ONE VOICE

Rotary District 9214 | Rotaract District 9214

SEPTEMBER, 2025

Theme:

Basic Education and Literacy

What's Inside:

Imagine...
A Future Without Malaria:
RC Garuga Launches
Its First Malaria Grant

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2025 Cancer Run Raises
Over **$1 Million** Towards
Uganda's Most Advanced
Cancer Centre

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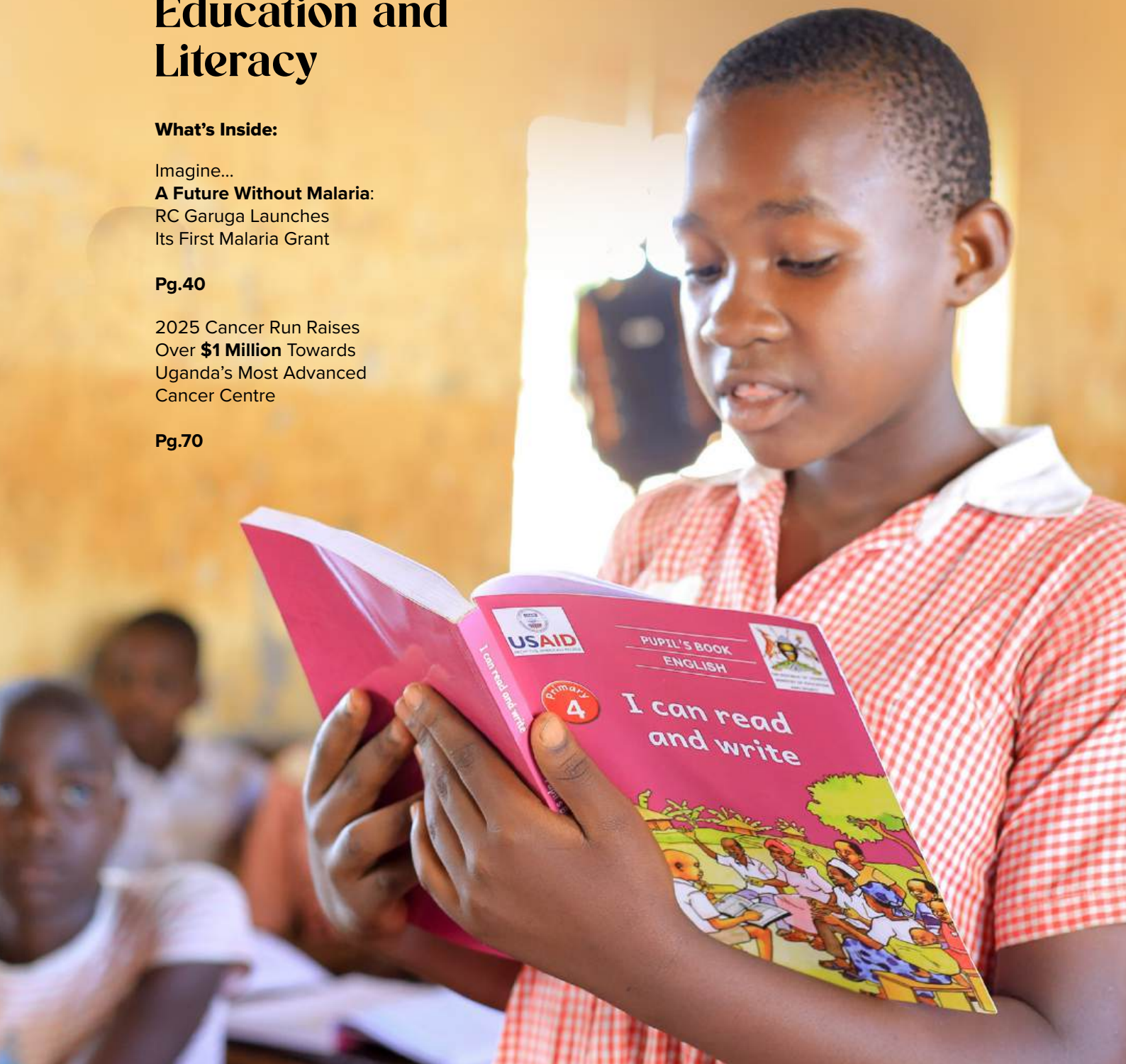

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One District. One Purpose. One Voice

You hold in your hands the third copy of One Voice Magazine; a testament to the stories, dreams, and impact that bind us together as Rotarians and friends of Rotary.

Every page you turn carries more than ink and words; it carries the heartbeat of service, the passion of leaders, and the quiet strength of communities touched by Rotary. From the classroom walls where teachers embrace the promise of technology, to the forests of Kayunga where new life takes root, to the running tracks where Rotarian's champion health and hope this issue is alive with the spirit of "Service Above Self."

In these pages, you will journey through voices near and far: leaders who light the way, clubs that turn vision into reality, and ordinary Rotarians whose extraordinary commitment creates ripples of change. You will read of partnerships that heal, projects that educate, and actions that restore our environment for generations to come.

As you pause with each story, I invite you to see yourself reflected within them. For every achievement highlighted here is not just the work of individuals, but the shared energy of a family of service. This is what makes *One Voice* more than a magazine it is a mirror of who we are, and a window into what we can become when we unite for good.

May these stories inspire you to dream bigger, serve deeper, and continue shaping a world were hope shines brighter.

With gratitude and pride,

Joseph Batter Ssengooba
Editor, One Voice Magazine
Rotary Club of Garuga

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OUR LEADERS

Peace through education

When I stepped into the role of Rotary International president, the moment came swiftly and unexpectedly. It got me thinking how the world can change in an instant, and how Rotary has the power to be a steady force for good in that change. This month, Rotary's Basic Education and Literacy Month, we have a clear call to action: to strengthen the foundation of learning in every community we serve.

Millions of people worldwide remain unable to read. Millions of children lack access to basic education. And yet, we know the solution: sustainable, inclusive, and equitable education, especially for girls and marginalized youths. Literacy is more than the ability to read and write. It is the key to human dignity, economic mobility, and peace. Every book opened, every classroom supported, and every teacher trained becomes a building block of peace.

This year, our message is *Unite for Good. "Unite"* speaks to the strength we find in each other. When we unite our talents and resources — not only among our clubs but across partners, organizations, and communities — we expand our reach. And when we do so consistently over time, we create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured only in annual goals. Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow, and bear fruit.

Now is the time to think boldly and creatively. New types of clubs can help us engage educators, students, and advocates in new ways. Let us use this month to welcome new members with a passion for education and empower existing ones to lead service projects that reflect local needs. Whether you're building libraries, distributing textbooks, or mentoring students, your actions matter.

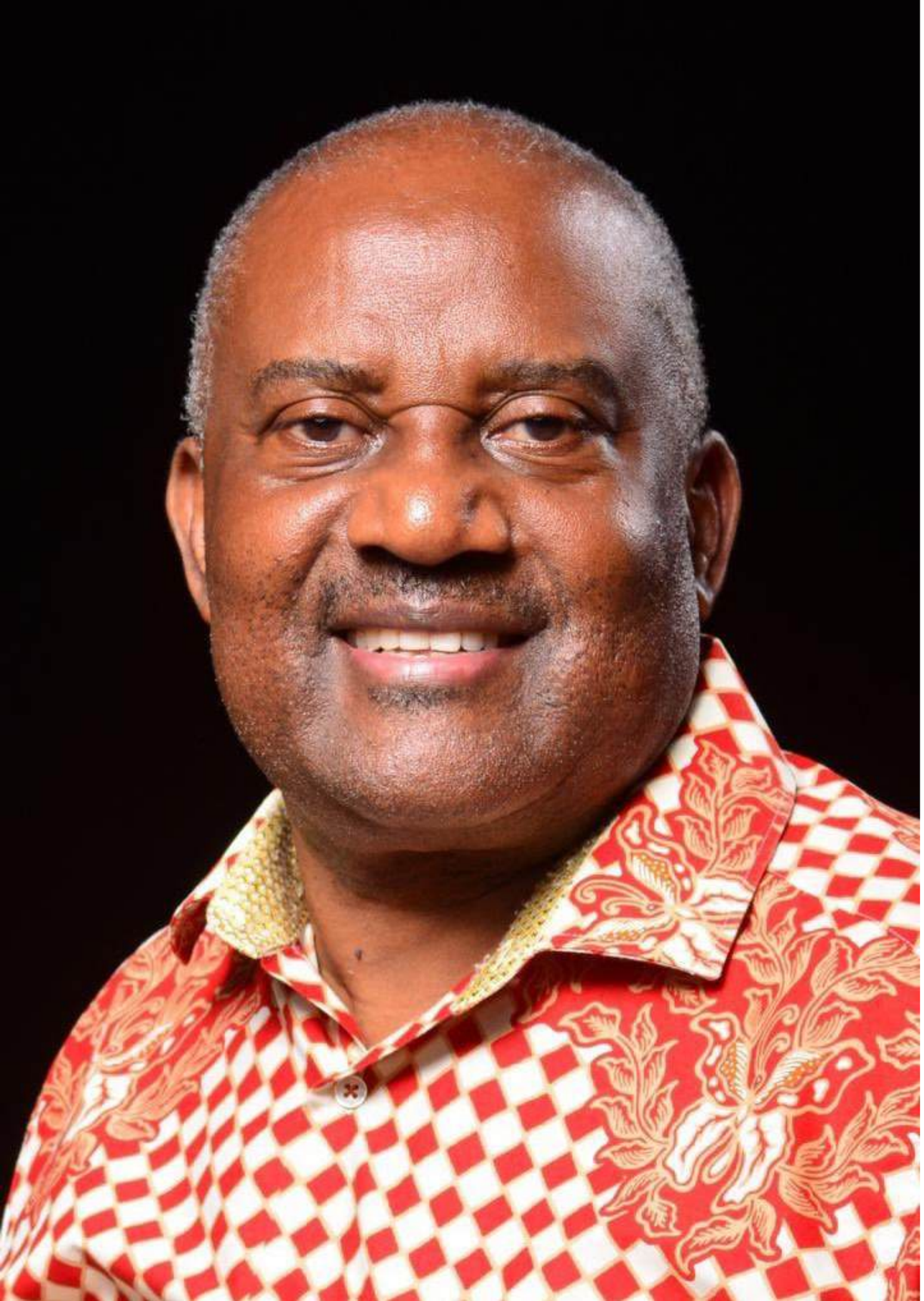
Education is also peacebuilding. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood program we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century.

Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring every learner, regardless of background, has the opportunity to reach their potential. And it is about standing together — across borders, languages, and generations — to say that education is a right, not a privilege.

Let's *Unite for Good* by committing to literacy that lasts. Let's dream of a world where every child learns to read. And then, as people of action, let's work together to make that dream a reality.

Together, we can change lives, starting with the power of education. Together, *we Unite for Good.*

FRANCESCO AREZZO
President, Rotary International



Empowering Communities Through Education and Literacy

Education is the foundation upon which we build the future, and literacy is the key that unlocks every opportunity. As Rotarians, our commitment to Basic Education and Literacy goes beyond classrooms; it transforms lives, communities, and nations.

I am a living example of the power of Rotary's support in education. Many years ago, after completing Primary Seven, I almost failed to get into my first-choice secondary school, not because I lacked the grades, but because my mother could not afford the fees. One Rotary member became my hero by choosing to pay for my education. I share this story not just to tell it, but because without that timely support, I may not be where I am today. Education is indeed key, and I remain deeply grateful to that Rotarian who gave me the opportunity to learn and grow.

This month, as we focus on education, I am inspired by the many clubs across our zone championing initiatives that ensure children and adults alike have access to quality learning. From establishing libraries in underserved communities to running literacy programs for adults who missed out on formal education, Rotarians are making a tangible difference every day. These efforts are not just about teaching reading and writing; they equip people with the tools to dream bigger, work smarter, and contribute meaningfully to society.

In the past year, our clubs were awarded 104 Rotary Global Grants for Basic Education and Literacy, collectively valued at USD 6.7 million. These grants have supported a wide range of projects, including school infrastructure improvements, teacher training programs, and the distribution of learning materials to students who might otherwise go without. Each initiative is a powerful reminder that Rotary's work goes beyond charity; it fosters empowerment, dignity, and hope in the communities we serve.

Yet, the challenge remains immense. Millions of children in our communities still struggle with literacy and access to basic education. As we celebrate our achievements, let us also recommit ourselves to doing more, advocating for inclusive education, supporting innovative learning programs, and nurturing a culture where every child can read, write, and thrive.

I encourage every Rotarian to explore ways to make a difference in your community. Volunteer at schools, mentor young learners, or support clubs that focus on literacy initiatives. Every hour you give, every resource you contribute, strengthens our collective impact and brings us closer to a world where education is a right for all.

Together, let us reaffirm our commitment to Basic Education and Literacy. When we educate a child, we transform a life, and when we transform lives, we strengthen communities.

Thank you for your dedication, your service, and your unwavering belief in the power of education.

Emmanuel Katongole
Rotary International Director 2026–2028
Rotary Club of Muyenga, Uganda (District 9214)

United for Good: Turning Service into Impact, One Act at a Time

September is here. It is a time to celebrate our progress and recommit our vision of transforming communities through Basic Education and Literacy. We can all read and write because of education. This is proof of its power in our lives. Let us press on to educate both the young and old because learning never ends and education is the key that unlocks every future.

Our collective action is undeniable. The strides we have made in corporate membership, member engagement and retention, storytelling in the mainstream, exploring new club models, building partnerships, and engaging the youth fill my heart with immense pride. I have met passionate Rotarians, inducted new members into several clubs, and witnessed firsthand the remarkable impact of your service. The Charter Presidents Designate Training was successfully held, more clubs are under formation, and others have gained provisional status. These milestones are strong foundations for the future of Rotary in our communities.

We have also expanded our reach with the corporate space with institutions such as National Medical Stores (NMS) and Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) joining our mission. The Rotary Club in formation at Quality Chemical Industries Ltd (QCIL) was launched and Uganda Breweries Ltd (UBL) is set to follow soon. Partnerships with Next Media Services, UAP Old Mutual, East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and UBL are fueling innovation, amplifying visibility, and creating opportunities for even greater impact. This is a clear demonstration of the growing confidence in our shared vision and crowning off with your huge participation at this year's annual Rotary Cancer run at Kololo Independence Grounds.

Giving to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) through the TRF App and our TRF Giving Fridays has gained momentum. Our goal remains simple: that every Rotarian contributes at least $100 annually whether in one payment or in instalments. In recognition, you will receive a special pin. As Kevin Heath reminds us, "No act of kindness is too small. The gift of kindness may start as a small ripple that over time can turn into a tidal wave affecting the lives of many." Every contribution strengthens our seven focus areas and expands our reach.

Our public image has never been stronger than it is now. Clubs are embracing technology to share our transformative stories, inspiring others to join Rotary and magnifying the story of our service. We continue exploring innovative Club models such as Aviators, Health and Tour Enthusiasts, and Chess to adapt to our changing times while increasing our ability to make lasting change.

Every project, every initiative, every interaction is a testament to your creativity, dedication, and passion. Together, we achieved so much in just the first sixty-one days. As we look ahead to the 100-days celebration, I urge you to continue leading with courage, acting with purpose, and dreaming boldly so we can achieve even greater milestones and make our communities stronger, more vibrant, and full of hope. But remember, "A dream doesn't become reality through magic; it takes sweat, determination, and hard work." Colin Powell.

This September, I eagerly look forward to my first official visit to Tanzania. Thank you for making service to humanity so admirable, for showing love to your fellow Rotarians and for proving that when we unite for good, nothing is impossible.

Let us continue this journey with passion and vision, creating transformation one act at a time.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Christine Kyeyune Kawooya
District Governor 2025–26
Rotary District 9214 (Tanzania and Uganda)

Club by Club, Page by Page – Inspiring Change Together

As we step into September, the month dedicated to Basic Education & Literacy, we celebrate not only the progress we have made but also the transformative power of knowledge. Education remains one of the most enduring ways to uplift communities, empower young minds, and break cycles of poverty. Literacy opens doors to opportunities and builds the foundation for a more equitable and hopeful future.

Over the past 62 days of service, I have had the privilege of visiting 22 clubs across the district. Each visit has been inspiring, showing me the dedication, creativity, and impact our members bring to their communities. With 48 days to go before we celebrate 100 days of service, I ask each club and leadership team: Are we on track to achieve the goals we set at the start of this journey?

This month, our focus turns to UPLIFT projects, strengthening the ties between Rotaractors, Rotarians, and the communities we serve through educational and literacy-based initiatives. These projects are not just about providing resources – they are about building futures, inspiring learners, and ensuring that no child is left behind. I look forward to seeing the creativity and dedication with which our clubs embrace this cause.

Membership growth and support to the Rotary Foundation also remain central to our success. Each new member brings fresh energy, while every contribution to the Rotary Foundation helps us expand our impact and reach more lives.

As we celebrate September's theme, let us remember that leadership in Rotary is not only about service – it is about inspiring, uniting, and leaving a legacy of hope. Thank you action leaders for the dedication you have shown and for making these first two months truly impactful.

Here's to more learning, more literacy, and more lives transformed – together.

Alebar Kanyonza
District Rotaract Representative
2025/26

VOICES FROM THE DISTRICT

Lighting the Path of Service

At the Rotaract Club of Victoria University, we believe service is more than a duty it's a heartbeat that keeps our communities alive and thriving, our Action Year, 2025–2026 began with us standing as a beacon of compassion, purpose and unwavering commitment to service.

Our journey began with the Ndejje Hill Project, a mission born from our belief that change begins right where we stand. We reached out to the Ndejje hill community of schools walking its paths, listening to the students and working alongside them to meet their needs. It was not just about what we gave it was about the bonds we built, the smiles we exchanged and the assurance we left behind that they are not forgotten.

We then turned our hearts toward the younger generation, visiting schools to give out scholastic materials and deliver mental health talks. We understood that a book in a child's hand is more than paper and ink. it is a key to opportunity. And a conversation about mental well-being can be the gentle light that leads a struggling mind out of the shadows. In those classrooms, we saw bright eyes that held the promise of a brighter future and we knew that every effort was worth it.

The 7 Days of Service, a week where our members poured their time, energy and love into different communities every single day. We treated, planted, donated, mentored and served each act, no matter how small, forming part of a much larger picture of hope. It was a living reminder that service is not a one-time gesture, but a way of life.

Then came a day that reminded us what saving lives feels like the **Katwe Immunisation and Blood Donation Drive**. Together with Katwe Zam Medical Centre, we saw over **102 children** immunised, securing their health for the future, and collected **50+ units of blood**, each bag a lifeline for someone we may never meet but will always care about.

As we reflect on July a month of dedicated action, one thing is clear: service has no boundary. Whether it is a hilltop community, a classroom full of eager learners, a bustling city street, or a hospital ward, the Rotaract Club of Victoria University has stood ready hands open, hearts full. And as this Rotary year unfolds, we carry forward the same spirit, determined to leave every place we touch better than we found it.

Together, we serve. Together, we change lives. Together, we create a future worth looking forward to. Together one Act at a time.

Action President Marvin Mujungu
Rotaract Club of Victoria University

The Evolving Classroom: Redefining Literacy and Basic Education in the Era of Artificial Intelligence

I still remember my primary school English teacher in Cairo, Egypt. She seemed extremely tall, wore the roundest glasses I'd ever seen and wrote on the blackboard with such conviction, it could have been a court judgement. She taught us, peering above her thick black frames in extraordinary ways.

I was nine years old, and I recall the project clearly: *'Write a story about an animal character and make a book that you will share with your friends.'* My colourful hand-made book about Piggy was among the top three in a sea of nationalities.

Ms Gobi, you see, had the ability to help children learn literacy– the ability to read, write and understand using fun activities that made learning a journey of self-discovery and personal growth. It was an adventure.

Think for a moment about how you learned to add, subtract or multiply. First, you were taught to count sticks, toys, cubes or your fingers. Then you discovered if some were taken away, you would remain with fewer. You also made bundles of objects to learn multiplication.

My daughter struggled with writing the letter 'e'. It always faced the wrong side. She didn't have a problem; she only needed more practice. We learned by continuous practice, reiterating until the brain stuck it in your memory.

Today, my sons, who are disinterested in reading books for days, are knowledgeable about the world of sports, national and global politics, business and technology. They get information from audio summaries, curated expert lists, YouTube shorts, social posts and news feeds that stalk their devices. They recently created an AI that logs all your stock and creates descriptions as customers browse your online store. (It's not a brag, it's heightened thinking.)

Learning with machines

Literacy and basic education as we knew it in 'those days' is no longer a standard. What appeared to be comparative advantage –being taught by great teachers, is being replaced by technology that finds the relevant document for you, reads it, summarizes it and even suggests next steps for you. Welcome to the knowledge revolution, enhanced by artificial intelligence (AI).

The online education market, driven by AI tools, is estimated to grow to USD 500 billion by 2035. What does this mean for literacy and basic education?

- It means more people are opting to self-teach. And many of these are learning completely different topics from their initial profession. Mothers learning coding, teens leading companies, professors starting culinary shows to politicians ditching the stage for podcasts.
- People are skipping the 'iterative' learning rinse-repeat process and letting machines do the underground tedious work, while they skim off the cream –the information they need.
- Research skills aren't an advantage anymore. Ask Perplexity AI which churns up 2025 reports, statistics and papers in a minute, complete with citations and a bevy of links.
- Surprise! Google Assistant is an AI that reads children bedtime stories.
- Excel is being enhanced by ChatGPT which provides prompts for formula generation, data analysis, and data visualization.
- Companies are hiring not degree holders but people with digital literacy skills that solve problems.

Our wakeup call

The world is looking for market-ready tech-literate professionals, not great readers or mental mathematicians. The competition is no longer about who can accumulate the most knowledge, but rather who can transform it quickly into high demand products and services.

We can resist and hold on to traditional literacy and basic education methods because they worked for us, or we can evolve and find new advantageous ways to deliver knowledge with AI as an ally for good.

Rotarian Joyce Kyeyune
RC Muyenga Bukasa

Basic Education & Literacy: A Global Right, A Local Responsibility

"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." – Frederick Douglass

Basic education and literacy are the building blocks of a just, empowered, and economically thriving society. They open doors to opportunity and break cycles of poverty. Yet millions — including in East Africa — are still denied this right.

Let's explore the global urgency of this issue, with powerful statistics and a closer look at Tanzania and Uganda.

What Is Basic Education and Literacy?

Basic education refers to primary and early secondary learning — the essential skills of reading, writing, arithmetic, and critical thinking. Literacy empowers people to communicate, participate in society, and reach their potential.

But literacy isn't just about reading a sentence — it's about reading the world.

Global Facts That Speak Volumes

1. 770+ million adults globally cannot read or write — 2 out of 3 are women.

➜ This is more than the population of Europe.

2. 60 million primary school children are out of school worldwide.

➜ Imagine every child in the UK, France, and Italy being excluded.

3. Children of literate mothers are 50% more likely to survive beyond age five.

➜ Education saves lives — especially in vulnerable communities.

4. Each extra year of schooling increases income by up to 10%.

➜ Education boosts economies.

5. 171 million people could escape extreme poverty if all students left school with basic reading skills.

➜ Literacy is the first step to prosperity.

TZ Tanzania: Progress with Gaps

- Literacy Rate: As of 2024, Tanzania's adult literacy rate is 77.9%, but rural areas and women face significant disadvantages.
- Out-of-School Children: Over 2 million children are still out of school, especially in remote regions and among pastoralist communities.
- Language Barrier: Kiswahili is the medium of instruction in primary schools, but English becomes dominant in secondary — causing challenges for many learners.
- Girls' Education: Teenage pregnancy and child marriage continue to hinder girls' education, particularly in rural and coastal areas.

UG Uganda: Strides and Struggles

- Literacy Rate: Uganda's adult literacy stands at 76.5%, with males at 82% and females at 71%.
- Universal Primary Education: Introduced in 1997, UPE significantly increased school access — but overcrowding and limited resources affect quality.
- School Dropout: Over 60% of Ugandan students drop out before finishing primary school.
- Digital Divide: Only a small percentage of students, especially in rural areas, have access to digital learning tools.

Did You Know...?

- Reading just 20 minutes a day exposes a child to 1.8 million words a year.
- Having 20 books at home increases a child's chances of finishing school — regardless of parental education.
- Countries lose over $1 trillion annually due to illiteracy.40% of the world lacks internet access, limiting digital literacy in modern times.

Why This Matters

Education creates ripples of positive impact:

- Better health and hygiene practices
- Reduced child marriages and early pregnancies
- Increased employment and income
- Stronger leadership and civic participation
- More peaceful, just, and inclusive societies

How You Can Help – Locally and Globally

- Donate to book drives, rural school libraries, or digital learning kits.
- Sponsor girls' education or support school lunch programs.
- Volunteer to tutor or mentor students in your community.
- Raise awareness in your network — your voice is powerful.
- Advocate for inclusive policies and better education budgets.

Let's Build a Literate World – Starting at Home

Basic education and literacy are not luxuries — they are human rights. Whether in rural Tanzania, urban Kampala, or a refugee camp along the border, every child deserves the power of knowledge.

Let's be voices for the voiceless. Let's turn the page toward a better future — together.

Rotarian Reshma Shah
Rotary eClub of Masaki

Serving Beyond Borders: The Journey of a Ugandan Rotarian in the Diaspora

Let me tell you about my journey as a Rotarian which started in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 2017 when I joined the Rotary Club of Addis Ababa Bole. This journey has been a path filled with purpose, learning, and enduring fellowship.

I was drawn to Rotary by the desire to grow as a leader and to connect meaningfully with people beyond the boundaries of work. I was looking for a space that nurtured service and offered opportunities for personal and professional development, which I found in Rotary.

Rotary is a way of life that transcends borders, cultures, and crises: it brings together people from diverse professions and cultures, united by the shared purpose to create positive, lasting change in their communities. And I found in Rotary the school of practical leadership and the bridge to community impact that I was looking for. It is also a global family that encourages each member to rise by lifting others.

To get the contacts of a club that used English for communication, I checked with a colleague at the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, who in few days got back with the contact of Rotarian Esayas, from the Rotary Club of Addis Ababa Bole. Following a few quick calls, I was invited to the club and provided with the meeting times and location.

In the city of quite culture, was for me, a welcoming home away from home. Indeed, for many people working in other countries or travelling for mission or vacation, finding a Rotary club becomes an anchor, both socially and professionally. It reinforces our values and gives us a platform to give back, wherever we are.

Beyond joining the club, I engaged actively, and in 2020, I had the privilege of serving as its President. This was a time when the COVID-19 pandemic had swept across the globe, and Ethiopia, like many nations, was in partial lockdown. The traditional approach of Rotary's face-to-face meetings and fellowships as well as hands-on projects management were disrupted. With the support of the Board, I proposed that we embrace digital tools, and we moved our weekly meetings online to stay connected during the unprecedented period. It was also by grace that I had access to an unlimited Zoom platform, which helped to ensure that our meetings lasted one hour without interruption. I do recall some of our first Zoom meetings were filled with technical glitches and the usual "Can you hear me?" moments. But with time, we got better. We became more structured and more efficient.

Some of the proud achievements of my presidency include the fact that we maintained member engagement, and grew our numbers. We attracted new members by sharing word about our virtual meetings, and the new members appreciated that convenience. Our online format allowed former members who had remained inactive and those who moved abroad to participate virtually. We found new ways to serve, including remote mentorship for students, fundraising for COVID-19 supplies, and online awareness campaigns.

However, it wasn't without challenges. The digital divide became apparent as some members did not have a stable internet to fully engage online. Building rapport and camaraderie through screens required extra effort, and celebrating milestones, welcoming new members, or even grieving with fellow Rotarians for any loss or pain felt emotionally distant. As president, I had to be more intentional about communication, encouragement, and empathy by reaching out more often to individual members, and encouraging all members to do the same. The experience of leading during crisis taught me valuable lessons about adaptive leadership, inclusion, and purpose-driven engagement. It also deepened my appreciation for Rotary's enduring values: Service Above Self, Fellowship, Diversity, Integrity, and Leadership.

In July 2024, I relocated to South Africa, where I continue to engage in my club in Addis Ababa. I am looking for a club that aligns with my professional life, family commitments, and personality that I can join for physical fellowship. I have already met Rotarians and other people who are committed to service. Whenever I travel to Uganda on vacation, I look for a club to fellowship from, in Kampala or Fort Portal. Indeed, the strength of Rotary lies in its universal ethos. Whether in Addis Ababa, Kampala, or Johannesburg, the Four-Way Test is the same; the meetings last one hour; and the Rotary wheel turns with the same spirit of service, regardless of geography.

Being a Rotarian in the diaspora raises important questions. How do we stay connected to our home clubs and districts? How do we contribute to Rotary work back home while serving abroad? How can we leverage our networks, skills, and experiences in the diaspora to enrich the Rotary family in Uganda? The answers are in building stronger bridges of communication, collaboration, and co-creation. Diaspora Rotarians can serve as ambassadors, resource persons, and connectors. We can help our home clubs access new funding opportunities and share innovative service models. We can mentor Rotaractors, contribute to district training events, or help bring international visibility to homegrown initiatives.

There is also the emotional side of Rotary in the diaspora. At times, one can feel a little disconnected, or miss the familiar jokes and banter of your home community. But that is the beauty of travel: it challenges us to broaden our circles, deepen our global citizenship, and it reminds us that we are part of something far bigger than ourselves. My call to Ugandan Rotarians and those in the diaspora is to remain engaged. Keep your Rotary pin close, attend meetings and support your home district, even from afar. Share your skills and your time. To the rotary clubs in Uganda, embrace your members who are abroad and keep them in the loop. Invite them to speak and share their experiences.

Dr. Paul Mpuga is a Ugandan Economist and Rotarian, since 2017.
He served as President of the Rotary Club of Addis Ababa Bole (2020–2021).

The Chalkboard Tree: A Story of Literacy, Hope, and Transformation in Rural Uganda

In the warm dust of northern Uganda, in a village tucked between whispering cassava fields and sunbaked roads, stood a wide acacia tree. Its bark was stained white—not by nature, but by chalk. Children called it "The Chalkboard Tree," and it was, quite literally, their classroom. It was under this tree that 14-year-old Achen began to change the world.

Achen had once been a student herself—bright, determined, and full of questions. But when her father died suddenly, her family could no longer afford her school fees. Her mother, a smallholder farmer raising four children alone, prioritized food over textbooks. Achen dropped out, not because she lost her love for learning, but because she ran out of options. Yet she never stopped reading. With borrowed books and a stub of charcoal, she kept studying beneath the acacia tree. Soon, village children began to gather around her—some never enrolled in school, others struggling with basic reading. She taught them in the only way she knew how: with songs, games, storytelling, and chalk on bark. In time, Achen became known not just as a dropout, but as "the teacher without a classroom."

One afternoon, Patrick, a member of the Rotary Club of Lira, visited the village. He had heard rumours about a girl teaching beneath a tree. What he found was astonishing—a group of children fully engaged, learning vowels and numbers under the shade, guided by a girl not much older than they were. Patrick saw more than a teacher; he saw a movement waiting to be born.

Rather than rushing in with assumptions, the Rotary team began with questions—an approach aligned with Rotary International's education project strategies. What were the true barriers to education in this community? Why were children like Achen dropping out? Why did so many girls disappear from school at puberty? And what did parents, teachers, and children themselves dream of when they pictured a better future?

The answers were complex. Girls missed school due to stigma and lack of access to menstrual products. Parents, many illiterate themselves, doubted the long-term value of education. Children shared textbooks ten to one, and in some cases, school was a five-kilometer walk—too far for small feet and tired minds. These weren't just logistical hurdles; they were cultural, emotional, and systemic ones.

Guided by Rotary's global experience and the Basic Education and Literacy framework, the team built a response that went far beyond charity. They launched adult literacy classes—drawing from models like Operation Upgrade in South Africa—so that parents like Achen's mother could learn not only to read but also to open bank accounts, understand health instructions, and help with their children's homework. They installed gender-sensitive sanitation facilities and introduced reusable menstrual kits to keep girls in school, inspired by WASH projects in Guatemala. Teacher mentorship became a cornerstone of the initiative, offering training to volunteers like Achen, who attended every session with passion and pride. Eventually, she earned her first official teaching certificate.

To tackle the lack of books, a revolving textbook scheme was introduced. Students could rent books for a small fee, which was reinvested to buy more materials—a model inspired by the Guatemala Literacy Project. Storytelling circles were introduced to nurture the joy of reading, and evenings in the village soon echoed with laughter and learning as children gathered under the stars to hear tales read aloud by volunteers and elders alike.

Within a year, dropout rates dropped by 60%, and—for the first time—girls' enrollment surpassed that of boys. A small school block was built with Rotary support, but Achen insisted that the original acacia tree remain untouched. "It was our first classroom," she said. "It taught us that learning doesn't begin with walls—it begins with believing we are worth the knowledge."

Today, Achen runs a small learning center in the same village. It's a modest space with chalkboards, handmade desks, and a library filled with donated books. But the soul of the center remains unchanged. She still teaches under the tree when the sun is kind, reminding the next generation that even the greatest classrooms can grow from the humblest roots.

For those planning basic education and literacy projects, Achen's story is more than inspiring—it's instructive. It teaches us to begin with listening. To prioritize community-led solutions. To remember that sustainability is not just about funding, but about empowerment. And to believe that even a tree can become a school when people are willing to nurture it.

As Rotary International reminds us, if all students in low-income countries left school with basic reading skills, 171 million people could be lifted out of poverty—an impact equivalent to a 12% reduction in global poverty. For one Ugandan village, that transformation began not with a million-dollar plan, but with a girl, a stick of chalk, and a tree.

Now it's your turn. If you're planning a basic education or literacy initiative—whether it's for a rural village, an urban classroom, or a refugee settlement—start with the Rotary Basic Education and Literacy Project Strategies guide. This powerful resource offers the insights, tools, and case studies needed to design meaningful, community-driven, and sustainable projects. From conducting proper community assessments to creating long-term teacher training models and literacy programs for adults, it's the compass that can turn your passion into impact.

Don't just build schools—nurture futures. Let Rotary show you how.

Gyaviira Luwaga
RC Muyenga Tankhill
hello@glutconsult.com

Empowering Communities through Basic Education and Literacy

Hello, Rotary Club members! As we gather to discuss our initiatives, let's shine a light on a vital theme that impacts our communities profoundly—basic education and literacy. Did you know that nearly 775 million adults are still illiterate, and 60% of them are women? This is more than just a statistic; it's a call to action!

Education is the foundation of a thriving community. It opens doors to employment opportunities, enhances personal growth, and fosters a sense of empowerment. Imagine a world where every person, regardless of age, is equipped with the skills to read, write, and think critically!

Rotary has a long-standing commitment to education and literacy. From funding local libraries to providing scholarships, our efforts make a difference. Let's engage in fun and innovative projects that promote reading, such as book swaps, storytelling sessions, and literacy workshops. How about organizing a "Read-a-thon" where members can share their favorite childhood books with local students?

Additionally, integrating technology into our literacy programs can reach more people effectively. Virtual classrooms and online resources can be game-changers in areas where traditional education is limited.

Let's unite our passion and resources to lift our community through education. Every word read, every book handed out, and every class taught contributes to a brighter future. Together, we can turn the page towards a more literate world!

Osbert Akandwanaho
RAC Lyantonde

Unite for Good: A Call to Service, Partnership, and Gratitude

Across our Rotary family, there is so much to celebrate. We are a diverse network of individuals united by a shared commitment to serve. Over the years, we have built classrooms and planted trees, mentored young leaders and equipped schools, responded to crises and celebrated milestones. Together, we have not only touched lives but also strengthened the bonds that make service possible.

In Tanzania, our Rotary and Rotaract community is thriving. Membership is growing, projects are expanding, and leaders—both young and experienced—are stepping forward to make a difference. Our journey is filled with moments that remind us why we serve: the smile of a child holding their first book, the pride of a student mastering new skills, and the unity of volunteers working side by side for a shared cause.

Our potential, however, extends far beyond the visible results of our projects. At the heart of Rotary's strength are our relationships. When Rotarians and Rotaractors work together with mutual respect, share ideas openly, and value each other's contributions, we create a foundation for service that is not only effective but enduring.

Rotary's influence continues to reach across vital areas of need: supporting health initiatives, advancing peace, protecting the environment, promoting basic education and literacy, and empowering communities. Each area of focus offers us an opportunity to learn, to lead, and to create sustainable change.

This year, my hope is that we continue to see ourselves as one Rotary family, drawing on our varied strengths for greater collective impact. Let us support one another's initiatives not out of obligation, but from shared purpose. For the true value of service is not measured solely in numbers, but in the hope and dignity it restores.

Unite for Good is more than a theme. It is an invitation to act. Every act of service, no matter how small, holds the power to inspire. Multiplied through collaboration, these acts create a legacy far greater than any one of us could achieve alone.

As I step into the role of Country Chair for Rotaract Tanzania, I do so with deep gratitude—to Rotary International for the vision of creating Rotaract, and to every Rotary club that has sponsored, mentored, and nurtured a Rotaract club. Your belief in young leaders is the reason we are here today, and the reason we will continue to grow tomorrow.

May we keep learning from one another, serving alongside one another, and moving forward together one act at a time.

Rtr. Gladness Mkumbo
Country Chair – Rotaract Tanzania 2025/26

The Juggling Act: Making Time for What Matters

How do you do it all? If you're a Rotarian, you've probably heard this question. People marvel at the service projects, leadership roles, and community work you manage alongside your career and family. They assume there's a secret to stretching the day. The truth is, we don't find the time—we make it. For Rotarians, service isn't just something we do, it's who we are. And when something matters deeply, you make space for it, even in the busiest of seasons.

Recently, I found myself juggling three major life moments at once: welcoming our third child, taking on a demanding new role at work, and accepting the role of Secretary in my Rotary club. The "superhero" comments came quickly. But there's no cape involved—only clarity of purpose, discipline, and effective time management. Without those, even the most committed Rotarian risks being stretched too thin.

Balancing career, family, service, and self-care isn't reserved for a lucky few. It's a skill that grows with purposeful living and practical habits. For me, that means time blocking to replace endless to-do lists with dedicated calendar slots for Rotary administration, deep work on projects, family playtime, and personal renewal like exercise or reading. During each block, I focus only on that task—no multitasking, no distractions.

It also means prioritizing with purpose. Not every task deserves equal energy, so I rely on tools like the Eisenhower Matrix or tackle the toughest task first to free mental space for the rest of the day. Just as important is learning to say "no." Over-commitment leads to burnout, so I've learned to politely decline tasks that don't align with my priorities with a simple, "I'm fully committed at the moment." This protects my time while keeping relationships strong.

And of course, rest is non-negotiable. I treat breaks the same way I treat meetings, scheduling them as essential appointments. Even 15 minutes of reading, a short walk, or a weekend unplugged can renew energy and clarity.

Rotarian Aisha Mohammed
Rotary club of Bahari

Rotary eClub of Masaki's Progress Cyclathon.

August, celebrated in Rotary as Membership and New Club Development Month, is a time to highlight Rotary's growth, diversity, and impact—and the Rotary eClub of Masaki brought these values to life through its vibrant Pedals for Progress Cyclathon.

The event attracted 295 cyclists, including 45 especially abled participants on wheelchairs from Pugu Secondary School, Jeshi la Wokovu, and Jangwani Secondary School, all united by a common cause: raising funds to support women's small-scale businesses. Participants joined from several cycling communities, including Cycling Lovers, Unity Cycling Group, Dar Velo, DM Pedal Queens, and Mbezi Oil Com Riders Group.

Cyclists took on 5km, 10km, or 40km routes, each proudly receiving a commemorative medal at the finish line. The day radiated unity, inclusion, and community spirit, showing the strength of Rotary's network in action.

The flag-offs were a special highlight of the day:

40km route at 6:00 am: PDG Sharmila Bhatt (Rotary) and Asas (Tanzania)

10km route at 6:15 am: Convenor Rtn Akash (Rotary) and Lalji Foundation (Tanzania)

5km route at 6:30 am: President Rtn Reshma (Rotary) and Secretary Jessica (Tanzania)

Special 3km route for specially abled participants at 6:45 am: Rtn Jessica (Rotary) and Rtn Henry (Tanzania)

The club extends special thanks to its main sponsors, Lalji Foundation and ASAS, for their generous support and for being the backbone of this successful event. for their generous support and for being the backbone of this successful event. Appreciation is also extended to the Bronze Level sponsors — Computer Connections Ltd and Jayesh Shah — and the Friends of Rotary level sponsors — Premium Agro Chem Ltd, 313 Security Ltd, and Lions Shield. All sponsors, partners, and stakeholders were further honoured with tokens of appreciation. In addition, sponsors, partners, and stakeholders were honoured with tokens of appreciation.

"Every pedal pushed us closer to empowering women entrepreneurs," said Club President Reshma Shah. Proceeds from the event will equip women with resources, training, and financial aid to grow their ventures, creating lasting change.

By going out into the community, involving non-Rotarians, and showcasing Rotary's service in action, the event also expanded the club's reach and sparked new interest—leading to several inquiries about joining Rotary, with one new member already welcomed into the club.

Rajvi Ladwa
Public Image Chair
Rotary eClub of Masaki

The One-Hour Meeting That Secretly Hates Clocks

Rotary fellowships have a certain magic: warm hellos, shared purpose, a song that starts off-key, and a prayer that somehow makes everything right. Then there's the other kind of magic; the one that turns an hour into two or three. That's why early-morning attendees, parents with children, or busy professionals often arrive late or stop coming. Currently, only about 30% of members regularly attend physical fellowships, while many join online to stay connected without disrupting their schedules.

Picture this: the fellowship is scheduled from 6:30 to 7:30. You arrive at 6:00, hopeful. The president starts with a 10-minute round of thanks, updates, and greetings to visiting Rotarians. By 7:10, the guest speaker is still waiting. The presentation ends at 8:00. Questions go on for another 45 minutes. You leave at 8:45, hungry and tired, wondering whether fellowship still makes sense.

This is not rudeness; it is a matter of promises. Running late every week sends a message: "Your time is optional." Those most affected are members who carefully schedule their lives—parents, students, professionals—around this hour. When it stretches endlessly, they vote with their feet.

Why does this happen? Presidents love to be thorough, speakers love to tell stories, and Rotarians love to be kind. All virtues, but without a plan, kindness turns into "we'll extend if it feels right," frustrating everyone who values their time. Start on time like it is a ritual. Say it clearly at the beginning: "We begin at 6:30 and close at 7:30," and make it warm: "We honour the mum who must cook dinner and the student who needs to study." Saying it clearly helps everyone plan around it.

Prepare the guest speaker beforehand by agreeing on timing: "You have 20 minutes and five for questions." Include it in the agenda. They will appreciate the clarity, and so will their driver waiting in the cold. Protect the meeting's time by appointing a "Keeper of the Bell," who gives a friendly nudge when time is almost up. When the president enforces the stop, they safeguard the lives of attendees beyond the room: supper, school runs, and early shifts included.

Tame the Q&A by collecting questions on cards during the talk and selecting a few for the plenary. The rest can continue in a casual post-meeting slot. If your club meets four times a month, invite speakers only twice. Other meetings can focus on member stories, local updates, or informal chats. This variety keeps fellowship fresh while respecting everyone's time. Normalize graceful exits by encouraging attendees to say, "I need to leave at 7:15; catch me after." Early departures become accepted, latecomers stop feeling slighted, and early leavers do not feel rude. Celebrate finishing on time by recognizing the time-keeper with a small clap or token. Habit forms quickly when it is acknowledged, and finishing on time three weeks in a row can be announced like a victory.

Asking a beloved storyteller to stop is never easy, but punctuality is kindness. It says, "I see your life outside this room." When fellowships keep their promises, more members show up, and the fellowship becomes richer for it. Try a tiny experiment next meeting: decide if it is a speaker or member night, inform the guest, appoint a gentle Keeper of the Bell, and place a card on each seat reading, "We close at 7:30—thank you for your presence." You will be surprised how quickly normal becomes better.

Past President Elizabeth Kintu
Country learning Term Leader – Uganda
Rotary Club of Lubowa

Monthly Rotary Public Image Tip: Update Your Website and Online Presence

Every month we shall provide one Tip / Reminder to keep the Public Image of your club thriving and to the point. Here is the first one:

Tip #1: Update Your Website and Online Presence

Make sure your club is easy to find, welcoming, and up to date online.

Steps:

1. Check Your Website or social media Page
   - Is your meeting time and location, correct?
   - Are contact details listed clearly?
   - Is there at least one recent project, post, or photo?
2. Refresh Content
   - Remove outdated info.
   - Add fresh pictures from your latest service or social event.

3. Use the Right Rotary Branding
   - Visit the Rotary Brand Centre for your official club logo and theme graphics.
   - Make sure your site reflects Rotary's professional and global image.
4. Be Searchable
   - Claim or update your Google Business Profile so your club shows up in local searches.
   - Add your club to local business/community directories if possible.
5. Quick Monthly Check
   - Assign someone to do a quick review each month—just 10 minutes can keep your public image fresh and credible.

🌐 Website vs. social media – Why You Need Both

Website	Social Media
Your official, permanent online home	Your dynamic, interactive conversation space
Shows essential info (who you are, where you meet, how to join)	Shares real-time updates and events
Builds credibility with first-time visitors	Builds engagement with followers and the public
Good for Google searches	Good for storytelling and sharing photos/videos
Doesn't change often	Should be updated regularly (weekly or more)

Think of it this way:

- *Your website is your business card.*
- *Your social media is your conversation.*

PDG Sharmila Bhatt
Vice Governor and Advisor on Public Image

A Milestone in Rotary Journey: District Governor's Visit to Kazo

The Rotary Club of Kazo recorded progress with the inaugural official visit from the esteemed District Governor, Rtn. Christine Kyeyune Kawooya, on Thursday, 31st July 2025. The visit was a momentous occasion replete with warmth and purpose. Graciously hosted at the magnificent residence of Rtn. Sarah Kwarisiima in Kazo District, it showcased a wonderful display of home hospitality. The Governor's visit signified a pivotal milestone in the Club's nascent journey, having been chartered merely a few weeks prior.

The day's proceedings were not only a celebration of the Club's rapid pace of progress, but also an opportunity for inspiration, knowledge sharing, and reaffirmation of Rotary's core ideals. The visit commenced with a warm and dignified welcome, as joyful school children presented the District Governor with beautiful bouquet of flowers and recited a heartfelt poem, demonstrating their creativity and enthusiasm. The display set the tone for a joyous and celebratory atmosphere enjoyed by the attentive and excited audience.

The District Governor then greeted individual club member with a warm and firm handshake as the Club President introduced them by name and classification. The distinguished guests included Rotarians from outside the club, the Immediate Past President of RC Ibanda Rtn. Eugene, Rotaractors, Civil servants and important community leaders. The atmosphere was palpably electric, with an air of anticipation and enthusiasm permeating the gathering. A highlight of the afternoon was the induction of a new Rotarian, a ceremony conducted with great solemnity by the District Governor herself.

In her keynote address, DG Christine delivered a timely and strategic message, tailored to the aspirations of a young yet dynamic club. She underscored five cardinal priorities that would shape the club's future endeavors.

Firstly, she emphasized the paramount importance of Membership Growth and Retention, exhorting the club to pursue new members with vigor while ensuring that existing members remain engaged and valued.

Secondly, she reminded members of the profound significance of Contribution to The Rotary Foundation (TRF), highlighting that philanthropy to TRF is the linchpin of sustaining Rotary's impactful global programs.

The District Governor also drew attention to the pressing sanitation challenges at Kazo Health Centre IV, appealing to the club to prioritize this as a signature project. She encouraged each member to make a personal contribution and strive for 100% club giving, emphasizing that every donation counts regardless of magnitude.

The District Governor's message was met with enthusiasm and nods of agreement, as members were inspired to think outside the box and explore novel avenues for service. The visit featured a lively interactive session, where members shared their aspirations and received practical guidance from the District Governor.

As the sun set over the rolling hills of Kazo, the Rotary Club of Kazo stood tall—proud, inspired, and determined to make a lasting difference in their community and beyond. The District Governor's visit was a resounding success, marking a new chapter in the club's journey. As the club looks to the future, it is evident that the seeds of service, fellowship, and innovation have been sown, and with the guidance of the District Governor, the Rotary Club of Kazo is poised to make a meaningful impact in the years to come.

About the Author:

Ankunda Arnoline is a third-year student pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Law and an indigene of Kazo District. As a Rotaractor, she is deeply inspired by Rotary's leadership and commitment to service, and is eager to contribute to the organization's mission in her community and beyond.

Ankunda Arnoline
Rotary Club of Kazo

Rotary Finds a Home at QCIL: Launch of the Rotary Club of QCIL (In Formation)

On 22nd August 2025, a historic moment unfolded at Quality Chemical Industries Limited (QCIL) as Rotarians, Rotaractors, and friends of Rotary gathered to celebrate the official start of the Rotary Club of QCIL (in formation).

The event, hosted at QCIL premises, brought together a rich mix of Rotary leadership and membership champions, including QCIL staff members, the District Membership team, and representatives from sponsoring clubs Rotary Club of Kigo Seven Lakes Golf and Rotary Club of Muyenga.

In his remarks, QCIL Co-founder and Chairman RIDE Emmanuel Katongole, who has long envisioned a healthier and more dignified Africa through access to life-saving medicines, described the occasion as a "dream fulfilled." He reflected on QCIL's long-standing partnership with Rotary causes from health initiatives to community development and expressed his delight at finally seeing Rotary "come home" to QCIL.

"Our mission as a company has always been to save lives," he noted. "Now, by formally establishing a Rotary Club within QCIL, our staff members will not only produce medicines that heal, but also join the global Rotary family in delivering service projects that uplift communities and transform lives."

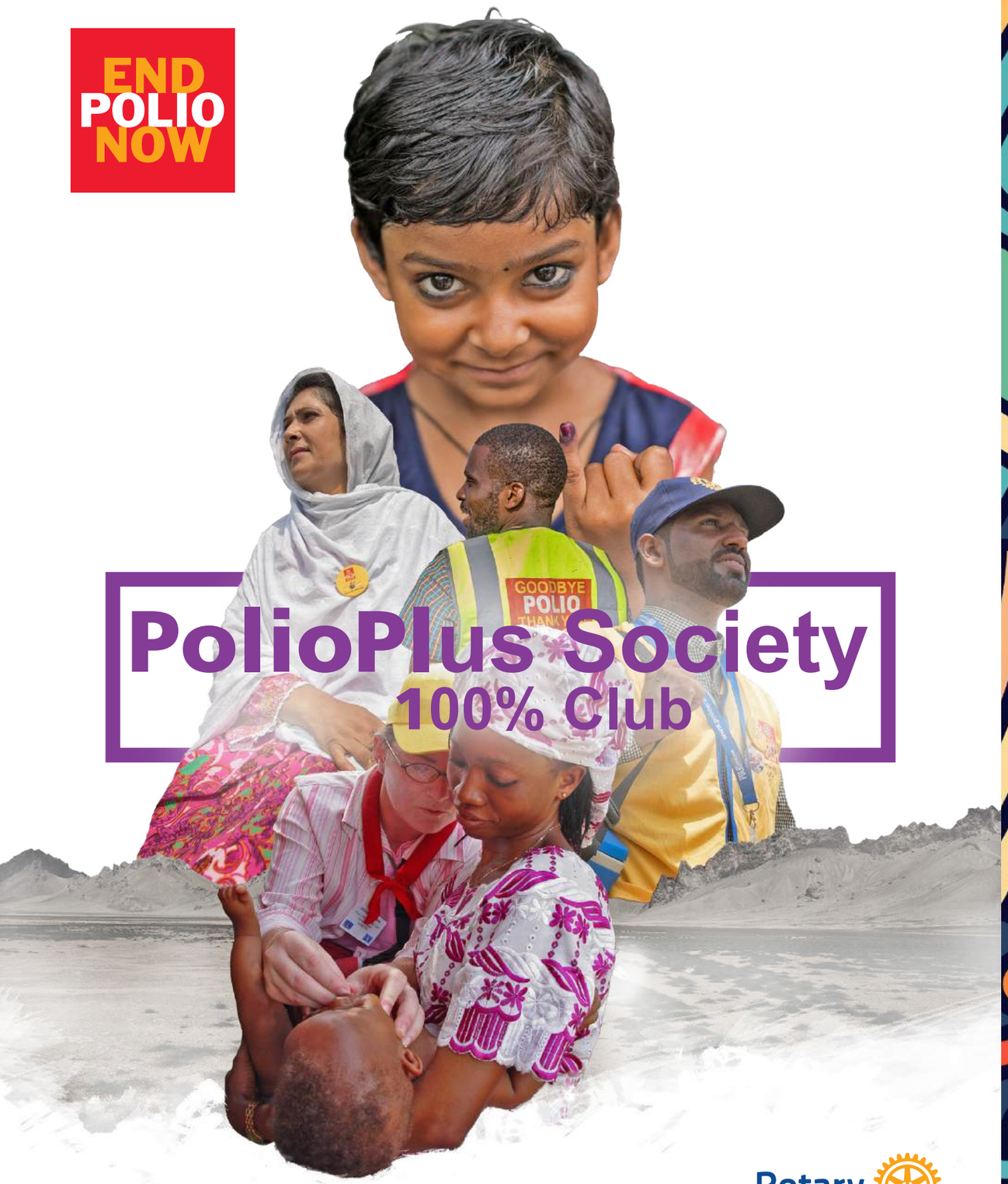
The atmosphere was filled with excitement and optimism as Rotarians and Rotaractors present welcomed QCIL into the Rotary family. The District Membership team applauded the step as a shining example of how corporate institutions can integrate service into their DNA by joining hands with Rotary.

The new club is expected to attract a vibrant membership drawn from QCIL's staff, and will serve as a beacon of how corporate clubs can bring Rotary closer to workplaces while advancing Rotary's Areas of Focus.

As the Rotary Club of QCIL (in formation) takes shape, one thing is clear: this is not just the birth of a new club, but the beginning of a transformative journey where business and service walk hand in hand for the greater good.

Rtn. Paddy Lukwago
Rc Nalumunye
District Membership Committee Member

END POLIO NOW



PolioPlus Society
100% Club

Rotary

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Leveraging Partnerships to Boost Education and Literacy on Buyiga Island

Education is a fundamental right that empowers communities and opens doors to greater opportunities. However, for many rural communities in Uganda, access to quality education remains a persistent challenge. Buyiga Island in Mpigi District is one such community where children have struggled for years due to limited educational resources. In response, the Rotary Club of Rubaga Lakeview, in partnership with Help Africa, initiated a transformative sponsorship program that provides children from Buyiga Island with the opportunity to attend schools in Kampala and neighbouring districts. This initiative has significantly improved education and literacy, offering hope for a brighter future.

Buyiga Island, located on Lake Victoria, is home to a fishing-based community where many families rely on subsistence farming and fishing. The limited income often prevents them from affording school fees, and schools on the island face significant challenges such as inadequate infrastructure, untrained teachers, and a lack of learning materials. Consequently, many children drop out of school early, with girls particularly vulnerable to early marriages and household responsibilities. Without intervention, this cycle of poverty and illiteracy would persist, hindering the island's development.

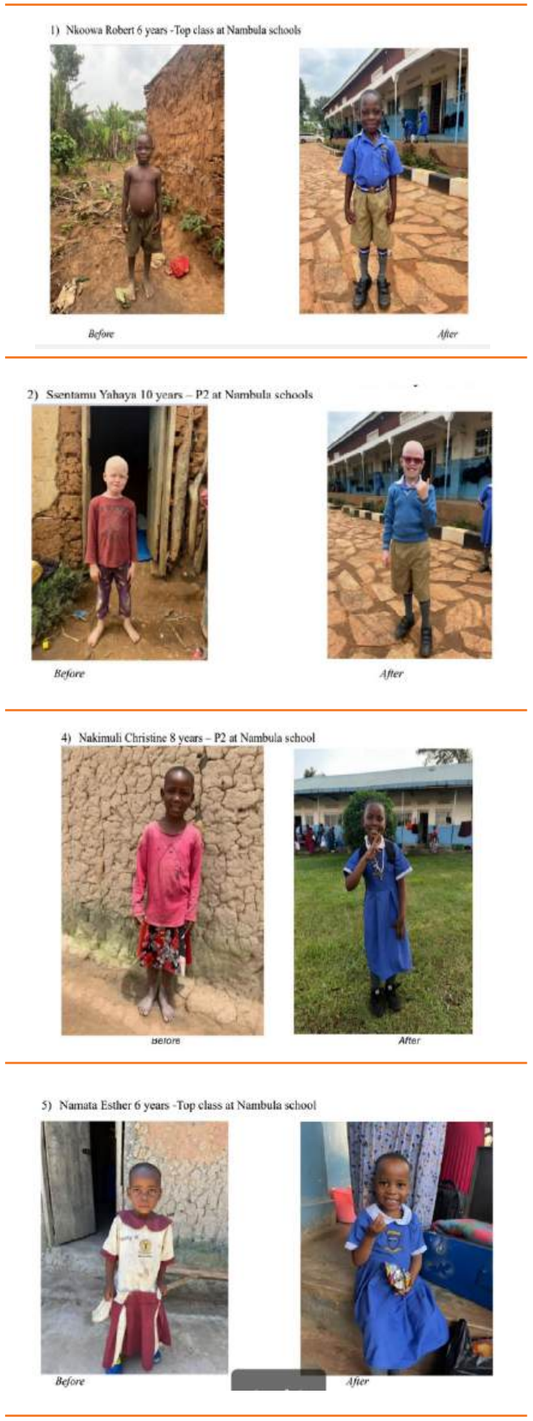
Recognising the urgency of addressing these challenges, the Rotary Club of Rubaga Lakeview, which has supported Buyiga Island for six years, partnered with Help Africa, a non-profit dedicated to improving education in underserved regions. Together, they launched a sponsorship program to provide children from Buyiga with access to well-equipped schools in Kampala. The program covers essential costs, including school fees, uniforms, books, and supplies, ensuring that students receive a quality education without burdening their families financially. Mentorship and career guidance are also provided to help students plan for their futures.

Since its launch, the program has supported dozens of children, many of whom are now excelling academically. Students who once had no hope of advancing beyond primary school are now pursuing secondary education, with dreams of becoming doctors, teachers, and engineers. This initiative has also sparked a cultural shift on Buyiga Island, where education is now valued more highly by parents, and younger children are motivated to stay in school. The success stories of sponsored students have become powerful sources of inspiration for the entire community.

Looking ahead, the Rotary Club of Rubaga Lakeview and Help Africa are committed to expanding the program. Plans are underway to establish a scholarship fund and partner with more schools to accommodate additional students. Long-term goals include setting up vocational training centres on Buyiga Island to equip youth with practical skills and improve their employability.

This partnership is a model of how strategic collaborations can drive social change. By investing in education, they are not only transforming individual lives but also uplifting the entire community, breaking the cycle of poverty, and fostering sustainable development.

Peter Kizza Kiyingi
Immediate Past President
Rotary Club of Rubaga Lakeview



Youth-Led Power: United Against Malaria Brings Hope to Mityana

On a bright Saturday morning in Mityana District, the fight against one of the world's deadliest yet preventable diseases took on new energy. The Rotaract Club of Kampala North, in partnership with the Rotaract Club of Bwebajja and the Rotary Clubs of Kampala North and Kampala Springs, joined hands with community allies for a bold mission the United Against Malaria Project.

Backed by Malaria Partners International and bolstered by the support of PILGRIM Africa, Joint Medical Stores, Mityana Health Centre IV, ASAP Partners, Next Media Services, and the Ministry of Health Uganda, the day became a living testament to what can happen when passion meets partnership.

The event began with the official launch of the United Against Malaria Project; not just as a ceremonial moment, but as a declaration of sustained commitment. A symbolic and impactful donation followed: a high-quality microscope to Kiyongaanyi Health Centre. This vital tool will drastically improve the speed and accuracy of malaria diagnosis, turning what could be delayed treatment into life-saving early action.

If the fight against malaria has a golden rule, it is this: prevention saves lives. The project embraced this fully. Mosquito nets were distributed to Kiyongaanyi Health Centre and Namutidde C/U Primary School, ensuring protection for some of the most vulnerable. In an innovative move toward sustainable prevention, mosquito-repellent trees were planted; creating a natural shield that will stand long after the day's event.

The heartbeat of the day was a free medical camp that served more than 500 residents. With compassionate precision, volunteers and medical professionals provided blood tests, counselling, and treatment alongside mosquito net distribution at absolutely no cost. The clinic buzzed not just with activity, but with a palpable sense of relief and gratitude.

The team knew that defeating malaria requires more than medicine it requires knowledge. At Namutidde C/U Primary School, malaria prevention posters were installed as constant reminders, and pupils, teachers, and community members were trained on the correct use of mosquito nets. To ensure lasting change, *Malaria Ambassadors* were appointed among the pupils; peer champions tasked with spreading awareness throughout the year.

One of the most inspiring tools employed was the **Child-to-Family (C2F)** approach. By equipping children with accurate malaria prevention knowledge and skills, they became the messengers to their families and neighbors. This grassroots ripple effect ensures the fight continues in households long after the event banners come down.

The United Against Malaria Project in Mityana North was more than an outreach; it was proof of Rotary's power to unite diverse players for the common good. Youth leaders, seasoned Rotarians, government health teams, global partners, and local community members each played a part in weaving together a day of immediate relief and sustainable impact.

As the sun set over Mityana, the message was clear: with unity, innovation, and relentless compassion, a malaria-free future is not just a dream it is a goal within reach.

Imagine... A Future Without Malaria: RC Garuga Launches Its First Malaria Grant

Imagine... Six months ago, we wrote our very first grant and dared to dream that it would be funded. And on Friday, 13th August 2025, that dream became a reality. The Rotary Club of Garuga received $10,000 from Malaria Partners International to bring this project to life; the first grant in our club's history and we proudly launched it at Nalugala Health Centre II in Garuga.

The Media Launch was a milestone not just for our club but for the community we serve. The event brought together club members, health officials, media representatives, and local community leaders, all united by the shared goal of reducing malaria and improving health outcomes.

During the launch, RC Garuga shared how the grant will strengthen local malaria prevention efforts. Community health education, awareness campaigns, and targeted interventions were highlighted as key steps to ensure families and children live free from the fear of malaria. The event emphasized the power of collaboration, with Rotary, Malaria Partners International, and local health teams working together to make a real impact.

Speakers reflected on the journey from writing the grant six months ago to today's celebration. They highlighted the hope, planning, and dedication that went into the project, showing how this initiative represents more than just funding—it is a commitment to saving lives and building stronger, healthier communities.

Rtn. Aikirize Agetie
Rotary Club of Garuga

The launch also gave the community a chance to engage, ask questions, and understand how the grant will translate into real-life action, from preventive measures to awareness programs. The energy was infectious, filled with a shared sense of purpose and optimism about the future.

This historic event marks the beginning of a transformative journey for RC Garuga and the communities it serves. From an idea six months ago to the launch on 13th August 2025, the club has shown that with vision, dedication, and partnership, even a small step can create a big impact.

Uniting for Good: Free Medical Camp at Marangu

On 3rd August 2025, the Rotary Clubs of Kibo and Marangu, together with the spirited Rotaract Club of KCMC, brought a wave of hope to the slopes of Kilimanjaro. In the serene village of Marangu, more than 200 residents gathered to receive free, life-saving medical services.

The camp stood as a living expression of this year's Rotary International theme, **"Unite for Good,"** demonstrating how compassion, planning, and partnerships can change lives.

This initiative was powered by the joint efforts of Rotary and Rotaract members, supported by generous partners — Kilimanjaro Innovative, PDAID Foundation, the Explorers Club (whose members climb Kilimanjaro annually), and Action Meteor. Together, they provided funding, medical supplies, equipment, and media support, proving the strength of public–private collaboration for social good.

Bridging the Healthcare Gap

The camp focused on underserved groups women, children, and the elderly offering both preventive and therapeutic care. Residents from Marangu and nearby villages benefited from services including:

- **Basic Health Check-ups:** Triage, blood pressure, height, and weight.
- **Blood Sugar Screening:** Detecting and managing diabetes.
- **Cancer Screening:** Breast and cervical cancer checks for early intervention.
- **Immunizations:** Routine vaccines for children and vulnerable adults.
- **Diabetes & Hypertension Clinic:** Specialized consultations for chronic illnesses.
- **Eye Check-ups:** Vision tests and referrals.
- **Dental Services:** Extractions, oral hygiene education, and consultations.

- **HIV Testing & Counselling:** Confidential services to raise awareness and aid prevention.
- **Child Nutrition Support:** Assessment and guidance to fight malnutrition.

The Rotaractors of KCMC added vibrancy and youthful energy, assisting with logistics, patient registration, counselling, and supporting medical professionals. Their work highlighted the power of youth engagement in Rotary service.

Voices from the Day

"Many people cannot afford hospital visits, especially for preventive care. This camp has helped many by offering services early," said a local elder after his first blood pressure check in years.

"I came for a normal check-up but was also screened for cervical cancer. I didn't know such services could be free in my village," shared a young mother.

Gratitude in Action

This success would not have been possible without:

- Medical professionals who gave their expertise and time
- Rotarians, Rotaractors, and volunteers who made the day run smoothly
- Marangu Lutheran Hospital for hosting the event
- Sponsors who fueled the vision with resources
- Local leaders and community members who embraced the initiative

To all who made this possible, thank *you*. Your efforts have left a lasting mark on Marangu and set a standard for future service.

As we celebrate this milestone, the Rotary Club of Kibo and its partners remain committed to reaching more communities with essential healthcare.

Together, we will continue to Unite for Good.

Rotary Club of Kibo

Empowering Teachers, Uplifting Students, Sustaining the Environment

Our flagship initiative is about holistic educational transformation. We're bridging the gaps in classrooms by delivering:

• ICT training for teachers, equipping them with 21st-century teaching tools.

• Durable desks for students, giving every child a seat of dignity.

• Large-scale tree planting, cultivating environmental stewardship in schools.

By uniting classrooms, technology, and nature, we're building a future where education thrives and the planet flourishes.

A Vision That Comes Alive

Picture this: a child in Tanzania walks into her classroom and, for the first time, sits at a sturdy new desk. No more squeezing onto a crowded bench or balancing on the floor. Her teacher switches on a laptop, and suddenly the lesson comes alive with colors, sounds, and possibilities. Outside, young trees rustle in the wind, offering shade where there was once only dust. This isn't just another school day—it's the beginning of something bigger.

Our Impact So Far

Dignity through a seat of their own Since 2020, we've distributed 3,948 desks. That means over 11,500 children now have a proper place to sit, focus, and dream big. No more distractions—just a real shot at learning.

Teachers who inspire
With support from the Rotary Club of Vancouver and generous donors, we've trained educators to use technology effectively, making lessons interactive and exciting. Alongside that, we've delivered desks and planted thousands of trees—because learning shouldn't happen in a concrete jungle.

Schools that feel alive
So far, we've planted 8,620 trees, transforming dry schoolyards into green, shaded spaces where ideas can grow.

What's Next – Phase 2 (2025)

We're not stopping here. With a new Global Grant in progress, our next steps include:

- • 640 more desks
- • 80 more teachers trained
- • 1,400 more trees planted

Our mission is simple yet powerful: build schools where children feel proud, teachers feel supported, and the air feels fresh.

Why This Matters

This isn't just about desks, training, or trees. It's about:

- *Dignity*: a child finally has a desk to call her own.
- *Empowerment*: a teacher feels equipped to change lives.
- *Legacy*: trees that will shelter generations of students long after we are gone.

From the seat they sit on, to the lessons they learn, to the shade they'll one day pass on we're growing a better future. One desk, one teacher, one tree at a time.

Abdulqadir Hameed
President 2025–26
Rotary Club of Dar es Salaam

Remaining Birthing Kits Delivered for Maternal and Child Health

On 31st July 2025, the Rotary eClub of Masaki proudly closed the month by distributing 100 birthing kits to expectant mothers across various health centers — supporting safer deliveries and dignified maternal care.

Distribution Breakdown:

- Buguruni Health Centre – 20 kits
- Vingunguti Dispensary – 10 kits
- Tabata NBC Dispensary – 15 kits
- Tabata A Dispensary – 15 kits
- Kinyerezi Health Center - 21 kits
- Mongola Ndege Dispensary - 5 Kits
- Kivule Hospital - 14 kits

Closing the month with compassion — standing for safer motherhood and healthier beginnings.

A total of 310 birthing kits were donated throughout July 2025.

Special thanks to Council Reproductive CHILD Health Coordinator Vivian for all her support.

Second Club Meeting – Social and Success Celebration of Pedals

The club's second official meeting of the year was held on 14th August as a combined social gathering and success celebration of the Pedals for Progress Cyclathon.

Recognitions:

- **Akash Shah** was thanked for being the Convenor of Pedals for Progress and also subsidizing the registration fee by being a sponsor for cyclists which brought in 151 cyclists on board.
- **Rajvi Ladwa** was appreciated for PR efforts which has fetched 30.3k views on clubs' social media and for bringing a sponsor for 15 especially abled participants in the Cyclathon.
- **Jessica Thadey** was recognised for being the best impromptu speaker on TV and other events for Pedals for Progress and bringing Rotaractors as partners on board for the event.

The evening was a blend of gratitude, fellowship, and renewed commitment to service—perfectly embodying Rotary's spirit of celebrating achievements while looking ahead to greater impact.

Rtn. Rajvi Ladwa
Public Image Chair
Rotary eClub of Masaki

A Breath of Life in Kalangala

On a quiet morning, with the sun rising gently over the waters of Lake Victoria, a small Tuk Tuk ambulance hummed steadily along the winding path to Kalangala Health Centre IV. Its canopy fluttered in the breeze, and within it lay a patient in need possibly a young mother, clinging to hope with every jolt of the road. As members of the Rotary Club of Muyenga Tankhill, led by President Kenneth Rubango, made their way to the health facility for a long-awaited launch, they slowed to let the ambulance pass. For a moment, they imagined that the woman inside might be in labour, rushing toward care that was, until recently, uncertain. But today was different. Today, her chances of survival and her baby's had never been higher.

This was the day Rotary District 9214 inaugurated its **Governor's Flagship Project: the first-ever *Oxygen-as-a-Service* installation, introduced at Kalangala Health Centre IV.** In a place where maternal emergencies are often fraught with peril, this was more than a project launch—it was a promise fulfilled. For years, the Ssese Islands had suffered the absence of one of the most basic but vital medical necessities: oxygen. The lack of a sustainable supply had turned otherwise manageable conditions into fatal complications, particularly for newborns in respiratory distress.

District Governor Christine Kyeyune Kawooya had seen the need firsthand and envisioned a solution rooted in Rotary's unique ability to convene partnerships, leverage expertise, and mobilize compassion. Drawing from a needs assessment that highlighted the strain on national referral hospitals and the high mortality rate among newborns referred from Kalangala, she designated *Oxygen-as-a-Service* as her signature initiative for the Rotary year. The project would not only provide oxygen—it would give mothers and newborns the one thing they needed most: a fighting chance.

This first installation was made possible by the collective action of seven Rotary clubs Muyenga Tankhill, Nalumunye, Entebbe Base, Kampala Munyonyo, Muyenga, Kisugu Victoria View, and Kalangala Ssese Islands who contributed over UGX 50 million toward the effort. Their giving went beyond financial support; it was an investment in dignity, health, and survival. In collaboration with the Joint Medical Store and the $FreO_2$ Foundation, which has successfully implemented over 100 installations across East Africa, Rotary brought advanced oxygen delivery technology to one of Uganda's most remote regions.

As part of the installation, Kalangala Health Centre IV received two oxygen concentrators, a solar-powered CPAP device for newborns, and a Neopenda vital signs monitoring system. A newly branded neonatal ward was equipped with baby cribs, adult beds, privacy screens, and emergency backup systems, all powered by solar energy. Even more remarkable was what happened on launch day itself—when the island experienced a widespread power outage, the neonatal ward remained the only part of the facility with electricity, its lights and equipment sustained entirely by the newly installed solar system. That day, it didn't matter whether the ambulance was carrying a mother, a child, or another emergency case. Kalangala was ready.

Dr. Kisakye Frank, the facility's in-charge, didn't need to be convinced of the project's impact. "Seventy-five percent of newborns referred for respiratory complications never made it to the mainland alive," he said. "This installation will change that statistic." For the doctors, nurses, and midwives who have long worked under impossible conditions, the project signaled that they were no longer alone in their mission. For patients, it was a symbol of hope anchored in reliability.

The journey to this moment was built on the foundation laid by Past District Governor Peace Taremwa, whose **Tricycle Ambulance project** helped mothers reach facilities safely. Now, that legacy expands—because getting to a health center is only part of the story. What happens after arrival is just as critical. Oxygen-as-a-Service completes the continuum of care, ensuring that no woman goes into labour without access to lifesaving support, and no child gasps for air without relief nearby.

The project is designed for long-term sustainability. Preventive and corrective maintenance will be provided for the lifetime of the equipment, with health facilities responsible only for consumables and spare parts after the initial warranty period. This makes the model replicable and scalable, with plans to expand to at least 30 remote health facilities across the country.

But even as District 9214 sets its sights on expansion, the meaning of that day in Kalangala remains deeply personal. The image of the **Tuk Tuk Ambulance**, the hum of the oxygen concentrators, the warmth of sunlight filtered through the neonatal ward windows—each one a testament to the quiet power of Rotary. A power that doesn't demand attention but earns it through impact. A power that lives not in numbers alone, but in the beating hearts it sustains.

District Governor Christine Kyeyune Kawooya put it best: "**Together, we can ensure that no baby dies because oxygen was out of reach**." It is a statement that speaks not only to Rotary's mission but to its soul—a reminder that when people give selflessly, partner wisely, and act boldly, they breathe life into places long left waiting.

In Kalangala, Rotary gave more than oxygen. It gave hope measurable, visible, and real. And somewhere on that island, perhaps even in that Tuk Tuk, a mother held her child a little longer, a little safer, because Rotarians chose to act.

President Kenneth Rubango
Rotary Club of Muyenga Tankhill

Lighting Up Smiles in Busana Village

In the spirit of service above self, the Rotaract Clubs of Kampala Munyonyo and Cape Munyonyo came together in Busana Village for a project that went beyond giving — it was about restoring hope and dignity to families in need.

Twelve households were reached during the visit, each receiving much-needed relief items. Food supplies eased the burden of empty cupboards, while two elderly community members were gifted wheelchairs, restoring mobility and independence. Families also received clothing that brought comfort and warmth.

For the children, the impact was equally profound. The team donated sanitary pads and scholastic materials including books, pencils, and geometry sets. These seemingly simple items mean uninterrupted school days and renewed opportunities for pupils to pursue their education with confidence and focus.

But the outreach did not stop at material support. Through the Uplift Mentorship Program, Rotaractors engaged pupils in conversations that challenged limiting beliefs. They encouraged the young learners — especially the girls — to remain in school through university or vocational institutes. The message was clear: education is the pathway to opportunity, and early marriage should not be seen as the only option. Pupils were inspired to dream of becoming lawyers, doctors, leaders, and changemakers in their communities.

The gratitude of parents and the joy on children's faces reminded everyone present why Rotaract exists. This project was more than charity; it was a demonstration of how collaboration between clubs multiplies impact. Together, members of the two clubs didn't just provide aid — they planted seeds of hope and belief in a brighter future.

Action President Diana Owomugisha of the Rotaract Club of Kampala Munyonyo reflected, "When Rotaractors work together, we don't just give — we transform lives. At the heart of service, it's always about adding small projects together, one act at a time."

Indeed, the day in Busana Village was proof that small acts of kindness, when multiplied, can light up entire communities.

President Diana Owomugisha
Rotaract club of Kampala Munyonyo

The Future of Rotary is Rooted in Interactors

In a shining example of service and collaboration, the Rotaract Club of Makindye West (The Honchos), in partnership with Cape Munyonyo, spearheaded a transformative Career and Skills Development Project at Maratha High School

The initiative was designed not only for Interactors, but also for non-Interactors, to provide them with practical skills, mentorship, and inspiration for their future journeys. Through engaging sessions, the students explored career choices, leadership, communication, and personal development. They were also introduced to hands on skills that challenged them to think innovatively and build competencies that extend beyond the classroom walls.

Facilitators underscored the importance of early career guidance and skills development, reminding students that adaptability, creativity, resilience and discipline are essential in navigating today's rapidly changing world of work.

For the Interactors and their peers, the project was not just about knowledge it was about confidence, hope, and vision. It reaffirmed the role of Rotary's youth programs in shaping tomorrow's leaders and showed students that education is a path toward purpose. For those who had considered giving up, the sessions provided clarity and encouragement, guiding them not only toward universities such as Makerere, but also to technical institutes and vocational training pathways equally vital in building prosperous futures.

The program also highlighted the importance of real-life role models. Beyond their teachers, students interacted with professionals and mentors who brought lessons of resilience and success to life. These encounters bridged the gap between ambition and reality, reminding the students that their dreams are valid and attainable.

This partnership between Rotaract Makindye West and Cape Munyonyo is a model of what collaboration can achieve. By investing in young people through mentorship, career guidance, and skills development, we are laying a strong foundation for a brighter, more empowered, and purpose-driven future.

When Rotary inspires, students believe. When Rotaract acts, communities transform. Together, we are nurturing leaders who will carry the torch of service into tomorrow.

Joseph Nelson Kibalama
Action President Rotaract Club of Makindye West

Rotaract Lukuli-Nanganda: Strengthening Communities Through Health Initiatives

Between July and August 2025, the Rotaract Club of Lukuli-Nanganda (The Legends) championed community health through three impactful projects, aligning with Rotary's Areas of Focus on Disease Prevention and Treatment and Maternal and Child Health.

On July 20, the club partnered with the Rotaract Club of Kajjansi, Zaam Medical Centre, Uganda Red Cross, and Mengo Blood Bank for a one-day medical outreach at St. Peter's Catholic Church, Nsambya. More than 200 community members received free services, including HIV and malaria testing, cervical cancer screening, maternal health education, and medication. The drive also mobilized 40 units of blood, ensuring that the impact extended well beyond the outreach day.

A week later, on July 26, the Legends joined over 15 Rotary and Rotaract clubs along the Ggaba Corridor to host a medical camp at Namuwongo Labour College Institute. The camp reached more than 1,000 people with services ranging from general consultations and chronic disease testing to dental care, eye checkups, and antenatal services. This collaborative effort reinforced Rotary's mission to strengthen healthcare systems and promote disease prevention at the grassroots level.

On August 2, the club partnered with the Rotaract Clubs of Cape Munyonyo, Kyambogo University, Makindye, and Makindye West to deliver an ANC and Breastfeeding Awareness Project at Wentz Medical Center.

Over 100 expectant mothers were empowered through education sessions, provided with essential supplies, and connected to health professionals. The initiative not only supported maternal well-being but also laid the foundation for healthier infants and stronger families.

Across these three initiatives, the Rotaract Club of Lukuli-Nanganda demonstrated that sustainable impact is achieved through partnership, prevention, and education. By working with fellow clubs and healthcare providers, the Legends proved that collective action can create lasting change.

With every outreach, the club continues to honor its commitment to serving communities and fostering healthier, brighter futures for generations to come.

Rotary District 9214

The Rotary Foundation

TOGETHER ONE ACT AT A TIME

TRF RECOGNITION DINNER

Sat 29th November, 2025

Speke Resort Munyonyo

Save the Date!

@rotarydistrict9214

DISTRICT AND COUNTRY EVENTS

EACOP and Rotary Launch Green Schools Initiative to Drive Sustainability Along Pipeline Corridor

In a major step toward environmental sustainability, the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) Ltd. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rotary to launch the EACOP Green Schools Initiative. This partnership aims to turn schools along the EACOP pipeline corridor into sustainability champions.

The initiative targets districts including Hoima, Kikuube, Kakumiro, Mubende, Kyankwanzi, Lwengo, Kyotera, Rakai, Sembabule, and Gomba. It is part of EACOP's broader Social Economic Investment strategy, which focuses on environmental stewardship, community empowerment, and climate-smart practices.

Under the Green Schools Initiative, selected schools will receive support to implement eco-friendly solutions such as clean energy technologies, improved waste management systems, tree planting programs, and climate education curricula. The goal is to make schools not just centers of learning, but models of practical sustainability and community resilience.

Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony in Kampala, EACOP Ltd. Deputy Managing Director JB Habumugisha emphasized the long-term vision of the partnership:

"The Green Schools Initiative is a proactive response to the environmental challenges facing our communities. By embedding sustainability in education, we are equipping young people to take ownership of their environment and lead the charge for change."

Rotary's involvement brings a strong community mobilization arm to the program. District 9213 Governor Geoffrey Kitakuula highlighted the importance of youth engagement:

"This partnership is timely and powerful. Rotary's mission to protect the environment aligns perfectly with EACOP's goals. Empowering students as environmental stewards is the surest path to a sustainable future."

Christine Kyeyune Kawooya, District Governor of Rotary District 9214, added:

"Our impact lies in how well we prepare the next generation. Through this initiative, we'll work with schools to promote hands-on environmental practices — from tree planting to sustainable waste management — helping young people become real-world custodians of the environment."

The MoU outlines joint efforts in planning, funding, and executing the program. It also ensures that local schools are not just beneficiaries, but active players in driving transformation. By combining EACOP's infrastructure investment with Rotary's grassroots presence, the Green Schools Initiative promises to deliver measurable environmental benefits and inspire lasting behavioral change.

This partnership marks a powerful convergence of industry and community action — with schools at the heart of the solution.

PAG Angella Ssemukutu
District Public Image Chair

A Camping Experience Like No Other: The 6th Edition of the Rotary Fellowship of Camping

The 6th Edition of the Rotary Fellowship of Camping was nothing short of spectacular! Over 200 guests from 81 clubs including both Rotarians and Rotaractors gathered in Kalangala for a weekend filled with laughter, learning, and unforgettable memories. The event was a vibrant celebration of fellowship, adventure, and Rotary spirit, leaving everyone inspired and eager for the next edition.

From the moment the camp began, excitement was in the air. Participants immersed themselves in a variety of activities from swimming and volleyball to nature walks, hiking, and board games. Every evening transformed into a lively party, powered by the beats of renowned DJs Alberto and Nashu, with boat cruises adding a magical touch to the nights.

One of the most memorable moments of the camp was the unveiling of our beloved Patron, PDG Anne Nkutu. The conference hall was a sea of waving flags, with attendees celebrating her presence as if she were walking among them. The energy was electric, and the sight left everyone awe-inspired.

DG Christine Kawooya added another highlight to the event by inducting over 60 new members, assisted by DGE Daniel Mukasa Ddamulira, DGE Gerald Obai, PDG Mike Sebalu, and PDG Peace Taremwa. This monumental induction brought the fellowship's membership to an impressive 260 members a true testament to the unity and growth within the Rotary community.

The camp also welcomed visitors from RC Naivasha, Ghana, and the UK, further showcasing the spirit of togetherness that Rotary fosters worldwide. The 6th edition concluded with the exciting announcement of the 7th edition, scheduled for 7th to 9th August 2026 in Naivasha, promising even more adventure, fellowship, and memories to cherish.

Every edition of the Rotary Fellowship of Camping has its own unique stories, but the 6th edition will forever be remembered for its unmatched excitement, camaraderie, and inspiring experiences. Attendees left motivated, energized, and eager to gather again proof that Rotary's spirit of fellowship is alive, vibrant, and growing stronger than ever.

PAG Irene Luweesi
Camping Fellowship Chair

District 9214 Hosts First In-Person Learning Seminar for Clubs in Formation

On Saturday, 9th August 2025, the District Membership and Learning Committee made history, hosting the first-ever in-person leadership seminar dedicated to Clubs in Formation and Provisional Status. This milestone event brought together Charter President Designates, Secretaries, and Treasurers from 18 clubs comprising three provisional clubs and 15 clubs in formation for a full day of learning, networking, and growth.

Set against the serene, beautiful venue of Lake Victoria Beach Cottages in Kigo, the seminar provided the perfect environment for reflection, collaboration, and inspiration. The turnout was remarkable, with 54 participants eager to strengthen their leadership skills and gain insights into successfully launching and sustaining vibrant Rotary clubs.

The day's program featured a powerful keynote address from PDG Francisco Ssemwanga, whose words resonated deeply with attendees. Drawing from his own journey, he shared practical strategies for building strong clubs rooted in vision, service, and effective leadership. His address set the tone for a day centered on empowerment, mentorship, and shared purpose.

One of the event's highlights was a panel discussion featuring seasoned leaders: CP Gordians Ahaisibwe (Membership Coordinator), CP Benjamin Bwanika (Dean of AGs), and CP Florence Malinga (AG), expertly moderated by AG Alex Kamukama. This session proved invaluable, as panelists openly shared their personal experiences, challenges, and triumphs in starting and leading Rotary clubs. Their generosity in sharing hard-earned lessons provided inspiration and practical guidance, equipping attendees with tools they can apply in their own journeys. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to these Charter Presidents for their willingness to invest in the growth of others. Their insights will undoubtedly leave a lasting mark on the next generation of Rotary leaders.

Throughout the day, interactive Q&A sessions allowed participants to engage directly with the speakers, sparking meaningful dialogue and encouraging the exchange of ideas. Thanks to the Country Learning facilitator Rtn. Elizabeth Kintu for her excellent management of the sessions. Attendees left with renewed confidence, actionable strategies, and a strengthened sense of belonging to the larger Rotary family.

This seminar was more than just training; it was a celebration of growth and collaboration within District 9214. It underscored our district's commitment to nurturing emerging clubs, empowering leaders, and ensuring Rotary's values continue to thrive across our communities. By investing in these leaders today, we are laying the foundation for stronger, more sustainable clubs that will bring lasting changes to our organisation. As District 9214 looks ahead, we do so with renewed energy, unity, and a shared vision to grow Rotary's impact. One leader, one club, and one community at a time.

PAG Annie Ninyesiga
District Membership Chair

DG Christine Kyeyune Kawooya Leads the Opportunity Bank Annual Run 2025

On Sunday 10th August 2025, the Annual *Opportunity Bank Run 2025* painted the city streets green under the inspiring theme: *"Planting Hope. Growing Change. Greening the Future."* This year's edition was graced by District Governor **Christine Kyeyune Kawooya**, who proudly served as Chief Runner, leading participants in a powerful demonstration of unity, purpose, and action.

The Opportunity Bank Run has grown into more than just a sporting event—it is a movement that connects wellness, community service, and sustainability. Over the years, proceeds from the Run have supported life-changing causes such as the Rotary Blood Bank and community water projects, initiatives that continue to touch thousands of lives.

This year, the focus was on climate action and environmental stewardship. Through its Education Finance portfolio, Opportunity Bank has been championing tree planting in schools. To date, more than **5,000 indigenous trees** have been planted, with an ambitious target of **50,000 trees** set for the coming years. The Annual Run served as both a reminder and a rallying call that the future we envision is one we must actively nurture one tree, one act, one step at a time.

Participants took part in **5km and 10km races**, joined by schools, corporate partners, community members, and the Bank's Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and staff. The energy was electrifying, with both online and offline communities uniting to lend their voices and steps to the cause.

DG Christine Kyeyune Kawooya's presence as Chief Runner added a significant Rotary touch, reinforcing our District's ongoing commitment to environmental conservation, education, and sustainable development. Her leadership from the front of the race symbolized how Rotarians lead by example turning service above self into visible action.

The Annual Opportunity Bank Run was more than a fitness challenge; it was a celebration of shared responsibility. Together, we ran not just for today, but for the generations to come planting seeds of hope, growing positive change, and greening our collective future.

Rtn. Winne Namutaawe
Rotary Club of Muyenga Tankhill

Rotary Uganda, UBL and NFA Partner to Restore Namananga Forest Reserve

"When companies and organizations unite for good, the impact is great." These words rang true on Thursday, 21st August 2025, as Rotary Districts 9213 and 9214, Uganda Breweries Limited (UBL), and the National Forestry Authority (NFA) came together to sign a landmark tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to restore the Namananga Forest Reserve in Kayunga District.

The partnership was championed by Rtn. Jimmy Mugerwa, Chair of Corporate Partnerships and Board Chair of UBL, who announced UBL's pledge of UGX 372 million to support large-scale tree planting as part of the company's sustainability agenda.

This collaboration represents a powerful model of shared responsibility. Rotary contributes grassroots mobilization and community engagement, NFA provides technical expertise and stewardship of the forest, while UBL demonstrates how the private sector can drive climate action. Together, these partners will combat environmental degradation, enhance biodiversity, and empower local communities to take part in building a greener future.

"This is not just about planting trees. It's about restoring ecosystems, mitigating climate change, and securing a greener future for generations to come," noted District Governor Christine Kyeyune Kawooya, underscoring that the initiative aligns directly with Rotary International's global focus on Protecting the Environment.

The restoration effort will prioritize indigenous and resilient tree species, ensuring sustainability and ecological balance. Beyond ecological impact, the project is expected to create awareness, provide community benefits, and serve as a model for cross-sector collaboration in addressing the climate crisis.

The Namananga Forest Reserve initiative will stand as a living legacy of partnership proof that when civic, public, and corporate leaders unite, their collective action creates lasting change for people and the planet.

Rtn. Mercy Nalusiba
Rotary Club of Kansanga
District chair for Mission Green activities

A Landmark Media Alliance to Amplify Rotary's Mission

A groundbreaking partnership has been established between Rotary Districts 9213 and 9214 and Next Media, ushering in a new chapter for Rotary's visibility in Uganda. The Memorandum of Understanding, signed this week, grants Rotary access to prime-time platforms including NBS TV, Next Radio, and Afro Mobile. This collaboration marks the first of its kind in Uganda, positioning Rotary's service projects at the center of national conversation.

Next Media Group CEO and President of the Rotary Club of Kigo Seven Lakes Golf, Kin Kariisa, welcomed the partnership with enthusiasm. He noted that both organizations share a commitment to making Uganda a better place through service. "Through this partnership, we will ensure that every impactful Rotary activity and project receives the visibility it deserves. Platforms like Afro Mobile will now carry the stories of Rotary's incredible work to every corner of the country," he said.

For decades, Rotary has been at the forefront of impactful projects across Uganda, from health camps and scholarships to boreholes, youth mentoring programs, and peace-building initiatives. However, much of this work has gone unseen by the general public. District leaders believe this new media partnership will change that, ensuring the breadth of Rotary's service is showcased widely and accurately.

Speaking on behalf of the two districts, leaders emphasized that storytelling is key to inspiring growth. "When people see the real impact of Rotary the clinics, the scholarships, the boreholes, the mentoring they will want to be part of it. This partnership helps us tell our story boldly and broadly," governor Christine said.

The collaboration is expected not only to raise Rotary's visibility but also to reshape its public image, positioning it as a dynamic, grassroots movement of service rather than an exclusive club. By shining a spotlight on service projects during prime time, Rotary hopes to attract new members, expand partnerships, and amplify its humanitarian impact.

With this bold step, Rotary in Uganda signals a new era where service in action takes center stage, inspiring more citizens to embrace the spirit of "service above self."

Joseph Batter Ssengooba
Rotary Club of Garuga

2025 Cancer Run Raises Over $1 Million Towards Uganda's Most Advanced Cancer Centre

The 2025 Rotary Cancer Run, one of Uganda's largest annual charity events, took place on Sunday, August 31, 2025, uniting thousands in the fight against cancer. Held under the theme "Many Cancers, One Race," the run attracted more than 60,000 participants across Uganda and around the world, reinforcing its place as a global movement of service and solidarity.

This year's event successfully raised over $1 million, moving Rotary and its partners closer to the overall $3 million fundraising target for the completion of the Rotary Cancer Centre at Nsambya Hospital. Once complete, the Centre will stand as Uganda's most advanced cancer treatment facility, offering comprehensive care to thousands of patients each year.

The immediate priority is completing the construction of a radiation bunker designed to house linear accelerators state-of-the-art machines essential for modern radiotherapy. Alongside the funds raised through the run, Rotary Uganda is preparing a Global Grant application to equip the Centre with advanced treatment technology, ensuring patients can access world-class cancer care locally without the burden of traveling abroad.

Speaking at the event, the District leadership and organizers hailed the initiative as a testament to Rotary's commitment to service. Special recognition was given to Past District Governor Stephen Mwanje, the visionary behind the Cancer Run, whose leadership has kept the cause alive since its inception in 2012.

Corporate sponsors, Rotarians, Rotaractors, and supporters worldwide played a crucial role in this year's success. Their collective effort reflects the power of partnerships in tackling one of Uganda's most pressing health challenges.

The Rotary Cancer Run has, over the years, grown from a local fundraiser into a global event, with simultaneous runs held in major towns across Uganda and in diaspora communities abroad.

As the 2025 edition concluded, organizers announced that the next Rotary Cancer Run will take place on August 30, 2026. The call remains clear: while there are many cancers, humanity runs one race — to defeat them all.

Joseph Batter Ssengooba
Rotary Club of Garuga

D9214 Rotary Foundation Committee Meets in Bukoba, Tanzania

On 23rd August 2025, the District 9214 Rotary Foundation (TRF) Committee convened in Bukoba, Tanzania for a weekend of strategy-building, training, and knowledge exchange. The meeting brought together committed Rotarians from across the District to strengthen the way clubs engage with The Rotary Foundation and maximize its impact in Uganda and Tanzania.

The discussions centered on the core pillars of TRF work. Members reflected on the importance of well-designed and sustainable global grants that respond to real community needs while creating long-term impact. They also explored stewardship practices that ensure transparency, accountability, and responsible use of resources entrusted to Rotary by partners and donors. Another key area of focus was the balance between fundraising and utilization of TRF funds—highlighting the need not only to grow contributions but also to deliver projects effectively and in a timely manner.

Equally important was the exchange of experiences and lessons from within the District. Members shared stories of successful projects, challenges faced, and creative solutions, all with the aim of strengthening best practices and raising the standard of service. This spirit of collaboration reinforced Rotary's ethos of learning from one another while working towards a shared goal of doing good in the world.

The sessions were led by District Rotary Foundation Chair (DRFC), PDG Peace Taremwa, whose deep knowledge and practical guidance provided clarity and inspiration. His facilitation ensured that the team not only reviewed the technical aspects of TRF processes but also reconnected with the values of integrity, service, and partnership that make The Rotary Foundation one of the most trusted charitable organizations globally.

As the weekend progresses, the Committee remains focused on ensuring that District 9214 is positioned to harness every opportunity TRF provides. The outcomes of this meeting will guide clubs in delivering impactful projects, strengthening accountability, and expanding Rotary's reach in both Uganda and Tanzania.

This gathering in Bukoba is more than a training—it is a renewed commitment to excellence, service, and the promise of transforming lives through The Rotary Foundation.

Rtr. Gladys Namyalo
Rotaract Club of Bungu
Member of the District TRF Committee

Rotary
District 9214

TOGETHER
ONE ACT AT
A TIME

100 DAYS AWARD

• SUMMARY •

Objective

To recognize and celebrate Rotary clubs within D9214 that demonstrate exceptional performance, commitment and impact during the first 100 days of the Rotary year.

The awards are based on the district goals set for this Rotary year 2025/2026. The awards have been aligned with Rotary's high-level strategic priorities.

Conditions for the Awards:

In order for clubs to qualify for the awards:

(i) Clubs must be in good standing with Rotary International, District and Country dues fully paid.

(ii) Club goals and targets must be entered in RCC by 30th August 2025.

Timelines:

Start Date:
1st July 2025

Submission Date:
20th September 2025

Evaluation Date:
27th September 2025

Recognition:
During the 100 Days Celebration

Requirements:

1. All clubs must submit a 100-day impact report using the official district template and Google link.
2. Reports must include supporting evidence e.g. photos, receipts, media links, RCC entries.

AREAS OF CONSIDERATION FOR **100 DAYS AWARDS**

04 Awards

1. THE ROTARY FOUNDATION AWARDS

This award celebrates clubs that go above and beyond in giving to The Rotary Foundation. TRF Contribution per capita
2 Uganda, 2 Tanzania

04 Awards

2. POLIO PLUS CHAMPIONS

This award celebrates clubs that go above and beyond in supporting Polio eradication. Polio Plus Contribution per capita
2 Uganda, 2 Tanzania

04 Awards

3. GOVERNOR CENTURIONS INITIATIVE

Members enrolled for centurions (USD 100+). Highest proportion of centurions per capita.
2 Uganda, 2 Tanzania

04 Awards

4. JOINT PROJECT EXCELLENCE

This award celebrates clubs that join hands with others to deliver impactful projects that transform communities.
2 Uganda, 2 Tanzania

02 Awards

5. CLUB SERVICE INNOVATION AWARDS

This award celebrates clubs that bring fresh, creative and scalable ideas to Rotary service and fundraising.

02 Awards

6. MEMBERSHIP NET GROWTH

This award celebrates clubs that attract at least 10 new members within the first 100 days.

02 Awards

7. INDIVIDUAL MEMBER SPONSORSHIP

This award celebrates Rotarians who personally champion membership by sponsoring the highest number new members into Rotary within the first 100 days.

02 Awards

8. CLUB PUBLIC IMAGE AWARDS

This award celebrates clubs that shine a light on Rotary's impact through strong public image and storytelling.

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S AUGUST VISITS

RC Rubirizi

Muyenga Forest Hills

RC Katende

RC Nsangi

RC Kitende

RC Kikoni

RC Masaka

RC Kalangala

RC Maya

RC Mengo

RC Namasuba

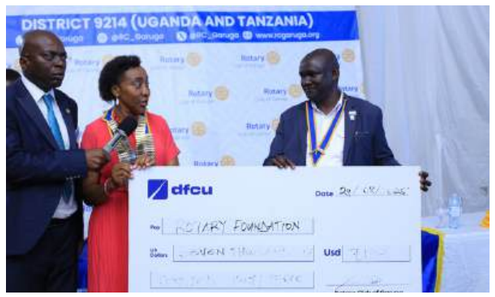
RC Rubaga

RC Entebbe Base

RC Nalumunye

RC Bwebajja

RC Garuga



Entebbe

Rotary District 9214 Rotaract District 9214

SEPTEMBER 2025 DISTRICT GOVERNORS CALENDAR

DATE	ACTIVITY
Mon 1:	EClub of Masaki, RC Mzizima
Tue 2:	RC Oysterbay, RC North
Wed 3:	RC Dar es Salaam, RC Mikocheni
Thu 4:	RC Pugu, RC Bahari, RC Peninsula
Fri 5:	RC Milimani, RC Sunset
Sat 6:	Maulid in TZ, Travel to Entebbe
Sun 7:	RC Kigo
Thu 11:	RC Muyenga Tank Hill
Sat 13:	D9214 Major Donors Dinner
Mon 15:	RC Kampala Munyonyo
Tue 16:	RC Kansanga
Sat 20:	Country Excom, Goat Races in Dar
Sun 21:	Zone 22 Institute – Brussels

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- Save your money
- Be part of the action team

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Speke Resort Munyonyo

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Rotaractors - USD 100
dca101.rotaryd9214.org

101ST DCA | Together one act at a time

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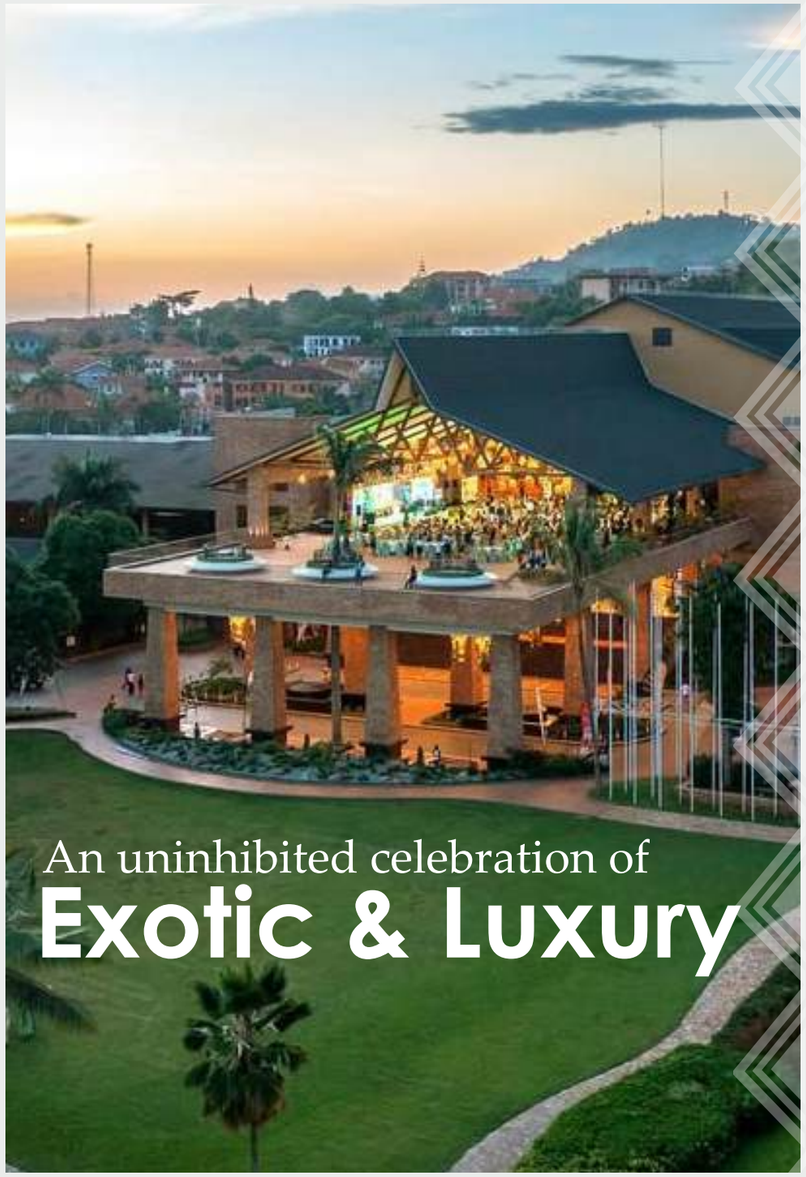

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