise Kampala showcased how sustainable community transformation happens through targeted, collective action. As Rotary District 9213 rolls out the Road Safety Campaign across the region, the core message remains clear: road safety is everyone’s responsibility. Through proactive advocacy and Service Above Self, Rotary continues to protect communities — one life, one road, and one action at a time.



Why Good Club Governance Extends Beyond Rotary

By Marion Muyobo,
RC Kampala Central

Grant Qualification and meeting District Governor visit requirements are not just about accessing Global Grants from The Rotary Foundation. They are a strong indicator of a club's stewardship, governance, and systems for sustainable operation year after year.

Meeting these requirements signals entrenched practices in governance and financial management. It shows a club meets the highest standards for managing funds from members, local and international partners; protecting beneficiaries, and operating transparently. It also confirms that all statutory requirements have been met, including URSB filings, updated account signatories, audited accounts, and key documents such as bylaws, strategic plans, and finance manuals. It further means District and RI dues have been paid.

BEST PRACTICE IN ACTION

As a rule of thumb, Rotary Club of Kampala Central consolidates all these requirements before 30th June every year, making it able to demonstrate good stewardship by always being in the top 5 to qualify. We are actively supporting more clubs with this best practice, and one of them has indeed qualified as well in the top 5.

Proper documentation and

archiving are central to this success. When you build this discipline in Rotary, you realise it applies equally in workplaces and in personal life. Many businesses fail, not because of a lack of ideas, but because of weak governance and poor record-keeping. The same principles that keep a Rotary club healthy will keep an organisation or household healthy.

COMMON GAPS TO ADDRESS

By August, clubs that struggle with both DG visit requirements and Grant Qualification tend not to have the following:

- **Audited Accounts:** the reigning President must ensure financials are ready for audit, presented, and approved at a club assembly before Christmas.
- **Change of Bank Signatories:** The President-Elect, working with the sitting President and Club Secretary, should convene a club assembly by April to approve new signatories. The process with URSB and banks is long, and should be completed by June to be effective 1st July.
- **Minutes of Key Decisions:** Clubs must file minutes approving audited accounts and bank signatory changes. Without proper filing systems, even compliant clubs cannot locate evidence when needed.
- **Payment of District and RI Dues:** Delays happen due to members not paying on time, members not being deleted from the system, or

the President lacking bank access. Early reconciliation avoids last-minute stress.

- **Filed URSB Returns:** These should be filed by April at the latest. One club filed in January but nearly missed qualification because documents were poorly organised. They have since created a shared digital folder for the incoming President.
- **Signed MoU:** The MoU between the District and Club, signed by both President and President-Elect, is straightforward but often missing (the template is quite straightforward).
- **Grants Training:** Three club officers (the President, President-Elect, and Club Secretary or Grants Chair) must attend District Grants training. President-Elects should, 12 months before taking office, secure access to the club's document archive and be part of building those systems. The discipline required in Rotary mirrors what strong organisations demand. The rigour we apply to governance in Rotary should extend to our personal lives. For many, the structure and discipline they bring from work and home is what makes their club perform well. In turn, the habits built in Rotary strengthen how they lead at work and at home. Good stewardship is not a Rotary requirement. It is a life requirement.

The Seeds We Sow — PDG Mwanje

District Governor Nominee Peter Dhamuzungu had his Homecoming on August 15th in Jinja. Past District Governor Stephen Mwanje gave the keynote address. Here is an edited down version:

Allow me to thank the organising committee for this befitting homecoming for our humble leader, DGE Peter Dhamuzungu. There is cause for celebration, not just for Peter, but for all Rotarians from Eastern Uganda.

Thank you for inviting our leaders, Dr Specioza Wandira Kazibwe and Rt Hon Rebecca Kadaga. We have learnt much from Dr Kazibwe, and we need to do more in fighting malaria.

Previous speakers have reminded us that wise men come from the East, citing the number of District Governors from Busoga. Allow me to offer another angle. It is true that 8 of our 24 Governors are from the East, but clubs from Eastern Uganda have produced only one Governor in 70 years of Rotary in Uganda, the late Henry Kyemba. All the others hail from clubs outside the region. DGE Peter will be only the second, coming 30 years after Henry. Yet Eastern Uganda has the second and third oldest clubs in the country, Jinja and Mbale.

We need to look deeper into our clubs and challenge them. Save for Henry, Peter and current DG Gerald, all other Governors come from clubs in Kampala, Wakiso and Mukono. That should give us food for thought.

WHAT SEED DO WE NEED TO SOW?

Membership remains our top internal priority. Without members, there is no Rotary. In the last decade, world population grew by one billion, from 7.4 to 8.4 billion — about 12% growth in a world of ever-increasing need.

Yet Rotary's growth has been stagnant. Over the last five years,

PARTICIPATION — THE 80/20 RULE

Finally, participation. The 80/20 rule still exists in our clubs. Why did you join Rotary? To rub shoulders with big people and take selfies with Dr Specioza or Mama Rebecca?

We have seven types of Rotarians:

- RINO — Rotarian In Name Only.

Wears the pin, says “I belong to this club,” but is never involved.

- Submarine — After finishing as president or governor, goes underwater. Only surfaces for big functions to get a handshake.

- Canoe — Aimless and has to be paddled.

- Balloon — Disagrees with every point, full of hot air, rises above the crowd and makes noise. Easy to puncture with a pin.

- Kite — Devotion is ephemeral. Unless given attractive programmes, he flies away.

- Trailer — Has to be dragged along. The club keeps him because he makes Rotary look good.

- Hi-Fi — High Fidelity. Joins today, and within three months shines like a rising star. Interested, active, zealous.

our numbers have declined. We inducted one million new members and watched one million leave. The good news is that Africa has been growing, from half a zone ten years ago to two zones today. We stood at 48,000 members on 1 July 2026 and are expected to reach 60,000 by 30 June 2028.

Uganda continues to show steady growth, but this is a case of a one-eyed man among the blind. We can do much better, especially here in the East. There are many men and women of value, successful in business and professions, who are ready to join Rotary but are yet to be discovered.

Only one person was never invited to Rotary — Paul Harris. All of us were invited by someone. If we agree Rotary is good, why don't we invite others? Some say there are too few Rotarians and clubs in Eastern Uganda to grow. It is true that with redistricting on 1 July 2027, District 9217 will have many weak clubs, most with fewer than 20 members.

Over 80% of our geographical area has no Rotary presence at all — no Rotary, Rotaract, Interact or RCC. Some view our new district as too weak to talk about growth. That is an issue of attitude, whether you see the

glass as half full or half empty.

An industrialist once sent two salesmen to Africa. The first returned saying, “Nobody wears shoes, so we cannot sell.” The second said, “No one wears shoes, so there is a very big market for us”.

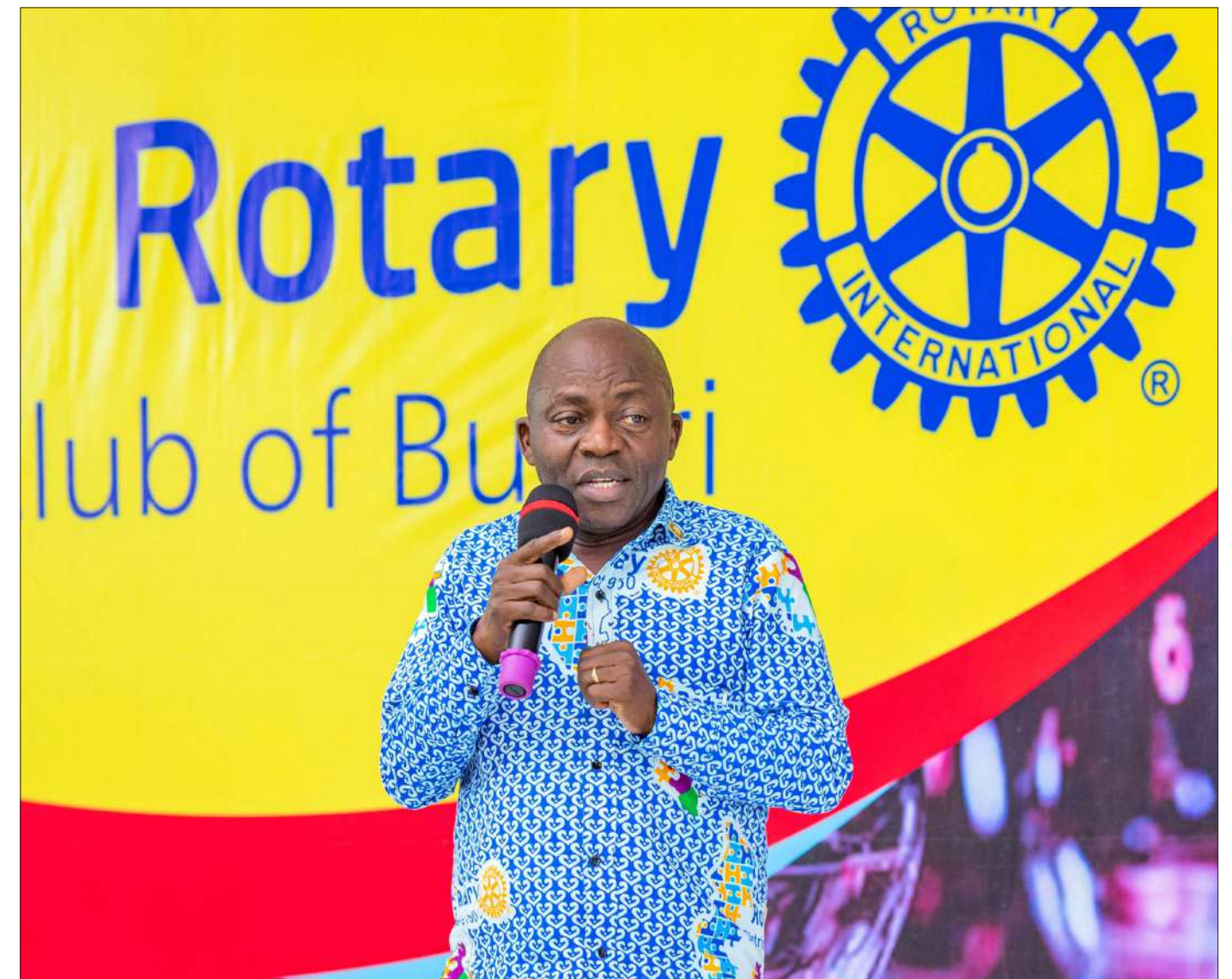
Having 80% of our districts without Rotary should be seen as a huge opportunity. And now, with Peter Dhamuzungu as leader, the seed has been planted.

None of us is here by accident. We are here because we love Rotary, we have lived Rotary, and Rotary has lived in us. Membership has brought lasting friendships and unlimited opportunities to change lives. Rotary has given us morals to live by, a chance to be peace-builders and the adventure of leading others.

But Rotary is not ours until we share it. We must share the personal and professional benefits — not because we have to, but because we want to. We must tell others what makes Rotary unique and invite them to join. We must tell our stories.

We must also focus on the new generation. It is our life insurance. There is no success without succession.

Michael McQueen put it best at the International Assembly in 2010. He



asked: “How many of you will be at the convention in Montreal in June 2010?” All hands went up.

“How many in 2035?” About 30% raised their hands.

“How many in 100 years?” The hall went silent. Nobody raised a hand. The point was made. If we want Rotary to exist 100 years from now, stronger than today, what are we doing about it?

An environmentalist asked, “What is the best time to plant a tree?” The answer: “Ten years ago.” The second-best time? Now.

So, let us bring in young people today. We must actively recruit younger members, not because of their age, but because they extend the club's reach and perspective. They bring new energy, connections and are resourceful self-starters, open

to change and eager for hands-on projects. We can also grow through Rotary Community Corps, using them to penetrate communities, understand them better and conduct needs assessments. Numbers alone do not mean good business. As a businessman, I take Rotary as our most important asset, but that asset must be put to good use. That requires good leadership.

We need a peaceful environment in our clubs and district to attract good people. We need good fellowship and a good customer experience.

A Rotarian poet wrote: “Let me be a little kinder, let me be a little blinder to the faults of those around me. Let me praise a little more.”

None is perfect, and if we cooperate understandingly, many problems will be solved. But fellowship must be

genuine, not pretentious.

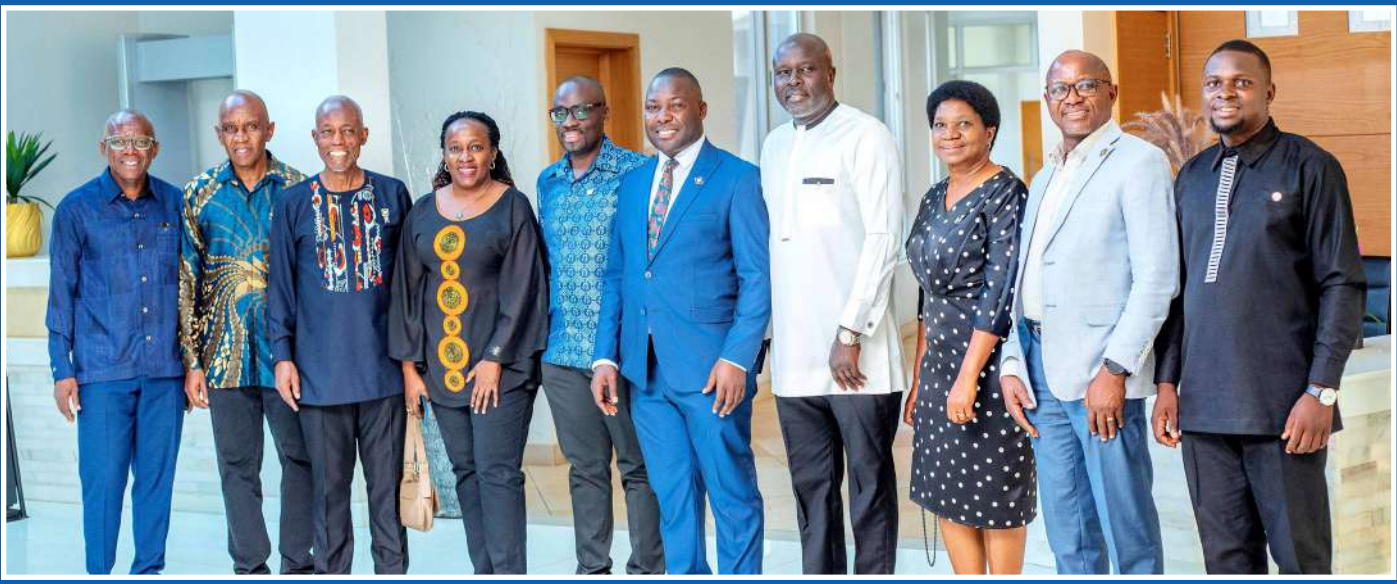
We also need to be well informed. Rotary International is concerned about how little Rotarians know about Rotary. No Rotarian is too new or too old to learn. We may think we have seen it all, but while questions in Rotary may remain the same, answers keep changing. Without information, we are superficial.

I leave it to you to decide what kind of Rotarian you are.

On public image, remember RI Theme 1960-61 by J. Edd McLaughlin: “You Are Rotary.” Every Rotarian is Rotary. You must represent your profession well in your club and your club well in your profession. It is two-way traffic. If you joined for prestige, you have missed the way. We can do better. Thank you and enjoy the evening.

DGN DHAMUZUNGU HOMECOMING

The Rotary Club of Bugiri hosted a colourful homecoming celebration for District Governor Nominee, Peter Dhamuzungu, on 15th August, 2026. Members, family, friends and Rotarians from across the District gathered at the Crested Crane Hotel in Jinja to honour one of their own on his well-deserved elevation. Dhamuzungu, a proud member of the Rotary Club of Bugiri, was praised for his commitment, humility and dedicated service to Rotary.





Service, Adventure and Unforgettable Memories in Naivasha



By Rtn Juliet Nakayenga,
RC Gayaza.

August 2026 will go down as another unforgettable chapter in the story of the Rotary Fellowship of Camping. The 7th edition was not just another camp — it was truly a camp without borders! Whether Rotarians chose to fly, board the

legendary ‘GUMITE’ or ‘LUXURY’ bus, or travel ‘executively’ by coaster, every route led to the same destination and the same mission: to pitch camp along the beautiful shores of Lake Naivasha at West Camp Beach, Kenya, for a weekend of Rotary fellowship, adventure, and service.

Under the guidance of our Patron, PDG Anne Nkutu, this landmark edition was honoured by the presence of key Rotary leaders: Rtn. Gerald Obai, District Governor, D9213; Rtn. Daniel Ddamulira, District Governor, D9214; and Rtn. Peter Dhamuzugu, District Governor Nominee Designate, D9217, who is an avid camper himself.

REFLECTING ON SIX YEARS OF IMPACT

Beyond the fun and camaraderie, the weekend gave us an opportunity to pause and reflect on how far

the Fellowship has come and the extraordinary gains made in its six years of existence. To date, our collective efforts have enabled us to donate ECG machines to more than eight regional referral and district general hospitals, and to fund more than eight lifesaving congenital heart surgeries. Indeed, this is a Fellowship where friendship fuels service.

AND THEN CAME THE ADVENTURE!

Our itinerary struck the perfect balance between relaxation, learning, and exploration. The first evening came alive with ‘The Party on the Island’ — a perfect way to unwind and shake off the fatigue of the journey to Naivasha. Against a vibrant backdrop of music, laughter, and fellowship, Rotarians had the opportunity to relax, connect, and get to know one another beyond the usual Rotary setting.

The following day, we toured De Ruiter’s Floriculture Farm and gained fascinating insights into the intricate world of flower breeding and the business of floriculture. We then headed to Hell’s Gate National Park. Yes, Hell’s Gate —

but thankfully, we were still very much on earth! The park delivered an unforgettable experience as we explored its dramatic landscapes, gorges, and wildlife. A standout moment came at Echo Point, where shouting “Rotary” and “Camping”

against the massive cliff face brought back roaring echoes.

But no camping story would be complete without the night tales, for it is here that the true spirit of camping came alive. Beneath cool, crisp night skies, campers gathered around their tents, in dormitories, and by campfires. Amid music, laughter, endless kaboozi and shared meals, friendships deepened, bonds were strengthened, and unforgettable memories were made.

Even as the weekend came to an end, service remained at the core of our mission.

Taking the spirit of the Rotary Cancer Run beyond our borders, we seized the opportunity to conduct Cancer Run activations in the towns of Naivasha, Nakuru, and Kisumu.

We returned home tired but refreshed and re-energised. The 7th edition may be over, but the memories remain, the camping fire burns on, and we can’t wait for the 8th edition in Fort Portal from 5–8 August 2027!

A heartfelt appreciation to the organisers and to everyone who contributed to making this edition more than a weekend away. It was indeed a celebration of friendship, service, adventure, and the Rotary spirit.



When the District Governor Came to Port Bell

By PAG Beliah Bashabe



“I felt gratitude for the evening in general: for the sacrifice of the DG in donating his whole year to Rotary service, and for the District officials who must follow him everywhere in support.”

Wednesday, 22 July, was our turn. Our Fellowships usually start at 7:00 pm, but this time we scheduled an earlier 6:00 pm start.

My plan was to arrive early and be in position to receive the DG. But I had several errands, and then the boda that was supposed to deliver something to my home was delayed. I had told him to look for a gate marked ‘Six’. But he rode his bike to our Gate No. 6, counted six gates from there, and parked at the sixth one. And waited. When he told me, the term “creative stupidity” came to mind. I couldn’t fault him for being creative.

And so, I arrived at 6:00 pm. DG Gerald Obai and his District team were already seated. Kind of embarrassing. I met him as he was stepping out of the room, and he warmly shook my hand. We greeted. He is a tall person — a tall DG. I wonder how he got through the interviews.

Throughout his stay at Port Bell, he never said a thing about our late start. And that made it even more serious for me. Sometimes a knowing silence communicates more effectively than words.

And because Silver Springs Hotel had also mixed up the start time and served the snacks at 6:00 pm, President Sheila and MC Gava tactfully changed the program. We started with the snack.

Behind her mask, DES Emily greeted me and said:

“Beliah, the DG is here. Where are the members?”

I told her the members were coming, that things would be okay, and to calm down. It’s her

role to ask such questions. But I can tell her anything — this DES Emily. She was my AG when I was President. We are friends.

While the DG was having his snack, I whispered in his ear, “Can I offer you a glass of wine to go with the food?”

He gently said, “Later.” He would later take me on during his speech.

“Beliah here was offering me a glass of wine even before the meeting,” he said. “I think he wanted to compromise my critique of the club report.”

I answered that the Bakiga and the Acholi have no traditional soft drink, hence the glass offer.

AG Rosemary introduced the DG and listed several qualifications and accomplishments. A gentle, calm, but firm person with a good listening ear — that is what I know him to be. I was happy his CV brought it out.

Rosemary also said good words about Port Bell. She has the experience to support our work this year, especially in membership growth, given what she did at RC Kampala during her presidency.

The DG first inducted Claudine Nana into Port Bell. Claudine is from Cameroon but works in Uganda. She has worked all over Africa, so she identifies as an African. We are happy to have that diversity at Port Bell.

The assembly was productive. Gerald’s method is to meet club members only. So, at the start, he asked three club members to tell the President one point to focus on this year.

The ideas were relevant: institutionalised fundraising for projects, focusing on youth initiatives, and planning to understudy experienced but now

senior members. The DG said these were ideas from members — nothing imposed. He then supplemented them with proposals to adjust the club goals.

The club had targeted four members to attend DCA, I think based on experience. The DG asked who those four were, and then asked why the club wanted other people to miss out. Calmly spoken, but effective. Immediately, PP Eunice mobilised her row, and more than seven members committed to attend DCA.

The question-and-answer session was equally engaging. Some club goals were re-examined. The issue of redistricting also came up — how it eventually estranges Rotarians and clubs in the same areas due to separate engagements, and in some cases leads to competition. DG Gerald explained the administrative advantages of redistricting. I think most, if not all, of the advantages are administrative.

Then we returned to the Fellowship. I was requested to give the vote of thanks. I felt gratitude for the evening in general: for the sacrifice of the DG in donating his whole year to Rotary service, and for the District officials who must follow him everywhere in support.

I also felt gratitude for Port Bell members. I am unaware of any conflict at Port Bell. Maybe it’s there, but I’m unaware of it. Gratitude for an evening of serious Rotary engagement and Rotary laughter.

And so, I gave the vote of thanks from the heart and invited the Rotary toast. This time DG Gerald accepted the wine glass. Members stayed and chatted beyond 11:00 pm.

Bringing Healthcare Closer to Kira

By Rtn. Victoria Bugembe Nampala, RC, Bweyogerere Namboole

Fourteen Rotary Clubs of the Jinja Road Corridor joined forces for a medical camp at Kira Grounds on 31 July 2026, turning Rotary's commitment to Service Above Self into practical action.

The camp brought healthcare closer to residents of Kira Municipality and neighbouring communities. It offered a wide range of services through a partnership of Rotary clubs, health professionals, medical facilities, government, and community volunteers.

The participating clubs were: RC Bukerere, RC Bulindo, RC Bweyogerere Central, RC Bweyogerere-Namboole, RC Kampala-Naalya, RC Kira, RC Kireka Movers, RC Kitukutwe, RC Manyangwa Nakweero, RC Mbalwa, RC Najjera, RC Namugongo, RC Nsasa, and RC Sonde. They were joined by the Rotaract Club of Kira.

A total of 591 people attended the camp (266 men and 325 women), and 333 received medical support through the various clinics. Residents accessed general medical consultations and laboratory services, malaria screening, HIV counselling and testing, tuberculosis screening, sickle cell testing, reproductive health services, mental health support, dental care, eye examinations, cancer screening, and immunisation.

Among the most important outcomes were the identification of three cataract cases, which were referred for further treatment. One patient has already undergone



surgery at Mengo Hospital, restoring their vision. In addition, 64 people received reading glasses, 59 accessed dental services, and 30 women received reproductive health services.

The camp also provided opportunities to detect health conditions that may otherwise have remained unnoticed. Of 65 people tested for sickle cell, 55 had normal AA status, seven had the AS trait, and three had sickle cell disease. Nine patients with conditions requiring specialised attention were referred for continued management. Breast and cervical cancer screening were also conducted.

Blood donation was another major component of the outreach. Fifty-six units of blood were collected, with District Governor Gerald Obai among

the donors. The blood will provide a potentially life-saving resource for patients requiring transfusions in health facilities.

The initiative received support from Kira Municipality Mayor Allan Bulamu, who expressed appreciation for Rotary's efforts to bring essential health services closer to residents. Partners included Mengo Eye Clinic, Christian Blind Mission, Aspire Medical Centre, Bukerere Health Centre II, Maisha Meds, Marie Stopes, Kawempe Home Care, Kira Health Centre IV, the Ministry of Health, Ultra Medicare, and the Mengo Rotary Blood Bank.

Fourteen Rotary clubs, one Rotaract club, one community, and one shared purpose: bringing healthcare closer through Service Above Self.





Bringing Dental Care to 1,600 People in Tororo

By Rtn Sylvia Nankya, RC Naalya-Kampalae

In many communities in Tororo District, people have lived with painful teeth for months, even years, because finding and affording the services of a dentist seemed impossible.

That is what brought hundreds of people to health facilities across the district when the Rotary Club of Kampala partnered with Rotarians from Austria and Germany, together with SmileStar Charity, a United Kingdom-based humanitarian organisation specialising in volunteer dental

missions.

Residents from all corners of Tororo came with different stories: persistent toothaches, infections, damaged teeth, and discomfort that had become part of their daily lives. Some came with children. Others were elderly people who had struggled to eat comfortably for a

long time.

For five days, from 13 to 17 July 2026, they were attended to by a team of volunteer dental professionals who provided treatment free of charge as part of the dental outreach.

Led by volunteer dental surgeon Dr Mitesh Badiani, the team worked at Tororo Hospital, Papoli Health Centre IV, Mulanda Health Centre IV, and Panyagasi Health Centre. By the end of the outreach, more than 1,600 patients had received dental consultations, extractions, treatment, preventive care, and advice on maintaining good oral health. For some, it was their first opportunity to see a professional dentist.

Stephen Owori, Chairman of the Owori Foundation, said that was the mission's most important achievement.

"We have been able to treat people who ordinarily would not be able to access such services, and that itself creates a huge impact," he said.

The five-day outreach also demonstrated how international Rotary partnerships can bring specialised services closer to communities.

The delegation arrived in Uganda on 11 July. Rotarians and dental professionals from Austria, Germany, and Uganda worked alongside the SmileStar team. Everyone had a role to play: examining patients, providing treatment, educating communities, and helping manage the large numbers of people who turned up seeking care.

Volunteers also spent time explaining oral hygiene, answering questions, and encouraging patients to develop habits that

Although the outreach ended on 17 July, its impact will be felt for a long time. A child who had been distracted by tooth pain can now return to school more comfortably.

could prevent future problems. The emphasis was on ensuring the benefits of the mission continued after the dental team had left Tororo.

Dr. Badiani, who is also the founder of SmileStar Charity, said treatment is only one part of addressing the problem. Equally important is helping people understand how to avoid dental problems in the first place.

"You have to brush your teeth two times a day, for two minutes in the morning and evening. You have to use the right toothpaste and change your toothbrush every two to three months," he told patients — simple advice, but extremely important in communities where access to dental services remains limited.

Rotary Club of Kampala President Shem Naggenda Nsubuga said the collaboration illustrates one of the strengths of Rotary's international network.

"What Rotary does is partner with other Rotary clubs all over the world to provide these services to

our people," he said. He added that the partnership with SmileStar has grown out of a shared interest in bringing healthcare to communities that need it most.

Over the past decade, SmileStar has provided free dental treatment to more than 50,000 patients in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and India. Its work with Rotary has created an opportunity to combine that dental expertise with Rotary's community networks and international partnerships.

For the Rotary Club of Kampala, the Tororo mission is also part of a broader relationship with the district. President Shem hopes that the connections established during the outreach will support further humanitarian initiatives, including possible opportunities around the Sam Owori Skills Development Centre, a facility named in honour of the late Rotary International President-Elect Sam Owori.

The hub, located in Tororo Municipality, is expected to train youth in hands-on skills that will enable them to earn sustainable livelihoods and contribute to the municipality's economic growth. He said the intention is to build on the relationships created through the dental mission and explore other ways of supporting communities in the area.

Although the outreach ended on 17 July, its impact will be felt for a long time. A child who had been distracted by tooth pain can now return to school more comfortably. An adult who endured months of discomfort can now eat without difficulty. An elderly patient can finally receive treatment for a problem that had been left unattended.



Naguru Remand Home — Where Second Chances Begin

By Rtn Stacey Nandudu,
Service Projects Co-Director,
Rotary Club of Upper Kololo

For a young person at Naguru Remand Home, the path forward usually narrows to two outcomes: release or continued incarceration. Rotary Club of Upper Kololo believes there should be a third — and for years, that belief has translated into action through Give Hope to the Youth, the club's ongoing project at Naguru Remand Home.

It is why young people who once passed through Naguru's gates now return years later, not as inmates, but as volunteers, choosing to give back to the place that once held them. That return is the clearest measure of what's possible when a

Most youth at Naguru are here not because they were guided into crime, but because they were never guided.

young person is met with structure and belief instead of being left to a society that too often offers neither. Most of the youth at Naguru are here not because they were guided

into crime, but because they were never guided at all — left to navigate poverty and a fraying social fabric alone.

Last July, Rotary brought a two-day mindset-change training directly into the remand home itself, in partnership with The Man In Me, whose facilitators usually work with adults in their twenties and thirties.

Here, they adapted their entire approach for a group aged just 12 to 17, because the walls of Naguru meant the training had to come to the youth, not the other way around.

It is the first step toward vocational skilling and a different future — one the Rotary Club of Upper Kololo has committed to walking beside them for.

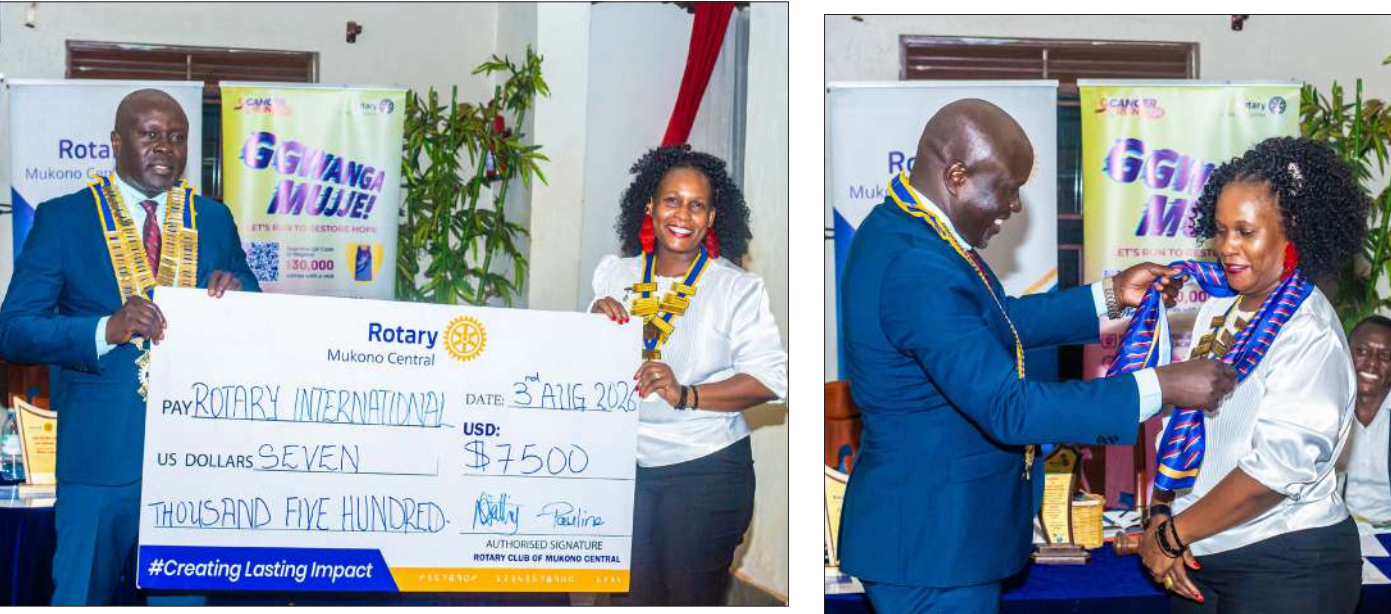
The Rotary Club of Kampala Islanders was officially chartered on 27th August, becoming the newest club in the District. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kampala, the new club was chartered with 28 members, all professionals committed to service, fellowship and impact. The charter celebration was presided over by the District Governor Gerald Obai, and was marked by the induction of the Charter President and Board.



PICTORIAL- CAMPING FELLOWSHIP



DG VISIT – RC MUKONO CENTRAL



DG VISIT – RC ACACIA SUNSET KAMPALA



DG VISIT – RC BUGOLOBI



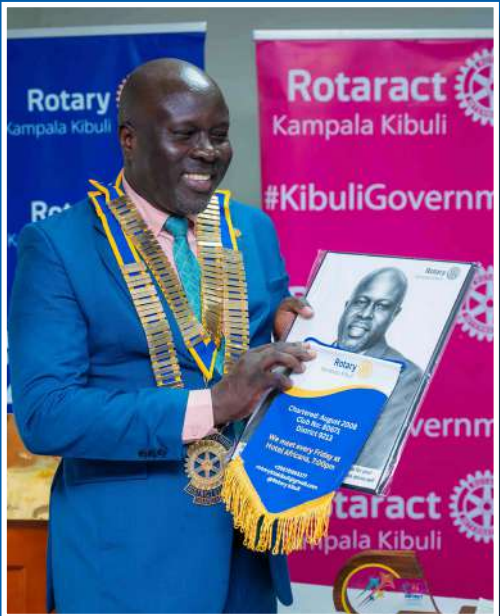
DG VISIT – RC BUWATE



DG VISIT – RC NAKASERO CENTRAL



DG VISIT – RC KAMPALA KIBULI





62 THE WAVE | SEPTEMBER, 2026



BARCELONA

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

SAVE THE DATE

BARCELONA, SPAIN | 26-30 JUNE 2027

Registration opens in September 2026 at convention.rotary.org.

