

Naalya Food Bulletin

15th April 2025

Rotary
Kampala - Naalya



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EDITOR'S NOTE



Dear Reader,

Thank you for supporting the Naalya Food Bulletin. Your support and love have again put us on top and graciously given us an award for publishing one of the best regular Bulletins that is informative and widely circulated this Rotary Year. A toast to all our readers and contributors.

As you may be aware, the last week has been extremely busy for the Rotary Fraternity in D9213 as we gathered in Jinja for yet another District Conference.

Please join me in celebrating the outstanding leadership of Governor Anne Nkutu and also congratulate Rotarian Geoffrey Kitakule for taking over leadership and accepting the push to lead this mighty district into its next year of service to humanity.

Special Thanks to the 100th DISCON organizing committee. In this edition, we bring you highlights of the Conference

Enjoy.

Keno Lillian - Bulletin Officer

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President's Message

RTN SYLVIA JAGWE OWACHI
Club President 2024-2025



Dear Rotarians and Friends,

For the last few days 1,200 Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends converged in Jinja for the 100th District Conference (DISCON) that took place from 9th April to 13th April. The four days were packed with exciting activities and it was indeed a memorable event!! We had several sessions including a key note address by Green Sheik on Serving Humanity and preserving the Earth and talks on The future with Emerging Technologies as well as Youth and innovation, plus free tours Nalubaale dam, Nile Breweries, Kakira Sugar and Kira Motors all of which were quite informative.

A favorite for me were the interesting panel discussions on Holistic Wellness and Women in High Places and positioning ourselves for influence both with very good insights and takeaways. It was also a time to celebrate the

Clubs and individual that have excelled with several awards with the Rotary Club of Bweyogerere Namboole scooping both the President and Rotary Club of the Year. Congratulations to all the winners!! For most it was time for fun to eat, drink, dance and make merry during theme nights and around Jinja town.

In line with the Rotary transition of power District Governor Anne Nkutu and District Rotaract Representative Simeo Sebukulu both eloquently signed out highlighting their achievements this Rotary year and passing the mantle to the incoming DG Geoffrey Kitakule and DRR Abesage Nahabwe respectively. Our club is proud to have been the home club of the District Governor this Rotary year and we are proud and greatly inspired by her leadership. We hope you enjoyed the magical District

Governors Banquet.

“

...Join us at our Club's meeting this week where we will share individual DISCON experiences.”

I'm happy that this our Naalya Bulletin emerged 1st runner up. A big thank you to our Editor Rtn Lillian and entire bulletin team who have ensured that we deliver an exciting and informative

bulletin each week since the start of this Rotary year. Enjoy this week's bulletin and feel free to join us at our Club's meeting this week where we will share individual DISCON experiences.

The excitement was high and we enjoyed Jinja - Kudos to the organizing team!! We are now looking forward to the 101 DISCON in Entebbe which was launched and from the look of it will be a very interesting one too!!

Be Blessed!!



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Governor Anne Passes the Torch to Incoming DG Geoffrey Kitakule



BY RTN SYLVIA NANKYA

Rotary District 9213 celebrated the remarkable leadership of outgoing District Governor Anne Nkutu during a glittering handover dinner held at the Civil Service College in Jinja.

The event, which concluded the annual District Conference, marked the ceremonial passing of the chain of office to incoming Governor Geoffrey Kitakule in the presence of over 1,200 Rotarians and Rotaractors.

Governor Nkutu, who has served with distinction over the past year, was lauded for her dynamic leadership and dedication to Rotary ideals. Under her stewardship, the district recorded a historic contribution of more than \$750,000 to The Rotary Foundation and sustained its reputation as one of the fastest growing in Rotary Zone 22.

Her successor, Rotarian Geoffrey Kitakule, Group Head of Strategic Operations at Letshego Africa, will formally assume office on July 1. The installation was presided over by Past District Governor David Osei Amankwah, the Rotary International President's Special Representative at the District Conference.

“Under DG Anne’s stewardship, the district recorded a historic contribution of more than \$750,000 to The Rotary Foundation.”

The evening began with a grand District Governor’s Banquet hosted by the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya. In line with the theme, Glitz and Glam, attendees dazzled in sequins and glittering attire, setting the tone for an unforgettable night.

Entertainment for the night included a captivating performance by South African psychologist and illusionist Russel Fox, and a lively showcase from Valentino of Dance with Valentino, adding rhythm and flair to the celebrations.

In her farewell address, outgoing District Governor Anne Nkutu highlighted the district’s remarkable milestones, including a record-breaking contribution



of over \$750,000 to The Rotary Foundation—an achievement she credited to the collaborative spirit and dedication of Rotarians in District 9213. She also commended her team for helping maintain the district's status as one of the fastest growing in Rotary Zone 22.

The ceremony's most heartfelt moment came after Nkutu's awards presentation, when members of the Rotary Club of Kampala South led a vibrant procession into

the banquet hall, officially ushering in Kitakule.

In his acceptance speech, Kitakule reflected on his personal Rotary journey and pledged to build on his predecessor's legacy. He reaffirmed his commitment to advancing Rotary's humanitarian mission

both locally and globally, emphasizing service, leadership, and community impact as the cornerstones of his term.

The evening closed with cheers, laughter, and renewed energy for the Rotary year ahead—setting the stage for yet another chapter of transformational leadership in District 9213.

Rotary 
Kampala-Naalya

Congratulations!

Rtn Fabian Kasi

MD

Upon Your
Nomination as District
Governor Nominee Designate
for D9213

We are so proud of you!



Centenary Bank Managing Director Fabian Kasi named the Rotary District Governor Nominee Designate for District 9213, Rotary Year 2027-2028



Fabian Kasi is a Ugandan professional accountant, bank executive, and businessman. He joined the Rotary Club of Kiwatule in 2005 and served as club president in 2011, the same year he became managing director of Centenary Bank.

He is a Paul Harris Fellow of the Rotary Club of Kiwatule. He is the current Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Centenary Bank. Fabian Kasi is also the current Vice Chairman of the Uganda Bankers Association.

He was born in 1967 in Matugga, Wakiso District, Uganda's Central Region. He is married and has six children.

Fabian Kasi received his primary education at St.

Charles Lwanga Primary School in Matugga.

From 1982 until 1988, he attended St. Mary's College Kisubi for his O-level and A-level schooling. He then enrolled at Makerere University in 1988 and graduated in 1991 with a first-class Bachelor of Commerce in Accounting degree.

Later that year, in 1994, he enrolled at the University of Newcastle (Australia), where he earned a Master of Business Administration degree in 1995.

BETWEEN THE LINES

Fabian Kasi is a Ugandan professional accountant, bank executive, and businessman. He joined the Rotary Club of Kiwatule in 2005 and served as club president in 2011."

Fabian Kasi began his career as a banking officer at the Bank of Uganda in May 1992 and worked there till July 2000. From November 2000 until April 2001, he was the Director of Finance and Administration of Finca Uganda, a global microfinance organization and a Microfinance Deposit-taking Institution (MDI) in the country.

He was the Chief Financial Officer of the Commercial Bank of Rwanda in Rwanda Kigali (Banque Commerciale du Rwanda (now I&M Bank Rwanda Ltd) from August



2001 to April 2002.

Fabian Kasi was appointed executive director of FINCA Uganda Limited in May 2002 and served there until July 2010.

He was then appointed Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Centenary Bank in August 2010, a position he still holds up to now.

Kasi has also worked at Shell Uganda Limited and PriceWaterhouseCoopers before.

Fabian Kasi is a member of the Association of Certified Public Accountants of Uganda and a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants of the United Kingdom.

He is now the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Agent Banking Company of Uganda and the Buganda Broadcasting Service.

He is also a member of the Uganda Bankers Association,

the Financial Sector Deepening Uganda, the Capital Markets Authority, Buganda Investments and Commercial Undertakings Ltd.

He also serves on the boards of British American Tobacco Uganda and Pax Insurance. Fabian Kasi was one of the first indigenous CEOs to lead the top ten banks in the late 2000s, a position formerly held by foreigners, mostly Kenyans. He was one of only three Ugandan CEOs of the top ten banks at the time he became CEO in 2010, the others being Juma Kisaame (DFCU) and Nicholas Okwir (Housing Finance Bank).

During his tenure at FINCA (2002-2010), net profits increased from Shs22 billion to Shs56 billion yearly. Credit given to the general population increased by 80% by the end of 2012 while client numbers increased from 900,000 to 1,300,000.

Finca's loan book grew from Shs4.5 billion to Shs21 billion, with only 2% of the portfolio at risk.

After just five years as the head of Centenary Bank, the bank's performance showed that it was the second most profitable bank in the country, with the most clients and the second largest branch network. In 2015, its customer deposits increased by 17.5%, outperforming the industry average of 12.1%

The Africa Bank 4.0 meeting in Nairobi in March 2023 named Centenary Bank MD Fabian Kasi "CEO of the Year."

The award followed the bank's expansion into Malawi, where it collaborated with the Archdiocese of Lilongwe to establish Centenary Bank Limited.

He is a Paul Harris Fellow of the Kiwatule Rotary Club.



CLUB BULLETIN AWARD

for the Rotary Year 2024-2025
1st Runner Up





DisCon Experiences

Was at my first District of Rotary Conference in Jinja and it was a blast.

There were over 1200 Rotarians, Rotaractors and friends at the DISCON100 of District 9213.

The conference was interposed with lectures from high caliber speakers, including the Green Sheikh Abdullah Aziz, Mr. James Byaruhanga of ROKE Telecom, Business Executive. Patricia Ithau from Kenya, Feminist activist Solome Nakawesi, Rtn David Kabiswa, & many others.

Our outgoing District Governor Anne Nkutu and the outgoing DRR Simeo Sebukulu spoke from the heart wow, Speaker after speaker gave inspirational

talks. I was privileged to be part of the health and wellness panel moderated by Mr. Robert Kabushenga together with Dr. Rita Sonko, DGNE Rtn Fabian Kasi and Mr. Francis Kamulegeya who is a philanthropist and advocate for hearing impairment.

We were entertained by the Afrigo Band, Valentino and his Dancers. Sam of the famous tune "Omuwala" ushered in the Magical Team led by Governor Anne. The brilliant mental illusionist magician Russel Fox showed off his skills. He lives with ASD and ADHD and showed us that ability is a choice.

The friendships and networks made are truly meaningful and memorable; My family of the Rotary Club

of Kampala kept stepped up the pace of leading with the vintage night and watching out for each other, I guess similar to all the other different clubs some of whom displayed uniquely made outfits. The organization chair for the 100th DISCON was General Henry Rugamba and they went out of their way to exceed expectations.

The spirit of rotary leadership was strong. The House of Friendship in partnership with Rotary Means Business delivered. The food, drinks and the site tours were great. My first ever experience was truly remarkable.

#Grateful
~ Rtn Sabrina Kitaka

Was at my first District of Rotary Conference in Jinja and it was a blast.

Thanks alot Jinja DISCON organizing team, this was a fabulous DCA, everything was spot on!! It will take ages to have another one like this!! Us from Fortportal we arrived safely!! Great time!!





DisCon Experiences

The curtains finally fell on the 100th Discon in Jinja, and what a celebration of fun and fellowship we had.

The Discon Chair Henry Rugamba and his team gave us a memorable event, kudos to them. This was up there among the best DCA's I have attended, and I talk from a point of authority because it was my 16th.

The event was simple and easy on the eye. This time, round transportation of delegates to and from their hotels, places we toured, and to the conference venue was well-executed thanks to Kiira motors who were part of the conference sponsors.

Jinja, being a tourist city, has a number of small but decent hotels which accommodated all the 1,200 plus delegates. We all found accommodation according to our pockets. Food was delivered in plenty and of very good standard. The queues were well managed since we started with servi g before programmes began. There was variety, too. For the first time, I took whole course meals starting with soup, and i even had the luxury of enjoying *kigere*.

Rotarians dressed the part according to the themes of the day. We were very, very smart. Personally, I enjoyed the day Eastern clubs hosted the event on Thursday. The entertainment was top-notch. Afrigo band as usual never dissappointed. DJ Alberto never fades. He has spun those discs for donkey years and had us dancing. Cafe 49 was on fire as well as many other joints like Bourbon in Jinja town. Indeed, Rotarians as Speaker Kadaga requested "*irrigated Jinja with money*." We must have caused some inflation.

The panel discussion led by

Kabushenga, Kasi, Kamulegeya Docs Sabrina, and gave us good insights about finances and raising children. Govenor Ann Nkuutu was in her usual element, articulating eloquently as she always does the achievements of her tour of duty. The combination of her sweet voice, calm demeanour, and grace caught many rotarians' attention. And she has been very successful. I enjoy listening to her as well as Rugamba the Discon chair. This time round I got a very decent Discon shirt that also fits me.

We had amazing tours, both paid for and those on the house. For obvious reasons, the trip to the breweries was more popular and attracted most rotarians. I went to Nalubaale and Kiira power stations. The other group went to Kakira Sugar Works. Joke went around that those who went to the breweries were given free drinks, aka mission green, those of us who went to the power station should have been gifted some free *yaka*, sorry, light tokens

Other Rotarians paid for bungee jumping zeep lining, boat cruises, et al Several clubs scooped awards, a true reflection of the hard work put in during the year. Our mother or father club, Bweyogerere Namboole, scooped most awards, including President and Rotary Club of the Year.

Rotary clubs Kampala South, Kasangati, Upper Kololo, Kabarole, Manyangwa, Kira, Mubende Metro, Kampala Central et al. also won big. Govenor Elect Kitakule and his Discon organizing team are stepping in very big shoes. I served as All Star President (ASP) with Kitakule in 2016/ 17 and have no doubt he will take the District to greater heights. Kitakule is a quiet but smooth

operator and a man of many accomplishments. Those who dont know him had better read his profile in the souvenir magazine we were given. Theres no perfection in this world and those complaining of a few glitches here and there are probably attending their maiden Discon. Organizing such a big event of over 1,200 delegates, out of Kampala, in a rainy season is no walk in the park.

It was a great idea taking us to Jinja. There is always something magical about being near water and even better at the source of river Nile. Maybe just, maybe Obai should also take us to Gulu. Well done DG Ann Nkutu, a round of applause to Chair Rugamba and all your wonderful teams for delivering such an enjoyable and memorable Discon. Big up for all the service providers and staff and admins of the Civil Service College. I can't forget those ladies and gentlemen who every minute cleaned that corridor and wash rooms. You are my heroes.

Congs, Fabian Kasi, you deserve Govenorship. You have immensely contributed to rotary causes through Centenary Bank. Big thank you too for all the other sponsors. For the 1st time I tasted *Ffene* chips from SUMZ

My quote of the Discon:
"Be careful with beer. It increases your desire but takes away your ability."
Shakespeare

By the way, I woke up today thinking it was Sunday. Blame it on DG Ann and General Rugamba

We cant wait for Discon 101,
~ **Rtn. Edward Mpalanyi - Rotary Club of Seeta**

Opening Night Theme: Vintage



CAMON 40 •



CAMON 40 •

23mm f/1.8 1/100s ISO222



CAMON 40 •



CAMON 40 •

23mm f/1.8 1/100s ISO104

Day 2 - Morning Session



Day 2 - Visit to Kiira Vehicle Plant



Cultural Night



RIDN Emmanuel Katongole formally inducts Afrigo Band's Moses Matovu as an Honorary member of the Rotary Club of Kasubi-this can come among the Cultural night pics

Day 3: Rotaract Day - Shorts Affair



CAMON 40

42mm f/1.8 1/804s ISO50

42mm f/1.8 1/1225s ISO52



D9213 Cancer Run
Activation



Rotaract Night



Day 4



Day 4: DG's Banquet Night



Busoga Kingdom Premier hails Rotary's Service to Humanity

Busoga Kingdom's second deputy Prime Minister Owek. Al-Haji Osman Ahmed Noor, hails Rotary International endless initiatives geared towards offering selfless services in various communities in Busoga, Uganda and globally.

He made the remarks while officiating at the Eastern Cultural Night on April 10th that was part of the events at the 100th District Conference which is on-going at Civil Service College of Uganda in Jinja City.

Owek. Osman extended his gratitude to the organisers for inviting him to the Rotary District 9213 annual conference in Jinja, a city steeped in history and natural beauty.

"I would like to extend my gratitude to the organizers for inviting me to this meaningful event. As we celebrate 100 years of Rotary's presence in Africa, we're reminded of the organization's tireless commitment to service, community impact, and fellowship," Owek. Osman said.

He further said that Rotary's initiatives, particularly in healthcare, have transformed countless lives across the continent adding that Rotary's dedication, creativity, and compassion has made a lasting impact, and was grateful for the opportunity to witness it firsthand, in Busoga Kingdom.

Busoga Kingdom has enjoyed a significant partnership with the Rotary in the health sector citing a health camp that was held in Namwiwa sub county in Bulamogi Chiefdom with support from the E-Rotary Club of Naguru, where over

1000 residents received free treatment.

"Jinja's selection as the conference venue was fitting, given its rich cultural heritage and breath-taking landscapes—the upcoming tree-planting activity along the Nile's banks is a powerful symbol of growth, sustainability, and unity," Owek. Osman stated.

He was delighted to welcome Sheikh Abdul Aziz al Nuaimi, whose vision for environmental stewardship aligns with Rotary's values adding that his insights will undoubtedly inspire meaningful action and a deeper sense of purpose.

"As we reflect on past successes, let this conference be a catalyst for new collaborations, innovative ideas, and bold solutions to the challenges we face. Together, we can create a brighter, fairer, and more sustainable world for future generations," he said.

District Governor of Rotary District 9213, Anne Nkutu, was so delighted to celebrate the Eastern Night with Rotarians, Rotaractors and invited guests.

"During my opening remarks at the conference I said the people from the East are wise, but you can also see that they are hospitable," Nkutu said.

She added that her role was mainly to appreciate the Eastern Rotary Clubs

led by their chair Peter Dhamuzungu for organising the Eastern Cultural Night event.

Sponsors of the conference were given a platform to address guests at the Eastern Cultural Night event and these included Hellen Tushabe the Brand Manager Sumz foods Industries Limited who said they were proud to stand with Rotary in what they do in the amazing communities.

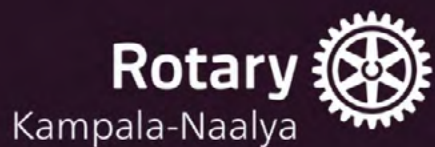
Tushabe said they will continue building strong relationships and support good causes.

Josephine Namuli branch manager Old Mutual in Jinja congratulated Rotary District 9213 for reaching 100 years of existence.

After speeches, Owek. Osman, District Governor Nkutu and other invited guests got to the dance floor and enjoyed the sounds of music from the famous Afrigo band.

They enjoyed music from Racheal Magoola, Joanita Kawalya, Moses Matovu, Herman Ssewanyana and Frank Mbalire among others.

Present at the Eastern Cultural Night were Minister of Works and Transport Gen. Katumba Wamala, Owek. Waggwa Nsibirwa the deputy Katikiro Buganda Kingdom, Emmanuel Katongole the Rotary International Director Nominee, NBS Media Group MD Kin Kariisa and Olive Lumonya the deputy Executive Director of the Uganda Civil Aviation Authority (UCAA) among others.



100TH DISCON EXPERIENCES

April 15 7pm

Ndere Cultural
Centre



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CONGRATULATIONS!!

Rtn. Maureen Kawombe
for winning Award of
Outstanding District Officer



Sir Emeka Offor commits US\$5 million to Rotary's maternal and child health program in Nigeria

E VANSTON, III., USA (10 Apr. 2025) — Nigerian Rotary member and philanthropist Sir Emeka Offor has committed US\$5 million through the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation (SEOF) to The Rotary Foundation to expand and strengthen its initiative aimed at reducing maternal and neonatal mortality in high-need areas of Nigeria.

"Helping mothers and babies survive and thrive is among the greatest investments we can make in Nigeria's future," said Sir Emeka Offor, founder of the SEOF and a member of the Rotary Club of Oraifite, District 9142, Nigeria. "We have seen a unique opportunity to build upon a Rotary-led program to further turn the tide on maternal and child mortality by working together. This partnership marks a powerful step forward for the health and wellbeing of families across Nigeria."

Nigeria has some of the highest maternal and newborn mortality rates in the world. Improving access to prenatal care and skilled deliveries in equipped facilities has been shown to reduce this burden. Recognizing this, the Rotary-led program trains health workers, upgrades clinics, engages communities, and strengthens health data systems. Two years into

implementation, supported facilities in four target regions have reported increased antenatal visits and reductions of 20% in maternal deaths and 28% in neonatal deaths. The US\$5 million gift from the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation reflects these early successes and will help expand the program's reach.

"This extraordinary commitment from the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation comes at a critical time in our member's efforts to improve maternal and child health in Nigeria," said Mark Maloney, Chair of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation. "We deeply appreciate Sir Emeka's partnership and his strong belief in Rotary's ability to reach even more communities and create lasting change for the health and wellbeing of families for generations to come."

Rotary's 'Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria' program was first launched by Rotary members in Nigeria and Germany, in partnership with the Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal and Child Health (RMCH), the Federal Ministry of Health, and leading professional health associations. In 2022, it was the second program to receive a Programs of Scale grant

from The Rotary Foundation, an annual competitive process that awards \$2 million to an evidence-based initiative driven by Rotary members with the capability for scaling up to help more people.

Sir Emeka Offor is chairman of the Chrome Group, a Nigerian-based conglomerate with interests spanning oil and gas, insurance and finance, power and energy, telecommunications, logistics and port management, and travel and hospitality. A long-time Rotary member and supporter, he is part of the Arch C. Klumph Society's Platinum Trustee Circle, which recognizes contributions between US\$2.5 million and US\$4.99 million. He has donated over US\$3 million to The Rotary Foundation, supporting four of Rotary's key areas of focus: peace and conflict management, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, and polio eradication.

In 2019, his leadership gift of US\$250,000 helped inspire the creation of Rotary's first Peace Center in Africa, located at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda. He has also contributed more than US\$4 million to polio eradication efforts in Nigeria, making him the largest individual donor to this cause on the



African continent. Among his many contributions, he funded the construction of a 1,600-seat Rotary Hall at the Rotary Centre Complex in Abuja, unveiled on 20 June 2020, at a cost exceeding ₦100 million.

Rotary members throughout the world develop and implement sustainable, communitydriven projects that fight [disease](#), promote [peace](#), provide [clean water](#), support [education](#), help [mothers and children](#), grow [local economies](#) and protect the [environment](#). Over the last 100 years, US \$5.5 billion has been awarded through The Rotary Foundation – Rotary's charitable arm that helps clubs work together to perform meaningful, impactful service.

About the Sir Emeka Offor Foundation: The Sir Emeka Offor Foundation

(SEOF) is a charitable, non-governmental organization committed to promoting human capacity development and economic empowerment in Nigeria. Through initiatives in education, health, youth empowerment, and widows' support, SEOF seeks to alleviate suffering and enable self-reliance among underserved populations. The Foundation has partnered with global organizations including Rotary International and Books for Africa to expand its impact. Learn more at sireofforfoundation.org.

About Rotary: [Rotary](#) brings together a global network of volunteer leaders dedicated to tackling the world's most pressing humanitarian challenges and creating lasting change. Rotary connects 1.2 million

people of action from more than 45,000 Rotary clubs in almost every country in the world. Their service improves lives both locally and internationally, from helping those in need in their own communities to working toward a polio-free world. For more information, visit rotary.org.

Assets:

- Downloadable media assets, including photos of Sir Emeka Offor and the program, are available [here](#).
- B-roll and interview footage for broadcast use can be accessed [here](#).

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What we are doing to the Environment

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

In the previous two bulletins, we looked at what we continue to do to harm environment. More are highlighted here before we diver deeply on the interventions. The interventions must be deliberate and purposefully targeted when addressing the environmental challenges.

From where we stopped in the previous bulletins, other environmental challenges include; the melting ice caps and the rising sea levels. This arises from the warming of the Arctic. It is reported that Arctic is getting warmer twice as fast than the rest of the planet. The effect of this fast warming is that the sea levels are rising more. Today, the sea levels are twice rising quickly than



“Oceans absorb about 30% of carbon dioxide that is released into the Earth’s atmosphere. The absorption ability of oceans is getting compromised.”

they did in most of the 20th century.

Ocean acidification is another challenge resulting from global temperature rise. The rise in the global temperature is attributed as the main cause of ocean acidification. Yet, oceans absorb about 30% of carbon dioxide that is released into the Earth’s atmosphere. The absorption ability of oceans is getting compromised.

Fast fashion and textile waste is another environmental challenge. The fashion industry is reported to be responsible for 10% of global carbon emissions. According to the UN Environment Programme, fashion alone produces more greenhouse gas emissions than both the aviation and shipping sectors combined, and nearly 20% of global wastewater, or around 93 billion cubic metres from textile dyeing. In addition, the world generates an estimated 92 million tonnes of textiles waste every year, a number that is expected to soar up to 134 million tonnes a year by 2030. Discarded clothing and textile waste, most of which is non-biodegradable, ends up in landfills, while microplastics from clothing materials such as polyester, nylon, polyamide, acrylic and other synthetic materials is leached into soil and nearby water sources.

Also, in the list of environmental challenges is overfishing. Overfishing

causes an increase alga in the water, destruction of fishing communities, ocean littering and an extremely high rates of biodiversity loss. Over three billion people around the world rely on fish as their primary source of protein. About 12% of the world relies upon fisheries in some form or another, with 90% of these being small-scale fishermen.

“

Fashion alone produces more greenhouse gas emissions than both the aviation and shipping sectors combined, and nearly 20% of global wastewater.”

~ UN Environment Programme

The world has about 18.9 million fishermen, 90% of them fall under small scale fishermen. Increased demand for certain minerals, for examples cobalt, which is a key component of battery materials that powers electric vehicles (EVs). Cobalt is facing a sustained surge in demand as decarbonisation efforts progress. This comes with dangerous workers' exploitation besides other

serious environmental and social issues.

Rotarians, with all these happenings, we ought to do somethings for the environment and our very survival. This must be right from influencing policies to mitigation and protection.

Doing some things is where the test of the magic of rotary is. The call is for action.



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Atacama Consulting is a leading Environmental and Social Consultancy firm with its headquarters in Kampala, Uganda, East Africa, that was established in 2005. Over the years, the firm has successfully conducted a number of consultancy assignments by leveraging its rich pool of technical resources and those of its strategic partners.

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Atacama Consulting is dedicated to providing customised solutions for entities in its business sectors of focus that include but are not limited to; Energy, Agriculture, Transport infrastructure, Mining, Financial services, Health, Tourism, and Manufacturing.

The firm has successfully completed over 200 major projects for clients in the private, public and Non-Governmental Organisations sectors.

We have passionately delivered practical strategies aimed at protecting, enhancing, and restoring the natural environment, facilitating livelihood restoration and project approvals while, advancing responsible and sustainable development as highlighted.

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#OutToLunch

A world of opportunity awaits **UEDCL** as they take over power distribution

BY RTN. DENIS JJUUKO



On 31 March this year, something that doesn't usually take place in Uganda happened. A contract between the government of Uganda and private electricity distributor, Umeme, ended as stipulated in their agreement signed more than 20 years ago. Usually, there is an extension after an extension to review something or enable to finalize the transition or something similar.



Even more strange, Umeme acknowledged in a statement published in newspapers that it had received USD118,385,603 as the buy out amount recommended by the Office of the Auditor General (OAG). Usually, payments from the government of Uganda take months and months, lobbying, threats to sue and even sometimes suing. Not this time.

The speed at which government has worked is akin to a spouse eager to divorce their partner so that they can enjoy the warmth of their new lover. If this lightning speed is extended to all contracts and services, Uganda would surely be a better place.

Although Umeme claims that its figure is USD234m and not the figure recommended by OAG, by the time of writing this, I hadn't heard of anyone struggling to pay for Yaka or postpaid

services. Nobody claimed had been switched off from electricity. Was this a case of both partners so eager to see the back of each other and willing to first each grab what they can and agree on some marital property later? Perhaps so. In fact, Umeme indicated that it would go for arbitration

somewhere in London. At least, both former lovers were not punching each other and making life difficult for each other. Arbitration is always better than physical fights.

“
Transforming agriculture would lead the majority of the folks in rural areas to afford installation and service fees as well as buying Yaka units.”

The exist of Umeme ushers into almost uncharted waters for the Uganda Electricity Distribution Company Limited (UEDCL). Although UEDCL has managed distribution in some areas where Umeme didn't have presence, the scale at which they have to now operate is huge. One can only wish them the best.

They aren't particularly unique in this though. They can learn from the guys who issue driving permits. They took over from an efficient company and even became more efficient.

As one of the final acts from its divorce, Umeme decided to leave by showing how much they loved their erstwhile partner and spared no coins in paying for a colorful centerspread infographic in the newspapers that showed their impact. One of their key celebratory figures was that they inherited a paltry 250,000 customers and are now handing over a base of 2.37 million customers. This is akin to a partner telling the other in a divorce case that I made you better.

The 2.37 million figure made me sit up, lean back a bit in my chair, grab a

mug of Ugandan coffee, sip and stare at particularly nothing. I wondered whether to celebrate or cry. We are a country of 49.5 million people according to the chaps at the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) as per the 2024 National Population Census.

Also, there are 10.8 million households in Uganda. On average, Uganda's household size is 4.4 people. And since the 2.37m customers included factories, offices and buildings, it means that the majority of households in Uganda have no access to electricity.

I know that some households are connected to solar power especially in rural areas but usually that is for charging a feature phone, watch some TV on a screen of the size of tablet computer and some basic lighting. Good but not good enough.

And that is where UEDCL and the government of Uganda need to work. How do they make electricity accessible and affordable to all? Electricity, not just for households, leads to development and job creation. When a small town is connected to the national

grid, many young people are able to set up small businesses some of which grow into large enterprises over the years.

It is not uncommon to find a village where there are powerlines but the people too poor to connect their houses. Transforming agriculture would lead the majority of the folks in rural areas to afford installation and service fees as well as buying Yaka units.

The UEDCL will have to be more efficient so that power is reliable and doesn't go off whenever it rains or every time a bird plays on the wires. They will need to invest significantly in the network, modernize it to reduce losses, and nip corruption in the bud so that there is more money to generate, transmit and distribute.

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Family Matters



BY PASTOR RONNIE MUTEBI

Luke 5:16 (NIV): But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places.....

ALONE WITH ONESELF

The world is governed by two forces, the spiritual and the physical. Any person with a loud spirit cannot be alone.

He abhors his own company. Such a person will find ways to fill

in the gaps of loneliness. Either, they will seek for others online and stay there for hours or they will get a pet, not because they love animals but because they cannot be alone.

On the other hand, when a person quietens their spirit they start to crave solitude. Many people tend to confuse solitude with loneliness.

Why is this so? It is because the stillness of the inner man draws him away from the noise of the crowd. It is not because he does not like people but a still and quiet spirit becomes more attentive to the calls of the DEEP calling unto THE DEEP.

Solitude is crucial to the quiet oneself because it is the one sure way to fine-

tune your hearing. Most of the world's disturbing challenges are solved through the quietness of the innerself.



There are patterns and principles which govern the way things work. His Sheikh Al Makhutom of Dubai has designed and trained his o.mmerslf

In the places where you are alone and the noises of life fade into the background, you start to hear THE VOICE and once you do, you stop craving for the attention of the world or anything in it.

Take Home:
Solitude is the one sure way to fine-tune your inner self into hearing clearly off all that is connected to your destiny.



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