

Naalya Food Bulletin

14th January 2025

Rotary
Kampala - Naalya



Issue 26 | 2025



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RI President's visit to
Uganda in pictures



Living a Life
of Purpose

EDITOR'S NOTE



Dear Friends,

I hope you were able to have a safe and happy period of Holidays. January is a Vocational Service Month. Vocational service calls on Rotarians to empower others by using their unique skills and expertise to address community needs. It is also a time to learn more about the vocations of our club members and the wider community.

I invite you to join us for fellowship this Tuesday at Ndere Cultural Centre as we reflect on vocational service as a topic.

This issue of the Naalya Food Bulletin features among others, highlights from the just concluded visit of the Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick to Uganda.

The Editorial Team wishes you a Happy New Year, 2025

Keno Lillian - Bulletin Officer

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BY STEPHANIE A. URCHICK
PRESIDENT ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL

JANUARY 2025

I always walk into meetings at my home club of McMurray, Pennsylvania, with a smile on my face.

A few years ago, someone arrived late. Instead of scolding the person, we cheered. Since then, we've made it a tradition to applaud all members when they arrive for meetings. It's tough not to smile with a greeting like that.

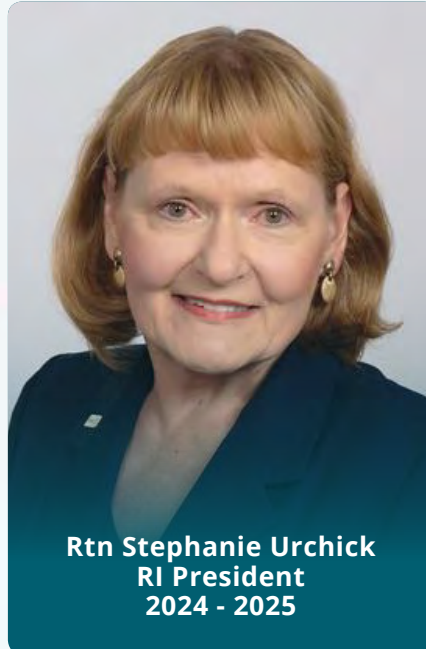
There's nothing more powerful for engaging and retaining members than a club that's vibrant, welcoming, and — yes — fun.

Think back to what drew you to Rotary. Chances are, it wasn't just the service projects or professional networking. It was the people — the friendships, the shared laughter, and the joy of working toward a common purpose. That's what keeps us coming back.

If you're looking for that sense of joy in your meetings, don't be afraid to ask yourself and your fellow members some tough questions. If you were a prospective member, would you join your current club? It's a powerful question but don't stop there.

Do members of your club feel that they belong? Are your meetings fun? If not, what can you do about it together?

At your next meeting or event, try something new to bring out a few extra smiles. It's the simple things that create lasting bonds and make clubs simply irresistible.



Rtn Stephanie Urchick
RI President
2024 - 2025

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Here's one example of a club moving in the right direction. The Rotary Club of Fukushima, Japan, has been combining environmental responsibility with community fun since 2021. In Japan, people have made picking up trash into a sport known as SpoGomi, and every year the club hosts a game. This year, more than 400 participants cheered each other on while they came together to improve their community.

This event is an excellent example of how Rotary clubs can have fun, make a difference, and raise awareness for broader global challenges all at the same time. And the inclusive, family-friendly format allows people of all ages to participate.

When we enjoy what we do, that energy becomes contagious. It's what attracts new members and keeps our clubs strong and engaged. It helps people feel that they belong.

Retention and culture go hand in hand. The healthier our club culture, the more likely members are to stay. Rotary magazine is an outstanding resource for inspiration on how to enhance our club culture and deepen member engagement. I encourage you to explore the stories and strategies in these pages, drawing from other clubs' successes to find ideas that work for you.

Together, we can create a more engaged, enjoyable, and inclusive Rotary that every member can feel proud to be part of. Let's continue with renewed commitment and enthusiasm, living *The Magic of Rotary*.

New Year, New Resolve

Over the Christmas break, I found myself reminiscing about my childhood Christmases and how that magical feeling has progressively faded as I have grown older. I have often wondered whether this is a result of age, the downside of an affluent lifestyle, or a combination of both! Recently, while browsing through a magazine – I came across a poem by Michael Dougherty that offers a refreshing perspective on Christmas. It transforms the holiday from a brief season of merriment into a year-round commitment to continuous acts of service.

The Work of Christmas Begins
When the carols have been stilled,
When the star-topped tree is taken down,
When the family and friends have gone home,
When we are back to our schedules,
The work of Christmas begins:
To welcome the refugee,
To heal a broken planet,
To feed the hungry,
To build bridges of trust not walls of fear,
To share our gifts,
To seek justice and peace for all people,



DG Anne Nkutu
District Governor, D9213

“

Let's use this opportunity to gain valuable insights and new ideas that will take our clubs to greater heights.”

To bring Christ's light to the world.

As we welcome another year and commemorate the Vocational Service Month, I hope this poem resonates with

all Rotary members. May it inspire us to recommit ourselves to using our gifts, including our vocations for the greater good of humanity.

As we approach the midpoint of our Rotary year, I am sure you will agree that the past six months have been a whirlwind of activity. We have achieved so much. But the “wear and tear” of it all is beginning to show, and I think we could

all use a fresh dose of inspiration to recharge our batteries. And so, I am really excited about the visit this weekend by RI President Stephanie Urchick. Her presence will undoubtedly bring a much needed boost of energy and motivation to carry us through the remaining six months of this Rotary year.

To make this visit truly memorable for our “Chief Magician” and for ourselves, I am requesting each and every member of D9213 to actively participate in the week-long program that has been planned for her visit. Let's show our “Chief Magician” the true spirit of Rotary in action. And let us use this opportunity to gain valuable insights and new ideas that will take our clubs to greater heights. With valuable insights and new ideas to take our club to the next level.

And to make this visit even more meaningful, I strongly urge you all to re-dedicate yourselves to advancing the Magic of Rotary by committing to complete the 25 by 25 TRF Relay before 30th June 2025. Every single contribution counts, and every single member plays a crucial role in helping us reach our goal.

President's Message

RTN SYLVIA JAGWE OWACHI
Club President 2024-2025



Dear Rotarians and Friends,

I would like to wish each and every one a Happy New Year!

We are now half way of the Rotary Calendar!! Reflecting on the last six months brings happy memories of what we have managed to do together. We inducted six new members to our club, surpassed our target, raised over USD 10,000 in The Rotary Foundation giving and sponsored four youths for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.

We have also carried out tree planting at St Mbaaga Primary School, Kiwatule, did our annual donation to the Missionaries of the Poor and carried out a needs assessment at the Kamuli project. We also complied with all the good governance activities and participated in District, other club and our Rotaract club activities like the Cancer Run, The 5 Aside, Quiz Night, Paint and Sip and many others.

A big thank you to all members who have actively participated, volunteered and contributed to these activities.

Our focus for the next six months is to continue with service projects in the community, continue to grow our membership and give more to the foundation aiming to be an all giving club. We hope to rally and have many of our members attend the District Conference in Jinja in April as well as The International Convention in Calgary in June. I am therefore counting on each one of you to bring your all in 2025.

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We have started off 2025 with the visit of Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick on her 1st leg of the African Magic Tour. The visit included impactful events and visits like The Rotary foundation dinner to recognize the givers for this rotary foundation this year, The launch of the WASH institute, the launch of this year's Cancer run and

visit to Nsambya Cancer unit, The 4th Rotary Africa Peace Concert which raised USD 239,000 to support the Rotary Africa Peace Fund, The Peace Symposium and Capstone and visit to the Rotary Peace Centre at Makerere University, The Peace walk, The visit to the Rotary Fellowship for Empowering Women and The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

I must say that all events were well attended and each brought out the true Magic of Rotary. I managed to attend a number of the activities and I must say I was proud to be a Rotarian and was reminded by Rotary's mission which is different people coming together to create positive lasting change in communities around the world.

The month of January is the Vocational Service Month. Our meeting this week will be a conversation with members on their vocations and how they can be used to serve in Rotary. You are welcome to join us. Enjoy our bulletin and be blessed.



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Rotary International President concludes Transformative Visit to Uganda



BY RTN SYLVIA NANKYA

Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick concluded her impactful week-long visit to Uganda, celebrating the country's remarkable contributions to Rotary's mission in Africa. As part of her African Magic Tour 2025, Urchick's engagements highlighted Uganda's leadership in peacebuilding, youth empowerment, and community development.

In her final address to Uganda, Urchick expressed her delight at the tremendous growth of Rotary in Africa, calling Uganda a torchbearer for Rotary's mission. She commended the past and present leadership of Rotary Zone 22 (Africa) for their dedication and thanked Rotarians and Rotaractors of Districts 9213 and 9214 for their warm reception, saying, "I am proud to call you all My Family of Rotary."

Drawing from her Polish-Slavic roots, she signed off with "Dovidzenya," emphasizing that it was not goodbye but a hopeful promise to return.

Key Highlights of the Visit

On Friday, 10 January, Urchick participated in the Peace Symposium and Capstone event at Makerere University, home to Africa's only Rotary Peace Centre. During her visit, the center graduated fellows of Cohort 7 and inaugurated the Passport Satellite Club. The club's members include prominent faculty such as Professor Barnabas Nawangwe, the Vice Chancellor

“...Urchick's engagements highlighted Uganda's leadership in peacebuilding, youth empowerment, and community development.”

of Makerere University. Urchick praised the Peace Centre for its work in providing scholarships, postgraduate training, and peace interventions across Africa.

Later that evening, she attended the 4th Rotary Africa Peace Concert at Nsambya

Gardens, a vibrant hybrid event that brought together local and international artists, Rotarians, and peace advocates. The concert raised \$239,000 for the Rotary Africa Peace Fund, which supports the Makerere Rotary Peace Centre. The event showcased the rich cultural heritage of Uganda and the broader African region through music and dance, emphasizing the role



DG Anne (center), RI President Urchick (Right) and Trustee Pearl Ijeoma during the TRF Recognition Dinner in Kampala last week

of art in promoting peace and unity.

On Wednesday, 8 January, President Urchick inaugurated the Rotary Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (RoWASH) Institute at Nkumba University, a groundbreaking initiative aimed at addressing critical water and sanitation challenges in Uganda and beyond. The Institute will offer postgraduate and short courses on topics such as water quality, hygiene, environmental health, and WASH-related climate change. It aims to equip graduates with practical skills and knowledge to develop sustainable solutions for their communities.

Nkumba University has provided land, facilities, and resources for the Institute, while partners like the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) have contributed essential equipment, including 50 computers. Past District Governor Peace Taremwa emphasized that the Institute bridges the gap between community knowledge and academic teaching, supporting global and national development goals, such as Uganda's Vision 2040 and the Africa Union Agenda 2063. This initiative aligns with Rotary's commitment to creating lasting change by addressing the needs of millions who lack access to clean water and sanitation, thereby contributing to improved health, well-being, and sustainable development.

On Saturday, Urchick led a Peace Walk from Makerere University, rallying Rotarians, Rotaractors, and community members to promote peace and unity. The day culminated in a magical Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) event at Kaazi



President Urchick at an activity during her visit

camping grounds. Addressing young leaders, she urged them to boldly add value to themselves by honing skills in writing, public speaking, and vocational disciplines. She also emphasized the ethical use of ICT and AI to drive innovation across diverse fields.

Celebrating Service and Impact

The Rotary International president visited some of Uganda's flagship Rotary projects. On 7 January, she toured the Rotary Blood Bank at Mengo Hospital, addressing the nation's critical blood shortage. On 8 January, she visited the Rotary Cancer Centre at Nsambya Hospital and launched the 2025 Rotary Cancer Run, which funds cancer awareness, treatment, and infrastructure development.

In addition, she presided over a membership conversation titled "A Journey of Rotary Membership: Inspiring Growth in Uganda," and was the guest of honour at The Rotary Foundation Recognition Dinner. Here, she celebrated Uganda's success in raising Shs2.5 billion (USD 645,000) in 2024, placing it as Africa's second-highest contributor to The Rotary Foundation.

A Testament to Rotary's Vision

Speaking about the visit, Past District Governor Kenneth Mugisha, chair of the organising committee, said, "President Urchick's presence in Uganda reaffirms Rotary's commitment to creating a more peaceful and equitable world. Her theme, healing in a divided world, resonates deeply with our efforts here."

Urchick praised Uganda's Rotarians and Rotaractors for their dedication, describing their work as transformative. She highlighted flagship programmes like the Rotary Cancer Run, the Mengo Blood Bank, and the newly established RoWASH Institute as global models of service that save lives and foster sustainable development.

About President Stephanie Urchick

A seasoned leader and the second woman to serve as Rotary International president, Urchick holds a doctorate in leadership studies. She has spearheaded numerous global initiatives, including building schools, installing water filters, and mentoring Rotarians worldwide. Her African Magic Tour 2025 reflects her dedication to Rotary's Action Plan, a strategic roadmap for addressing global challenges.

Rotary in Uganda

Uganda is a regional leader in Rotary, with nearly 7,500 Rotarians and 4,300 Rotaractors across two districts, 9213 and 9214. The organisation has made significant contributions to health, education, and economic development, cementing Uganda's role as a driving force for Rotary's mission in Africa and beyond.

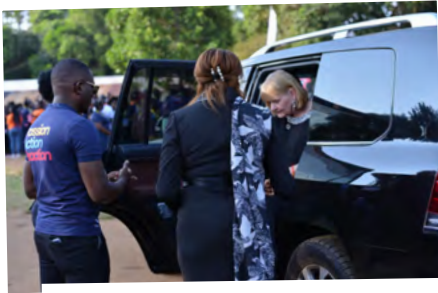
Arrival & Media Briefing



Visit to Next Media Park



RYLA 2025

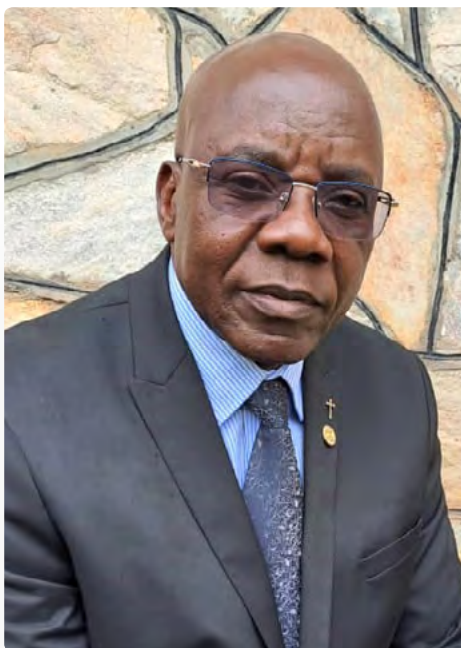


Living a Life of Purpose

BY **IPP GODFREY OKELLO**
OMODING
Club Training Facilitator

Happy New Year! Yes, times change but we remain people whom hope is in the centre of our living. The journey of life pivots on hope, and its true fulfilment comes with aligning actions which achieve a defined life purpose. As we begin the new year, there are some of us who took off time to make plans and resolutions. Well, these are good if made to fulfil a purpose; a purpose of your life. Change of time gives us such an opportunity to redefine or renew purpose of life.

Purpose of life as a person and, as a Rotarian, in this matter, ought to be defined. It gives a compass for navigating another twelve months. Life is like an ocean. There are times when it's calm, another time is turbulent, yet you are to sail on it, very often knowing little what is a head or to happen next. As the year begins, it's essential to take time off to reflect on what truly matters and the purpose of one's life. This sets out a foundation



for life that is purposeful as to be gauged later as successful and meaningful.

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Change of time gives us such an opportunity to redefine or renew purpose of life.”

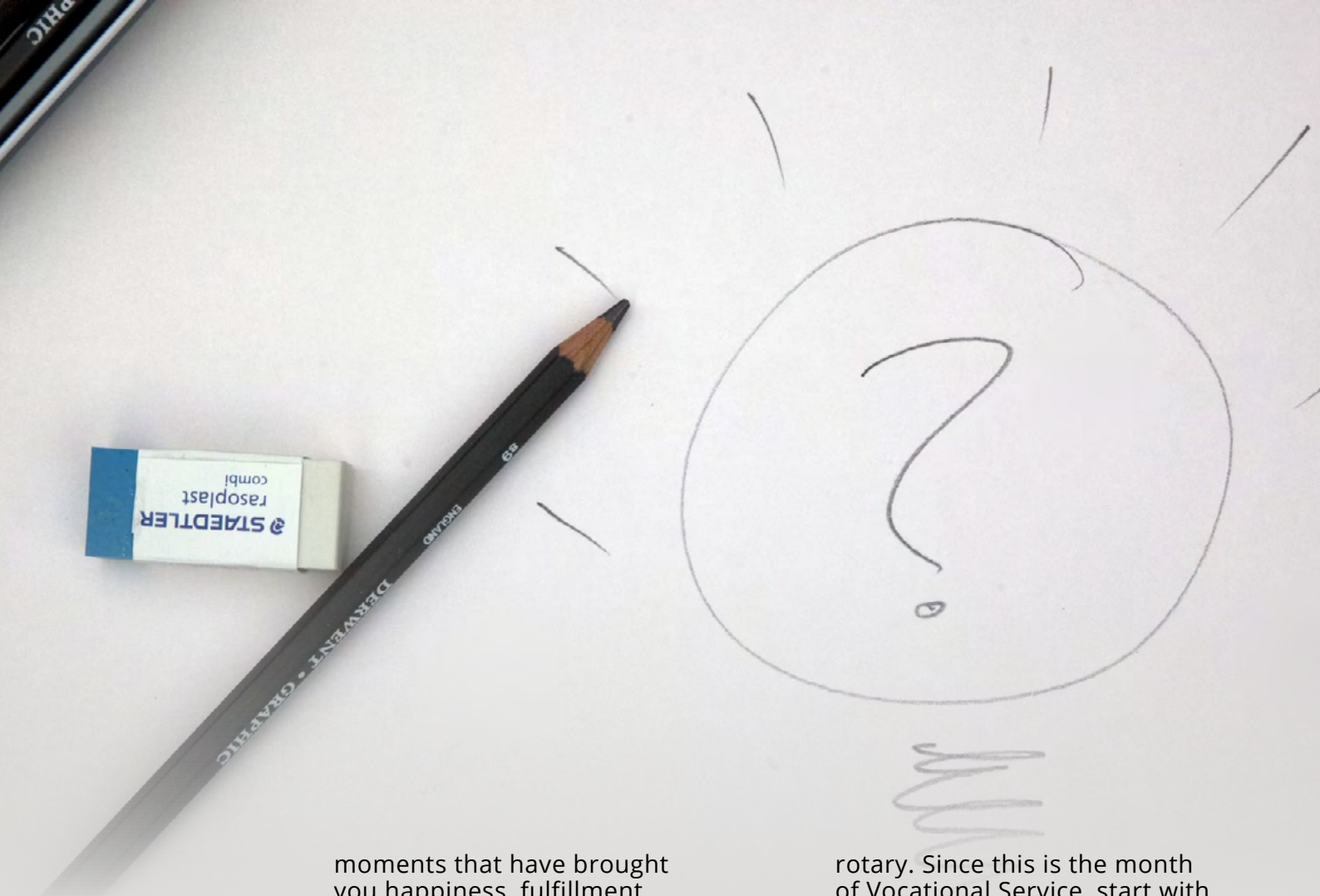
anchored on. Whatever is attained without this skeletal frame at the end doesn't necessarily bring satisfaction and fulfilment.

Having a purpose and understanding it is such a powerful guide

in influencing one's decision making. Various spheres of existence; social, economic, finance, rotary, have challenges. They require one to have clarity and direction. Life of purpose, therefore, helps to focus energy on pursuits that resonate with one's core values and passions. In addition, allows to attend to important things rather than being swung by things that seems to be very important or urgent.

One good thing with terminal times, it gives an opportunity to reawaken and a chance to re-examine one's true-life purpose in various aspects. For instance, for a Rotarian, it gives you moments to ask, what has been or what is my life purpose in rotary? What to reawaken or do different. When one has a defined life purpose in rotary, pursuing it becomes intentional, easy and natural. It yields experience of profound sense of satisfaction and joy. Let this new year be marked by a difference in your rotary life.

There are a number of ways of reawakening life purpose in rotary. As a start, capture in your reflection those



moments that have brought you happiness, fulfillment and touched your passion. Surely, your tuning, turning and acceleration points are within reach, and they are with you. Take time to consider activities and causes in your Club that ignite your passion, curiosity and energy. If they are not there, suggest some or contribute in redefining them. Let these activities and causes lead you to your life purpose.

Remember also that as you re-define life purpose, be ready to embrace changes, and your patience is needed too. Align whatever actions you wish with the club's actions. This way you will find rotary enjoyable and giving rewarding experience. Your life purpose becomes richer and satisfying.

Let me wish you clarity in your life purpose that you will find the journey of the next twelve months fulfilling and magical. Also, that it translates to mean better things both to you and

rotary. Since this is the month of Vocational Service, start with finding time to share with those who need the services of your vocation. Remember that where together, as Rotarians, our different life purposes turn into fruition, rotary reaches far and deep into different communities and lives are touched.

May the New Year bring out that magic in us. May we give memorable blessings to those we touch through the works of our hands and hearts. May we live and realise our life purposes.



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BY RTN SYLVIA NANKYA

The Rotary Foundation Dinner held at the Sheraton Kampala Hotel on January 7, was a grand occasion that celebrated and recognized members whose generous contributions have made a lasting impact on the Foundation's global programs.

Among the honorees were distinguished Major Donors from the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya, including Dr. Francis Lakor, Rtn. Rita Aciro Lakor, and District Governor Anne Nkutu.

Becoming a Major Donor

The Rotary Foundation recognizes Major Donors as individuals or couples whose cumulative contributions to the Foundation reach USD 10,000 or more. These donors are celebrated at three levels based on their contributions:

- **Level 1:** USD10,000–USD 24,999
- **Level 2:** USD 25,000–USD 49,999
- **Level 3:** USD 50,000–USD 99,999

The Rotary Foundation, established in 1917 with an initial contribution of just USD 26.50, has grown into a global force for good, addressing pressing issues like poverty, disease, and education.

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... Major Donors receive a personalized crystal recognition piece, a Major Donor pin and a pendant

addressing global challenges, fostering positive change, and building sustainable solutions worldwide.

In appreciation of their generosity, Major Donors receive a personalized crystal recognition piece, a Major Donor pin and a pendant.

Their contributions directly support the Foundation's programs,

Meet our Donors

Dr Francis Lakor

A Senior Consultant Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon at Mulago National Referral Hospital, Dr. Lakor has consistently demonstrated his commitment to community service through Rotary. Holding advanced qualifications in oral surgery and maxillofacial reconstruction, he has contributed to healthcare excellence in Uganda and beyond. As the Charter President of the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya, Dr. Lakor laid a strong foundation for the club's impactful projects.

During his tenure as the club's TRF Director, Dr. Lakor spearheaded initiatives that enhanced members' understanding of the Rotary Foundation and encouraged greater support for its programs. His generous contributions, earning him Major Donor recognition, underscore his dedication to fostering positive change



worldwide.

Rtn. Rita

Rtn. Rita, the Executive Director of the Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), is a passionate human rights activist who has spent over 20 years advocating for the rights of women and girls. Her extensive work in leadership, peacebuilding, and gender-based violence prevention has transformed lives across East Africa.

A Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya, Rtn. Rita's philanthropic spirit is evident in her contributions to the Rotary Foundation. Her recognition as a Major Donor reflects her unwavering commitment to advancing Rotary's mission of "doing good in the world."

District Governor Anne Nkutu

As the current District Governor of Rotary District 9213, Anne Nkutu has been a beacon of inspiration and leadership. A Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya, she has led numerous initiatives aimed at strengthening Rotary's impact in the



region.

Her contributions to the Rotary Foundation, alongside her tireless efforts to enhance visibility and public image, make her a deserving recipient of Major Donor recognition.

The Spirit of Giving

The contributions of these Major Donors from the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya are a testament to the power of generosity in addressing global challenges and supporting communities.

Their recognition not only highlights their personal commitment but also inspires others to contribute to the Rotary Foundation's mission of creating lasting change around the world.

As Rotary International continues its work in fostering peace, advancing health, and promoting development, the contributions of such dedicated members ensure that the legacy of "Service Above Self" thrives.



Rotary Clubs Unite to Provide Relief to Bulambuli Landslide Victims

In a show of solidarity and compassion, Rotary and Rotaract Clubs from Mbale City, Mbale Metro, Elgon Maisha, and Mbale came together at the Bunambutye Resettlement Camp to provide relief to victims of the recent Bulambuli landslide. Representing Rotary District Governor Anne Nkutu at the event, **Assistant Governor Peter Dhamuzungu** lauded the clubs for their swift and coordinated response through The Rotary Foundation's Disaster Response Fund.

The landslide, which displaced numerous families and left many without basic necessities, highlighted the vulnerability of communities in Bulambuli to natural disasters. In response, the Rotary network mobilized resources and support to assist the affected individuals. The relief effort included the provision of essential supplies such as food, shelter, and medical care, ensuring immediate needs were met.

Speaking at the event, AG Dhamuzungu emphasized the importance of standing with disaster-affected communities. "To the victims of the landslide, we want you to know that you are not alone. We see you, we hear you, and we are here to support you," he said.

The Bunambutye Resettlement Camp, currently housing displaced families,

became the center of the Rotary-led initiative. Distinguished guests, sponsors, partners, and community members joined hands with the Rotary team to extend a message of hope and resilience.

Rotary's Disaster Response Fund has played a pivotal role in enabling clubs worldwide to respond promptly to disasters, exemplifying the organization's mission of "Service Above Self." This mega project also addressed several of Rotary's Areas of Focus, including community economic development and disaster response, while enhancing Rotary's visibility and impact in the region.

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The road to recovery will be long and challenging, but together, we can restore hope and rebuild lives.”

AG Dhamuzungu called on all stakeholders, including government agencies and community leaders, to collaborate in supporting long-term recovery efforts. "The road to recovery will be long and challenging, but together, we can restore hope and rebuild lives," he urged.

The event underscored Rotary's unwavering commitment to serving humanity and creating a lasting impact in vulnerable communities. As the organization continues its efforts, it reaffirms its role as a force for good, bringing people together to tackle some of the world's most pressing challenges.



Fun Facts

Why Do We Say “Let the Cat Out of the Bag”?

Have you ever heard someone say, “Don’t let the cat out of the bag,” and wondered what on earth cats and bags have to do with secrets?

This quirky phrase is a popular idiom in English, and it means to reveal a secret, often by accident. But where did this expression come from, and why does it involve a cat and a bag?

The origins of “let the cat out of the bag” are a bit murky, but one popular theory dates back to the markets of

medieval England. In those days, farmers would sell pigs at the market, and they would often be placed in bags for easy transport.

However, some unscrupulous sellers would try to trick buyers by putting a less valuable animal, like a cat, in the bag instead of a pig. If the buyer opened the bag to check their purchase, they would literally “let the cat out of the bag,” revealing the seller’s deceit.

The phrase started appearing in print in the 18th century. It quickly became a colorful way to describe the act of unintentionally revealing a hidden truth or secret.

Today, “let the cat out of the bag” is used in everyday conversation. It serves as a reminder to be careful with sensitive information, especially if you’re trying to keep a surprise party under wraps or avoid spilling the beans about a friend’s big news.

So next time you’re tempted to share a juicy tidbit, remember the cat and the bag, and think twice before you speak.



MEMBERS REFLECTIONS ON VOCATIONAL SERVICE



NDERE CULTURAL CENTRE

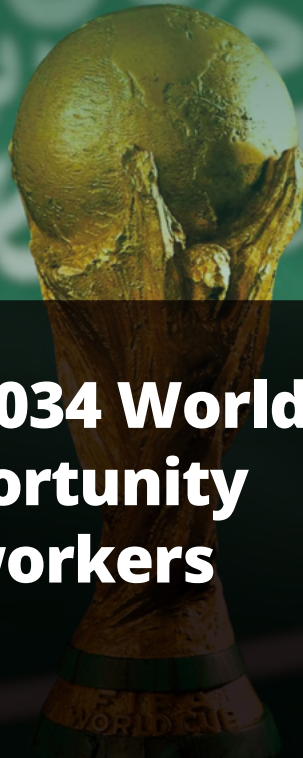


January 14, 2025 7 P.M.

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Saudi Arabia 2034 World Cup great opportunity for Ugandan workers

BY RTN. DENIS JJUUKO



On a recent flight to Entebbe, I met a sizeable number of travelers who were, by their conversations, Ugandans returning from some Middle Eastern countries where they are deployed as largely domestic workers. Many were returning home I think either for Christmas or their break after working for two years in the Arabian deserts.

They were excited to be returning to their motherland. Before boarding in Doha where they were connecting from other parts of the Middle East, they called relatives who were to pick them once we landed at Entebbe. They spoke to each other very loudly. Their experiences, the type of bosses they had, who they wanted to see first once they are in Uganda, what they wanted to do and some

who they wanted to fight etc.

Unlike the flights from Entebbe to the Middle East, where female domestic workers dress in abayas that are of the same color and design, walk in line and politely as if they are about to receive the holy communion, this time they were on their own. There was no leader giving them instructions. The abayas had been replaced with skinny jeans, leggings and tank tops. Wigs or caps were now their preferred head gear.

There was something about many of them. They didn't have much regard to other passengers sharing the same boarding area spaces. I thought they were a little bit uncouth. But I was happy that they were returning home at least for their holidays and seeing their family after a few years away.



Uganda, like many countries in Africa and even Asia, is a source of domestic workers for wealthy families in the Middle East.

Uganda has a labour cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia. However, the labour agreement talks largely of domestic workers. Most of the domestic workers don't have much skills and are therefore not contributing much to Saudi Arabia or learning a lot of skills they can use on their return home.

I actually wondered how many of those domestic workers returning home will be able to do something else? Especially in situations where they won't be able to return to their previously jobs in the Middle East. The majority will become poor again given the stories we hear of how relatives fleece

DEPARTURES

them of the little money they make.

But there is a great opportunity in Saudi Arabia that the Uganda Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development must take advantage of. Saudi Arabia, one of the biggest destinations for Ugandan domestic

workers, won the rights to host the 2034 edition of the FIFA World Cup.

Saudi Arabia is going to outdo itself in organizing this event. Of the 15 stadiums required to host the soccer extravaganza, only four exist. They are going to build 11 mega stadiums. They will build hotels, expand the airports, railway and road infrastructure. There is going to be a lot of construction in all the major cities.

Remember, the Saudis want to outdo Qatar that hosted the last world cup. They are also on a mission to take the limelight from Dubai which has seen unprecedented growth with their focus on building massive infrastructure projects that support tourism and business.

Like Qatar, they will need workers to pull off their world cup dream. Skilled workers or those that can easily be skilled. First, workers will be needed

at the construction sites. Engineers, masons, surveyors, accountants, welders, project managers and the lot that works on construction sites. Secondly, they will eventually need workers to manage the infrastructure.

We have already seen this in Doha. At the airport, the most

common languages among workers are Luganda and Swahili. In hotels, it is the same.

But because we are not very strategic, many of our workers are supervised by Indians and Filipinos. How do we get our people from lowly to middle and high-level jobs? They will need to be skilled. Some of the domestic workers could be moved to work in hotels. They can start as room service attendants and those who become good at it, will eventually become supervisors and managers.

That way they will learn specific highly needed skills that can be very helpful in our tourism and hospitable industry when they eventually get tired of working abroad. Some may even invest here in small bed and breakfasts or restaurants. Engineers we send will gain experience in doing mega infrastructure

projects. Welders will gain specific skills that are so needed here. Some may become partners or build businesses in Saudi Arabia just like Jews and the Dutch did in New York.

However, this won't happen on its own. We must now lobby the Saudis to take on our people beyond domestic work. I understand that there is a lot of argument against youths being shipped out to work abroad but

there is absolutely nothing wrong with migration. Everyone is a migrant.



If the jobs are in Saudi Arabia, let Ugandans go. The Ministry of Gender should not miss this golden chance of Saudi Arabia hosting the world cup. They should turn their domestic labour agreement into a general labour agreement to support the 2034 world cup. That way, the conversations of workers at airport lobbies will eventually be different. Happy 2025.

The writer is a communication and visibility consultant.
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Family Matters



BY PASTOR RONNIE MUTEBI

Hebrews 13:7 (NIV): Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

KNOW WHO SPEAKS INTO YOUR LIFE.

The one thing that many overlook is the power of words. These can shape and even define the thought patterns, behaviors but also temperaments. I have come to realize that not everyone has the right to speak into your life.

“

Learn from people who not only speak but also demonstrate results of what they claim to know by speech.

The old Biblical scripts provide us with guidance on how to discern and choose the individuals whose teachings and instructions we follow or model our lives after.

One of these principles is found in the writings of a wealthy tax collector Matthew 7:16: *“Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?”*

Among the key factors to consider when determining who can speak into your life is their fruit. The fruits reveal the very nature of the seed from which they sprout.

For example, if a man is clearly wealthy and has built his wealth through honorable means, he may be qualified to teach you about wealth. It would not make sense for someone struggling to feed their family to invite you to a session on **“How to Build Wealth.”**

Such a person must first address their own challenges to shift from such a situation before attempting to guide others.

If someone is thriving in some area of life, they may be qualified to teach about how to succeed in that area.

Learn from people who not only speak but also demonstrate results of what they claim to know by speech. As our theme scripture advises, consider the outcome of someone's way of life.

Take Home: Learn from people who not only speak but also demonstrate results. Consider the outcome of someone's way of life. The evidence of their works must be apparent.



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Black Tax

BY RTN PAMELA
KAWADDWA

I think the tax collector must love poor people because he is creating so many of them. And he never stops collecting.

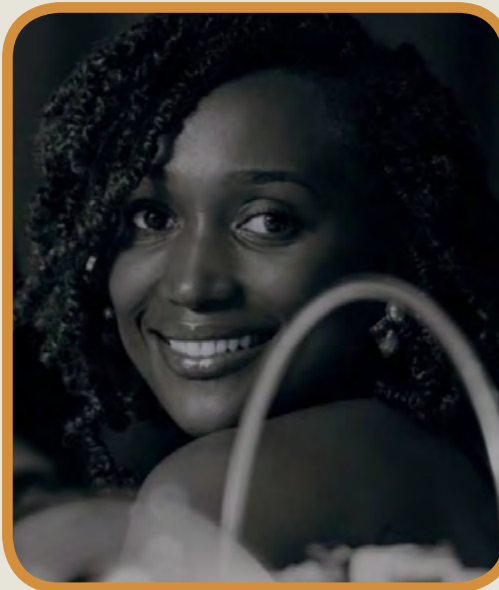
You pay direct and indirect taxes, and you pay and pay, and you will keep paying, and Mr. Tax Man will keep on taking and receiving, and like the grave, he never gets satisfied.

But there is this one other tax that kicks a lot of Ugandans in the face, though we are already on the ground, we call it *BLACK TAX!*, Mr. Tax Man doesn't seem to acknowledge it, but it's Mr. Tax Man's former and present bosses who created it.

It is responsible for many young people growing old without having any tangible assets to their name because they had to pay, and many are still paying black tax. It pays for weddings and funerals of many.

Black tax supports many families than the state, which is money that was taken by the tax man anyway.

I know it, and I hate it, but I must pay it because I am black and I am amongst those who have to pay it dearly. Black tax pays for dresses our nieces and cousins can put on. BLACK TAX puts food on tables seated with



unemployed uncles, aunties, brothers, sisters, extended families, relatives, and many other children whose family tree and connections are only known by the great grandparents, and that's if there is chairs and a table to seat around.

Black tax is one of the causes of a lot of late marriages amongst Ugandans and the youth, and that's if the marriage will ever survive or even take place.

Black tax pays for a lot of poor children's schooling, from their uniforms to their school fees if any money is left after the other basic needs have been met and that's if they have been met. Black tax is responsible for so many young black professionals to go from month to month broke and in debts.

Black tax is a heavy tax some of us pay until we take our last breath, black tax keeps a lot of some of us from having personal progress, black tax is

responsible for some of us to keep doing what we are doing at our jobs even though we hate it with all our might.

Black tax has kept many black families alive, not necessarily 'living' but alive from day to day. Black tax is not in many of our conversations and our literature but a lot of us feel it in our pockets, live with it daily, and are brutally confronted by it every time we have a salary or a wage or a some form of money.

Black tax will affect you dearly if you are from a poor background and care about your family and extended family. Black tax is embodied in black pain. The poor didn't just appear. The poor were created, and along with the poor black masses came black tax.

How I pray that the beneficiaries from Black Tax can be more appreciative and less entitled this season and going forth.

Now, if you excuse me, I need to find money to pay, amongst many taxes, black tax. Most especially this festive season! No wonder January is looked at as a month of 60 days!!!

Till again,

Phwv



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