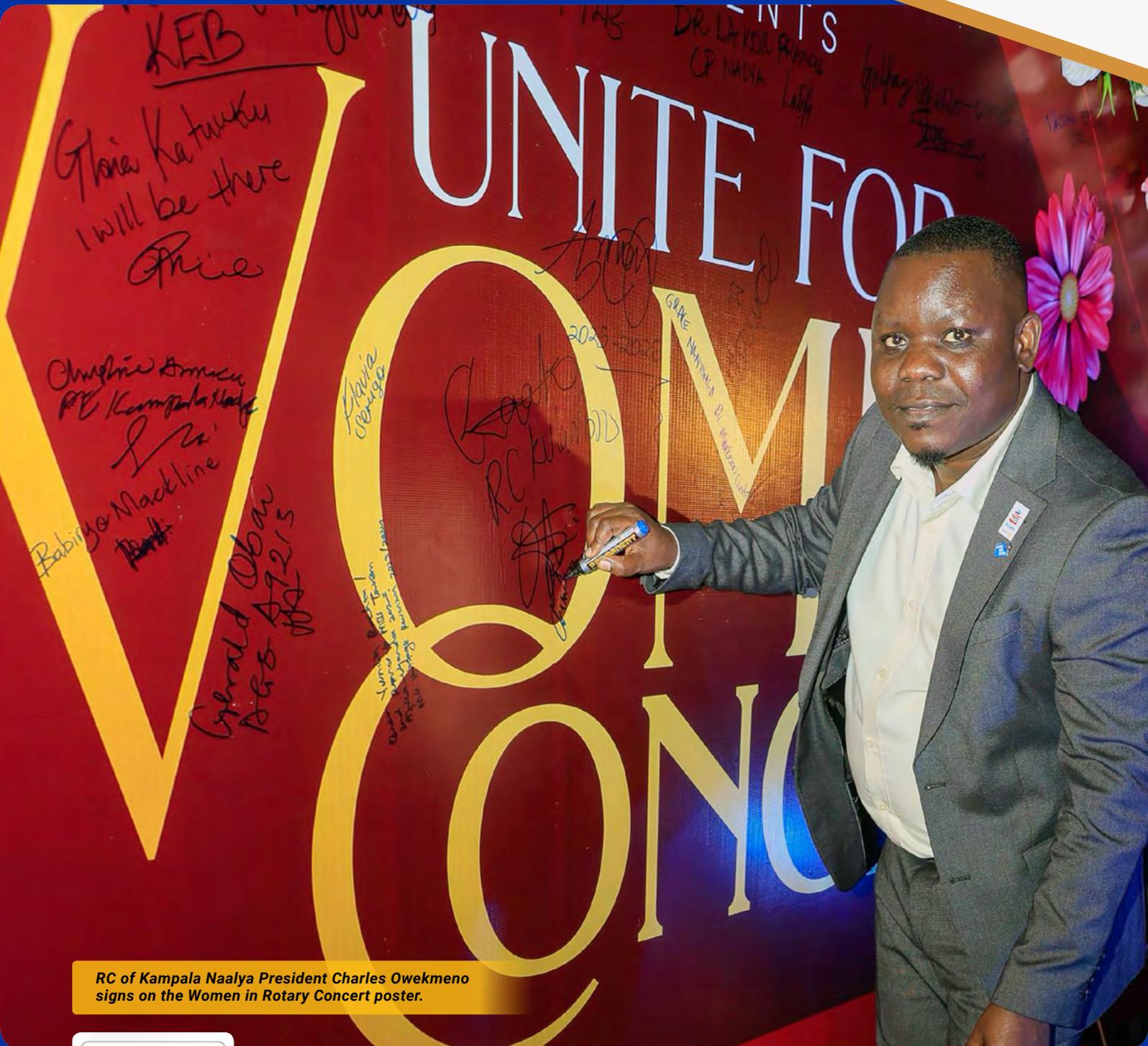


# Naalya Food 27<sup>th</sup> January, 2026 Bulletin

Rotary   
Kampala - Naalya

UNITE  
FOR  
GOOD

Issue 27 | RY 2025-26



**RC of Kampala Naalya President Charles Owekmeno signs on the Women in Rotary Concert poster.**

RC KAMPALA - NAALYA



SCAN TO LEARN MORE

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**19** Indian Rotarian Pledges \$50m to Rotary Foundation



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# Chef's Note

## Fellow Rotarians and friends,

It is with a profound sense of pride and gratitude that I welcome you back from a particularly demanding and hectic election period that tested our patience and our resolve.

---

**I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to each of you for exercising your civic duties while prioritizing the safety of your families and neighbors.**

---

Navigating such a hectic season demands resilience, wisdom, and a steadfast commitment to our shared values. You've not only participated in this democratic process with grace but have also prioritized safety for yourselves, your families, and your communities. In a nation where elections have historically tested the fabric of unity, your vigilance and composure exemplify the Rotary spirit. And in a world where electing new leaders can spark turbulence and turmoil, your commitment to 'keeping the peace' locally has been a testament to the Rotary spirit.

Whether in our clubs or in our country, you kept your heads, kept each other safe, and kept the Rotary spirit alive. That's no small feat, and it deserves recognition.

This week is our last in January, which has been our Vocational Service Month, and what a month it's been.

This is what Rotary founder Paul Harris envisioned; not just a social club, but a circle of professionals using their unique talents for the greater good.

To every member who inspired someone, thank you! You've shown that excellence in your vocation, paired with compassion and ethics, becomes a powerful force for transformation.

Now, as we enter February, our focus shifts to Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution. This isn't a dramatic change of direction. It's a natural progression. After all, what good are our vocations if we're not building prosperous, stable, and just societies?

As we shall find out next week, peace isn't some lofty, abstract concept. In Rotary, it's practical work. It starts with dialogue. It thrives on understanding. Whether we're supporting Peace Fellows or implementing water projects that reduce resource-based conflicts, we're building a more harmonious world.

Look around Uganda and beyond. Tensions flare over resources, politics, and misunderstandings.

Historical divisions do linger in our neighborhoods. Our role as Rotarians is to be bridge-builders, not wall-builders. We need to be the calm voice in the middle of the storm.

So, here's my challenge to you this month: let's channel the same energy you brought to vocational service into peace-building. Let's think about how our current projects contribute to peace-making. How does our mental health project reduce future conflict? How does a maternal health initiative foster community trust?

Peace begins in homes - in our families, where open conversations resolve misunderstandings. It extends to our workplaces, our markets, our schools. As Rotarians, we're not just responders to conflict; we're architects of peace.

We've proven we can navigate challenging times with safety and poise. We've honored our vocations through meaningful service. Now let's ignite peace with the same passion. Together, we can create a ripple effect that transforms families, communities, and nations.

---

**May 'Service Above Self' and 'United for Good' guide us forward.**

---

**Rtn. Peter Nyanzi**  
*Bulletin Officer*



# More Than Job Training

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
By Rtn. Francesco Arezzo

## JANUARY 2026

In a garage outside Salinas, California, young people who are learning to restore classic cars are doing more than developing a skill; they are reclaiming their futures. This training program provides mentorship and, for some, a path away from gang involvement toward meaningful employment. Graduates leave with certifications, practical experience, and hope.

**This is what Rotary's Vocational Service Month celebrates each January; the power of bringing together people with unique skills to do good in the world. It reminds us that integrity isn't just about our actions matching our words. Integrity is in everything we do.**

The California automotive program has been such a success because it was built on integrity. Members of the Rotary Club of Carmel-by-the-Sea didn't assume they knew what the community needed. They listened. They learned there was a shortage of skilled mechanics as well as a large number of young people lacking job

training. They recognized that technical skills alone wouldn't be enough, so they partnered with Rancho Cielo, a nonprofit offering counselling and support services alongside vocational training.

**That is The Four-Way Test in action. Those four simple questions help us not judge others but guide us toward genuine, effective service.**

Consider our commitment to ending polio. For nearly 40 years, we have promised the world's children we will eliminate this disease. Despite obstacles, we persist, and today we are closer to defeating the virus. Keeping this promise is the very definition of integrity.

The same integrity must drive our vocational service. With 1.2 billion young people in emerging economies reaching working age in the next decade and only 420 million jobs projected, we face a critical gap. Communities long excluded from economic opportunities need our support. But support doesn't mean imposing our will. It means listening to local needs, building

partnerships, and designing projects that communities can sustain themselves.

You have knowledge that can transform lives. Whatever your profession, your expertise combined with Rotary's values creates lasting change. The question isn't whether you have something to offer, it's how you'll use your skills to serve.

This January, I encourage you to ask how your club can address vocational needs in your community. What skills do your members have that could change someone's life? How can your networks open doors for young people? What partnerships can create sustainable jobs?

**Let integrity guide you. Let The Four-Way Test light your path. And let the young people in California and the multitudes worldwide who need job skills remind you why vocational service matters.**

Let us celebrate putting our professional skills to work for humanity with integrity at the heart of everything we do.



---

**WEEKLY  
SCHEDULE**

MON 26TH - SUN 1ST  
FEB 2026

DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
**GEOFFREY MARTIN  
KITAKULE**

**JAN WEEK: XXIX**

**27** >> **DG's Official Visit to RC Singo Mityana**  
8:00am - Enrol Hotel Mityana  
**Meet & Greet with Interactors**  
12:00pm - Omuka Restaurant

---

**28** >> **DG's Official Visit to RC Nagaalama**  
7:00pm - Aarola Hotel - Nakifuma

---

**29** >> **DG's Official Visit to RC Bujuko Kireka**  
7:00pm - City View Gardens

---

**30** >> **DG's Official Visit to RC Nansana Metro**  
7:00pm - HolyFam Hotel

---

#Unite4good9213  
#RotaryEyamba

<https://rotaryd9213.org>

Rotary District 9213

# President's Message

RTN CHARLES OWEKMENO  
*Unite For Good President*  
2025-2026



**Dear Rotarians,  
Rotaractors, and Guests,**

I hope this message finds you well and that life is gradually returning to normal following the recent National Presidential, Parliamentary, and Local Council elections.

As you know, we were unfortunately unable to hold our scheduled club assembly on 13 January 2026 due to a widespread internet outage that disrupted our online arrangements.

**I am very grateful to everyone who joined last week's fellowship, whether in person or virtually.**

With the security situation continuing to

improve, we are pleased to resume physical fellowship this week.

**Our club assembly will take place on Tuesday, 27 January 2026, starting at 7:00 p.m.**

“

I kindly request all members who have not yet paid their 2025-2026 club dues to settle them as soon as possible.”

Although we did not have a dedicated speaker last week, please remember that January is Rotary Vocational Service Month.

This is an important time to reflect on how we can use our professional expertise and uphold the highest

ethical standards to serve our communities, in true alignment with Rotary's core principle of "Service Above Self."

On behalf of the Board, I would like to sincerely commend all our members

who are actively applying their vocational skills to empower and uplift those around them. Your efforts truly embody what Rotary stands for.

I also wish to remind everyone that we have now received the second invoice from Rotary International. I kindly request all members who have not yet paid their 2025-2026 club dues to settle them as soon as possible. This will allow our Treasurer to remit the district and international dues on time.

**I look forward to seeing many of you tomorrow for a warm fellowship and productive club assembly.**

**YOURS IN SERVICE  
ABOVE SELF,**



## TEAM TALK

## True accountability rooted in care, not control

BY AG FRANCIS LUBUULWA

There is a word that often makes people uneasy: accountability. For some, it brings to mind pressure, performance, or being called out. For others, it feels like something reserved for boardrooms and scorecards not fellowship and service. Yet, at its heart, accountability is far simpler, and far more human. It is about care. It is about choosing not to walk away from what we said mattered.

**In Rotary, accountability was never meant to feel like policing. It was meant to feel like partnership. As we move deeper into the Rotary year, this kind of accountability becomes especially important.**

Not because clubs are failing, but because routines are settling in. The excitement of July goal-setting has softened.

Committees are active, but sometimes quietly stretched. Attendance stabilises. This is the season where good intentions can slowly drift unless they are gently held in place. That is where compassionate accountability comes in.

For clubs, accountability does not require long

reports or uncomfortable interrogations. Often, it starts with something very simple: keeping goals visible. A short check-in during a meeting. A brief committee update that focuses on progress rather than problems. A question such as, "What support do we need to move this forward?" rather than, "Why hasn't this been done?"

In many Ugandan clubs, members juggle demanding careers, family responsibilities, and community obligations. Compassionate accountability recognises this reality while still

honouring commitments.

It allows clubs to ask:

- Are our timelines still realistic?
- Do committee chairs feel supported or overwhelmed?
- Are we adapting to changing circumstances, or silently struggling?

“  
Accountability starts with something very simple: keeping goals visible.”

These conversations, when handled well, actually reduce pressure. They create space for honesty, early course correction, and shared ownership.

**For club leaders, accountability is a delicate but powerful responsibility.**





It means balancing encouragement with clarity. It means being present enough to notice when momentum is slipping and brave enough to name it, kindly. It means checking in before frustration builds, and offering help before disappointment sets in.

“  
When  
accountability  
is rooted in  
care rather  
than control,  
it strengthens  
trust.”

when they feel supported, not scrutinised.

For individual Rotarians, accountability is often quiet and personal. It is showing up when you said you would. Making a call you promised to make.

Completing a task even a small one because others are counting on it. These small acts of consistency rarely attract applause, but they are the invisible threads that hold clubs together.

**In a culture like ours, where relationships matter deeply, reliability builds trust faster than grand gestures ever could.**

The festive season reminded us of the power of encouragement, grace, and shared humanity. Accountability works best when wrapped in that same spirit: one that says, “**We are in this together.**”

**When accountability is rooted in care rather than control, it strengthens trust. And when trust is strong, progress follows naturally.**

As Rotarians, let us continue to hold each other not with pressure but with purpose, clarity, and compassion. That is how we stay the course. And that is how Rotary unites to make a difference!

*The author is Assistant Governor, and Past President of Rotary Club of Kampala - Naalya*

Compassionate leaders ask hard questions gently:

- How are you managing this role?
- What is proving difficult?
- What would make this easier to deliver?

This approach does not lower standards. It strengthens them because people perform better

**Rotary**   
District 9213  
District 9214

**Rotaract**   
District 9213  
District 9214

 **TAIPEI**  
2026

**LAST  
CALL**  
TO THE  
**END OF  
EARLY BIRD**

# ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

TAIPEI, TAIWAN

**Registration fees:**

26th June - 15th Dec 2025: **475** (Early Registration)

16th Dec 2025 - 31st Mar 2026: **\$575**

1st Apr - 17th June 2026: **\$675**

Register and pay in full by 15th December 2025 to secure the lowest registration price at <https://convention.rotary.org>

#Unite4good9213 #OneActAtATime  
#RotaryEyamba  
 <https://rotaryd9213.org>

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Rotary District 9213       
<https://rotaryd9214.org> 



# Women in Rotary: Decade of Impact, A Future of Possibility

## BY EDITORIAL DESK

Come Saturday March 7, the Rotary family in District 9213, District 9214 and beyond will gather at Ndere Centre in Ntinda for something quite extraordinary - the 11th edition of Women in Rotary, reimagined as the Women United Concert. If you've attended before, you know this isn't just another event on the calendar. If you haven't, let me tell you why this matters.

Eleven years ago, the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya hosted a modest high-tea gathering at MacKinnon Suites.

**Just over 100 people, mostly women, came together under the theme "Women, the Greatest Fit" to honor Past District Governor Geeta Manek - the first female governor of what was then District 9200, spanning five countries.**

It was intimate, purposeful, and profoundly significant.

What followed was steady, intentional growth. The event moved to the Sheraton Kampala Hotel, then to Kampala Serena Hotel, with attendance climbing beyond



*PDG Anne Nkutu celebrates District 9214 Governor Christine Kyeyune Kawooya at last year's event.*

250 guests annually. We've hosted celebrities such as the Nabagereka of Buganda, former Speaker of Parliament Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, among others. We've recognized women who've contributed over USD 10,000 to The Rotary Foundation and female leaders driving transformational change in their communities.

But here's what really matters: the proceeds. Funds raised have built an ICT laboratory at a rural secondary school in Agago District, provided skills training for teenage mothers

in Kamuli, and strengthened initiatives in education, health, and economic empowerment. This event doesn't just celebrate women—it changes lives.

**“We're expecting over 1,000 participants – so far the largest gathering in the event's history.”**

### What We've Learned

Over a decade, Women in Rotary has taught us several things.

First, recognition fuels leadership. When we publicly honor women breaking barriers in Rotary, we inspire others to step forward. Second, what begins as celebration can become catalyst. That's why the event has attracted development



*The Nabagereka of Buganda, HRH Sylvia Nagginda, at a previous Women in Rotary Gala.*

proof that when we align celebration with purpose, real change becomes possible.

Tickets are available now. Ordinary tickets are UGX100,000, Rotaract tickets UGX 50,000, VIP tickets UGX 150,000, and VIP tables (eight persons) UGX 1,200,000. Exhibitor slots are UGX120,000. Purchase yours at [www.nextticket.com/events/unite\\_for\\_women\\_concert](http://www.nextticket.com/events/unite_for_women_concert).

Bring a colleague. Host a table. Sponsor an exhibition. Each choice strengthens our collective impact.

For eleven years, Women in Rotary has demonstrated what sustained purpose is capable of achieving. The question isn't whether this movement will continue because it will. The question is whether you'll be part of writing its next chapter.

**On 7 March, let's show up, not just to celebrate how far we've come, but to commit to the long journey ahead.**

**Contacts:** Rtn. Mary Namuwaya (078 473 5997), Rtn. Pross Lukwago (075 180 992), Rtn. Pamela Kawaddwa (077 479 4144), PAG Flavia Serugo (077 212 0208)

**UNITE FOR GOOD.  
CELEBRATE WOMEN.  
CREATE LASTING IMPACT.**

partners, corporate sponsors like DFCU Bank and Stanbic Bank, and aligned business networking with social good.

Perhaps most significantly, the initiative has evolved from a women-only gathering into a model of inclusive leadership. Today, men and women stand together, acknowledging that gender equity isn't a women's issue—it's a Rotary imperative.

**This year's edition represents a bold shift. Themed "Unite for Good to Create Lasting Impact," the Women United Concert is designed as a full-day mass participation event uniting Districts 9213 and 9214 and beyond.**

We're expecting over 1,000 participants – so far the largest gathering in the event's history.

The program includes live performances from renowned artists, mentorship sessions, panel discussions, exhibitions of women-led enterprises, and formal recognitions. District Governors Geoffrey Martin Kitakule (D9213) and Christine Kawooya (D9214) will preside, underscoring the

event's significance across our Rotary ecosystem.

But beyond the program lies the purpose: proceeds will support skilling and empowering vulnerable teenage mothers in Kamuli District and Acholi Quarters here in Kampala. We're not just celebrating progress; we're accelerating it.

### Why Your Participation Matters

Here's the simple truth: every ticket purchased, every table sponsored, every exhibition slot taken directly funds projects that transform communities. This isn't theoretical service; it's measurable impact.

For young Rotaractors, this is your chance to connect with leaders who've walked the path you're beginning. For seasoned Rotarians, it's an opportunity to demonstrate the values we profess and strengthen the pipelines of leadership we depend on. For partners and allies, it's



*Former Speaker of Parliament Rebecca Kadaga at a previous Women in Rotary event.*

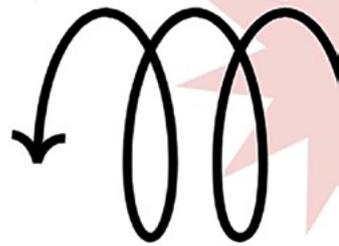


# WOMEN IN ROTARY

*Transforming Lives Together*

# SCAN

# Here



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NOW**

### **Information**

0784-735-997

0774-222-696

0774-794-144

0774-794-144

## **Rotary**

Kampala-Naalya





## Nurturing Future Leaders: RYLA set for Feb. 19-21

### BY EDITORIAL DESK

If you've been in Rotary for any length of time, you've likely heard about RYLA - the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.

But if you're new to our movement, or if it's been a while since you've really thought about what this program does, let me bring you up to speed on why RYLA deserves our attention and our investment.

**RYLA began in 1959 in Queensland, Australia, as a youth festival**

“They learn to communicate effectively, solve problems creatively, make ethical decisions.”

### honoring Princess Alexandra's visit.

What started as a one-off event quickly revealed something profound: when you bring young people together for intensive leadership training, something remarkable happens.

They don't just learn new skills; they get transformed. Rotary International recognized this potential and officially adopted RYLA in 1971.

Today, the program engages 50,000 young people annually across the

globe, making it one of our flagship youth initiatives. The beauty of RYLA lies in its simplicity.

**Through workshops, team-building exercises, community service projects, and interactions with mentors, young people aged 14 to 30 develop critical leadership skills.**

They learn to communicate effectively, solve problems creatively, make ethical decisions, and build networks that last a lifetime.

More importantly, they internalize Rotary's core value of Service Above Self, carrying it forward into their



RI President Stephanie Urchick attended a RYLA event when she visited Uganda last year.

careers and communities.

Here in Uganda, under the stewardship of Rotary District 9213, RYLA has proven particularly impactful. Our district encompasses nearly 5,000 Rotarians across 129 clubs, and we've successfully adapted the global RYLA curriculum to address our local realities.

Past participants have launched agricultural projects, started social enterprises, led Rotaract clubs, and even become Rotary Peace Fellows. These aren't just feel-good stories; they're proof that investing in youth leadership yields tangible returns for our communities.

Which brings me to an exciting opportunity on our doorstep. From February 19 to 21, District 9213 will host the Mega RYLA Bootcamp in Entebbe under the theme **"Innovate • Adapt • Impact."** These aren't just buzzwords. They capture exactly what today's leaders must master.

Our young people need the creativity to innovate solutions, the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances,

and the determination to create lasting impact in their communities.

This three-day intensive experience will bring together young professionals and students for expert-led sessions, interactive challenges, hands-on community projects, and networking opportunities that could shape their futures.

**In a country where youth face high unemployment, limited leadership opportunities, and persistent development challenges, programs like RYLA aren't optional; they're urgent.**

Yet, the reality is that many promising young Ugandans cannot afford the participation fee of UGX360,000. For a student from a rural village or an urban informal settlement, this represents a significant barrier. That's where Rotarians like you come in.

Here is straightforward and heartfelt call to action to every club in our district: sponsor at least one young person to attend RYLA

2026. Better yet, mobilize your club to sponsor a group. Consider this an investment not just in an individual, but in the future of Rotary itself.

Rotary, and indeed Uganda, thrive when we cultivate new voices, fresh ideas, and diverse perspectives. By opening RYLA's doors to more young people, especially young women, persons with disabilities, and those from underserved communities, we honor our commitment to 'Service Above Self' and ensure our relevance for decades to come.

For more information about how to register or sponsor a participant, contact the RYLA Chair, Rotarian Blessing on 0784 437870. Payments can be made to D9213 Rotary District Dues at Centenary Bank, Mapeera Branch, Account Number 3100083833.

**Let's sponsor as many young people as possible to make the tranquil Entebbe town buzz with the energy, passion, and promise of Uganda's next generation of changemakers.**

Together, through RYLA, we innovate, we adapt, and we impact.

“ Payments can be made to D9213 Rotary District Dues at Centenary Bank, Mapeera Branch.”





# THE MEGA RYLA BOOTCAMP D9213

**THEME: INNOVATE. ADAPT. IMPACT**

**RYLA IN THE  
CENTRAL REGION**

**19-21  
FEB**

**FEE: 360K**

Account Name: D9213 Rotary District Dues  
Bank: Centenary Bank, Mapeera Branch  
Account Number: 3100083833

**HOSTED IN  
ENTEBBE**

For inquiries:  
0784437870 (Blessing)  
Chair- RYLA D9213



**Scan me  
to Register**



# United for Good: Why Dar Partnership Matters

## BY EDITORIAL DESK

From February 26<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, the Tanzanian city of Dar es Salaam, will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inter-District Region 28 Leaders' Summit, a gathering that no Rotary leader can afford to miss.

Under the theme, "Unite for Good, Lead with Partnership," this summit, to be held at the magnificent SuperDome, brings together leaders from all seven districts of Region 28: Districts 9210, 9212, 9213, 9214, 9350, 9370, and 9400. What started as a modest inter-district collaboration has evolved into a regional powerhouse of ideas and action.

Why does this matter? Because the challenges we face - youth unemployment, public health gaps, climate vulnerability, governance deficits - don't respect district boundaries. They demand that we work together, pool our resources, and share our wisdom.

As Rtn Kaziro Kyambadde, District 9213 Executive Secretary, aptly put it in a recent email: "This year's gathering promises enhanced collaboration, insightful conversations, and practical leadership experiences aimed at strengthening our clubs, districts, and Region 28 as a whole."

“Dar es Salaam, will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> Inter-District Region 28 Leaders' Summit, a gathering that no Rotary leader can afford to miss.”

This summit is not just another conference. It's a working laboratory for real change, if the focus areas are anything to go by: Leadership Development, Innovation, Strategic Collaboration, Experience Sharing,

and Friendship Exchange. These translate directly into better clubs, stronger projects, and lasting impact.

**Whether you're grappling with membership retention, fundraising challenges, or scaling up community projects, you'll find peers who've walked that path and are ready to share what works and what doesn't.**

Hosted by District Governor Christine Kyeyune Kawooya of District 9214, with steadfast support from DG Wairimu Njage (D9212) and DG Geoffrey Martin Kitakule (D9213), the summit



District 9212 Governor Wairimu Njage (seated Middle) and member of her District Executive Committee

embodies the partnership it preaches. Chaired by IPDG Agnes Batengas, the organizing team has crafted a program designed for tangible outcomes, not empty speeches.

**The presence of RI Director Emmanuel Katongole and other distinguished guests will connect our regional efforts to Rotary's global vision.**

But more importantly, this summit creates something precious: space for intergenerational dialogue. Rotaractors will co-create alongside seasoned Rotarians. Past District Governors will mentor Presidents-Elect. Club leaders will learn from each other's successes and failures. This is where the future of Rotary in Africa takes shape.

For our Rotaract members especially, this is your moment. Don't wait to be invited to the table; claim your seat. Your energy, digital fluency, and fresh perspectives are exactly what this summit needs. The Rotary-Rotaract synergy we keep talking about? This

is where it becomes real.

Think about what Rotary has achieved in our region. We've been at the forefront of polio eradication, maternal health, clean water access, and peacebuilding. As we move toward a post-polio world, the lessons from that historic campaign must inform our next chapter.

This summit is where we chart that course together, according to Rtn Leonard Ithau, Summit Mobilisation Chair. "Together, we will build bridges of friendship and service that strengthen Rotary's impact across Africa and beyond," he says.

Now, here's what you need to do: Register now. The fee is USD 150 for Rotarians and USD 100 for Rotaractors. It's a modest investment for immeasurable returns in knowledge, networks, and inspiration.

Visit <https://rotary9212.org/page/3rd-inter-district-summit/> or complete the registration form



at <https://forms.gle/ocbXJ6N9RNdX5xLf9>. For further assistance with accommodation, please contact AG Liz Mbithi (+254 724 309 107) or Summit Secretary PP Susan Mukunga (+254 722 861 221).

**As D9213, we need to mobilize our clubs. Rally your Rotaractors. Prepare to descend on Dar es Salaam ready to learn, share, and commit to a shared blueprint for service.**

In this Rotary Year, we won't just talk about unity; we'll live it. We won't just discuss leadership; we'll embody it. This is our moment to ensure Rotary's light continues to shine brightly not only in our Region but also across Africa.





## Indian Rotarian Pledges \$50 Million to Rotary Foundation

BY EDITORIAL DESK

When Ravishankar Dakoju lost his father at age 10, his family had less than \$2 in the bank. His father, inspired by Gandhi's teachings, had given away their land to poor farmers. Young Ravi and his six siblings depended on neighbors for food.

"Society fed me when we had nothing," Dakoju recalls. That memory shaped everything that followed.

On January 13, Dakoju stood before Rotary leaders at the 2026 International Assembly and announced a gift that left the room speechless: \$50 million (about 4.5 billion Indian rupees) to The Rotary Foundation. His wife Paola, also a Rotarian, stood beside him.

**"Years ago, Paola and I shared a dream," he told the gathering. "When we had enough to live with dignity, we would return 85% of our wealth to society. My friends, that day has arrived."**

The announcement brought everyone to their feet in a standing ovation.

Dakoju's journey wasn't easy. Growing up in Bangalore, India, he struggled in school and even led a street gang. After many failures, he eventually



*Ravishankar Dakoju with wife Paola at the Rotary 2026 International Assembly recently.*

earned a university degree and studied business administration.

In 1987, he and childhood friend B.S.N. Hari started Hara Housing and Land Development. The company grew into one of Bangalore's largest real estate firms. But even as his business succeeded, Dakoju never forgot where he came from.

He joined the Rotary Club of Bangalore in

the 1980s, drawn to its message of service. He later became president of the Rotary Club of Bangalore Orchards and now serves as The Rotary Foundation's Arch Klumph Society ambassador for Asia—a position recognizing major contributors to the Foundation.

### **Not His First Gift**

This isn't Dakoju's first major donation. In 2018, he pledged \$14.7 million

to the Foundation, one of its largest individual gifts at that time. He has also funded projects across India, including a five-year initiative to plant 10 million trees in Karnataka state.

One project particularly close to his heart transformed the abandoned Kolar Gold Fields, where toxic cyanide dumps had caused high rates of cancer and respiratory disease. His team turned the area green again, improving health outcomes for surrounding communities.

The \$50 million will support Rotary's seven areas of focus: promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, saving mothers and children, supporting education, growing local economies, and protecting the environment.

Dakoju is especially interested in sustainable projects—initiatives that create lasting change rather

than temporary relief. The funds will support water projects that protect children from waterborne diseases, education programs, women's empowerment initiatives, and environmental restoration.

Part of the money will go into the Foundation's permanent endowment, ensuring Rotary can respond to future needs for generations to come.

“Whether contributing time, expertise, or resources, every Rotarian can make a difference.”

### A Philosophy of Giving

“What we keep may serve only our family, nothing beyond that,” Dakoju explained. “What we give The Rotary Foundation will serve humanity.”

**For Dakoju, giving isn't optional; it's a duty. This philosophy stems from his father's example and his own experience of receiving help when his family had nothing.**

“Rotary gave me new life, new purpose, new friendship, new meaning, and a global family,” he said. “When you give more than you think you can, life returns to you more than you can ever imagine.”

**Dakoju's gift represents one of the largest individual donations in the Foundation's 107-year history.**

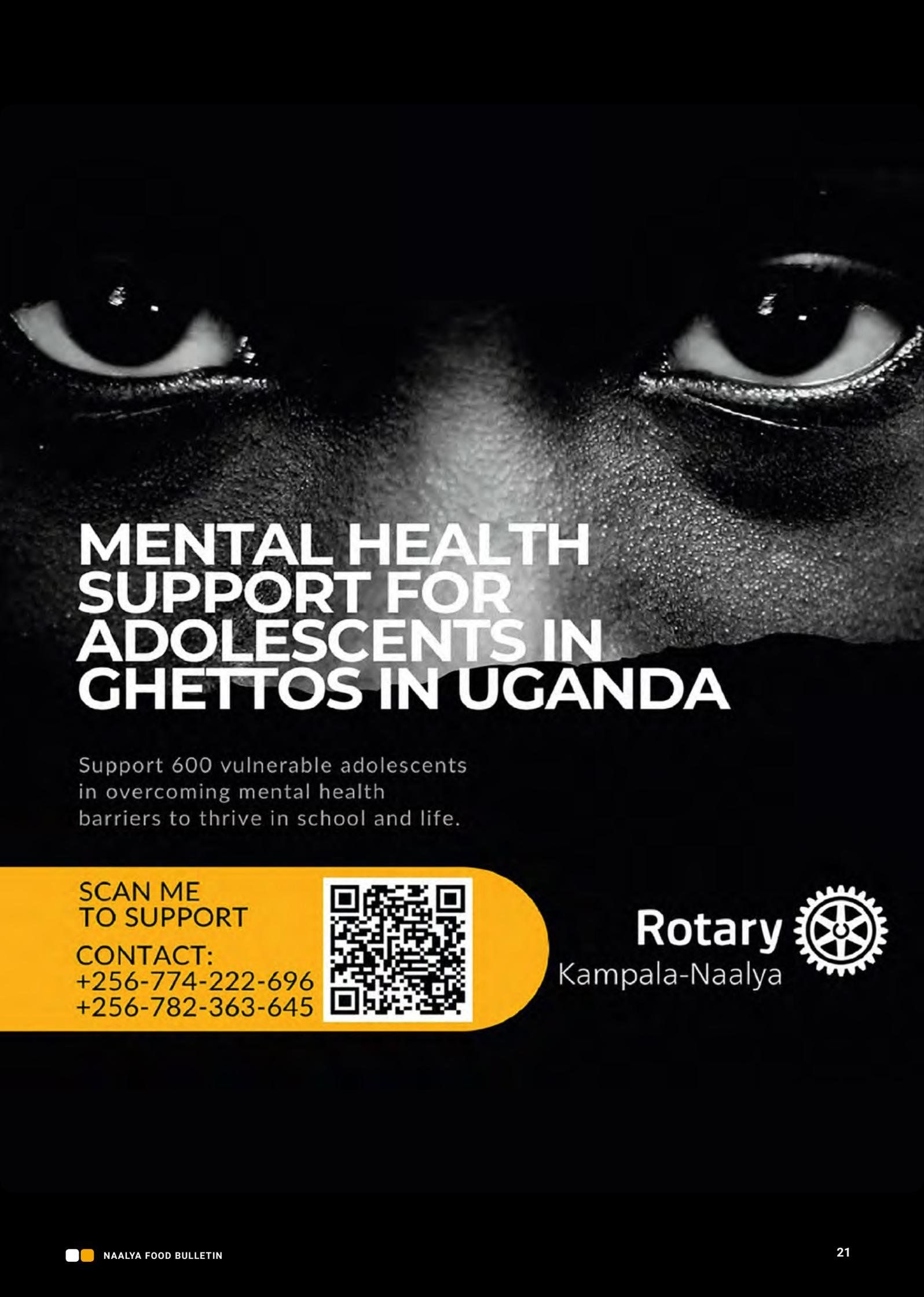
It also marks a shift in global philanthropy, with leaders from emerging economies stepping forward to address poverty and other challenges.

For Rotarians in Uganda and across Africa, his story carries a powerful message: service and generosity matter more than wealth. Whether contributing time, expertise, or resources, every Rotarian can make a difference.

As Dakoju himself proves, sometimes the people who have experienced the deepest need become the most generous givers.



Residents of Acholi Quarters wait for medical services at a health camp in October last year. The project is supported by the Rotary Foundation.



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ELDER'S EYE

# Vocational service all about transforming lives

BY RTN GODFREY OKELLO-OMODING

As we close this month's theme of vocational service, let's highlight the impactful changes realized through vocational service. Many Rotarians have carried out a number of undertakings that have transformed people's lives.

**Many of these often not highlighted for ethical reasons. When you help someone, you should not boast or talk about it. Yet, in Rotary's project undertakings, we are urged to show visibility.**

The show of visibility troubles some of the undertakers of good will. Asking questions such as, "why show off others' challenges that you have helped to address?" This month's theme also poses ethical and faith challenges in relation to visibility.

However, it's a call for each Rotarian to bring out his/her passion, skill, expertise, knowledge, and turn them into action.

Being passionate about doing something fuels vocational service. It has to be performed without a personal gain. This is contrary to the ancient Chinese's legalist doctrine on rewards as asserted in the philosopher Sun Tzu's book, 'The Art of War,' - that, "the desire of people for riches and honour does not generally cease before their coffins are closed."

Instead, in the case of a giver of vocational service, what drives them is a hope of making an impactful change on someone regardless of race, religion, tribe or gender.

Very often, it looks at looks at dignifying others; making a mark that transforms.

When one hears a call for vocational service and decides to respond, the response is with a sense of conviction. Such a sense bears in it a 'want' to make an impactful change on others. Satisfaction of conviction is a fulfillment derived from the results of actions.

“  
Being passionate about doing something fuels vocational service.”

**Rotarians are kept challenged to do more impactful interventions even at individual level and more so in today's world of individualism and inward-looking.**



There ought to be persons who can think and act differently. In the words of Past Rotary International President Will Manier, which he spoke in 1934 at Rotary International Convention in St. Louis: "Fundamentally, Rotary is a philosophy of life that undertakes to



reconcile the ever-present conflict between the desire to profit for one's self and the duty and consequent impulse to serve others.

**The philosophy is the philosophy of service – Service Above Self – and is based on the practical ethical principle that He Profits Most Who Serves Best.”**

**This gives a true essence and a gist of vocational service in Rotary.**

Whereas ethics and beliefs restrain a show of visibility, visibility should be manifested by the smiles and sweet sounds from beneficiaries of vocational service. In no doubt or pretense, these reveal impactful differences in people's life.

“  
...vocational service is a service that brings hope and sustainable livelihoods.”

Where there were no smiles, there comes joy and hope. Where it was filled with sounds of agony, it gets engulfed with sweet sounds like sounds of calm river. Truly, one action of vocational service can fundamentally turn one's life for the better. Certainly, vocational service is a service that brings hope and sustainable livelihoods.

Fellow, Rotarians, the theme of the month is a reminder as well as a call that whatever actions undertaken through vocational service touch someone. It makes an impact.

Together, making several and different impacts in different areas and for different people culminate into transformed lives. It leaves people touched and with better lives. Therefore, let us expand our actions wider

this month as enabled by our various passions, skills, occupations, knowledge and professions.

It is a responsibility of every Rotarian to make impactful difference in whatever he/she is engaged. Because Rotarians are equipped with those qualities which make them fit to cause an impact, be it in vocational services.

**A start may appear hard, but where there is a natured spirit to do good, great things can be done and achieved.**

Let us 'Unite for Good' by making a contribution wherever we are. Let us exhibit in our daily engagements vocational service since we are wired for it. It is this that continues to make an impact and make a difference in others. Let vocational service be part of our actions.

**Rotary**   
Club of Kampala Naalya

# CLUB ASSEMBLY

**TUES 27TH JANUARY 2026**

**7.00PM**

**NDERE CENTRE**

[www.RotaryKampalaNaalya.org](http://www.RotaryKampalaNaalya.org)



OUT TO LUNCH

Dear Mr. President Elect....

BY RTN DENIS JJUUKO

In January 2021, ahead of the presidential and parliamentary elections, the government signed a contract for the construction of the Kyaliwajjala-Kira-Matugga Road. The 23km road would decongest the old Kampala-Bombo Road and provide better connectivity to the people in the area. As Kampala expands, many people now live in these areas.

There was a lot of excitement. Land prices went up. Land owners and brokers made a killing. Those buying were excited. They would not have to use a dirty potholed road. People moved ahead to complete some of their properties that had been under construction.

As you read this, after yet another election on 15 January 2026, the road is still under construction and there is no sign that it will be complete soon. Five years and a 23km road is not yet complete. In a whole year, we couldn't complete 4.6km of a simple road project!

Today, you see heavy road construction equipment

busy moving earth. Tomorrow, you see nothing. Another day you see a box culvert under construction. A few days later, you see nobody on site. The next day, you find that the compacted earth has been swept away by storm water. All the work done now has to be repeated.

If you have a business in an area where there is road construction in Uganda, you have to keep pressing the crystals on the rosary or the misbaha to survive. The endless construction means disruptions as customers keep away. Sometimes contractors do deep excavations and leave them open for prolonged periods making it difficult for people to access buildings and sometimes even their homes.

With yet another season of presidential and parliamentary elections completed, infrastructural projects were always on the minds of both the candidates and the electorate. Almost all political candidates including those without any power to deliver promised them. The voters

demanded them.

There have been cases where candidates even brought in graders using their personal resources to show people that they care and therefore should vote them. That is how important roads and other infrastructural projects are to the country.

With infrastructure in place, those who work hard have a chance to achieve something meaningful. A well-maintained road reduces transport costs for businesses, for example. Functioning schools and hospitals enable citizens to access services critical for their wellbeing.

Anyway, now that we have a President Elect, your work is well cut out. Uganda can't develop when we can't complete a simple road project on time.

If we can't finish 4.6km of a road in a year, how much time shall we need to do something more sophisticated like building a civilian nuclear power plant?

“If a road is planned to be completed in two years, it should be two years...”



Mr President Elect, work on this malaise that is affecting citizens. If a road is planned to be completed in two years, it should be two years. This means that whoever sets the timeframe is not just mentioning just for the sake of it.

**There must be a justifiable reason why the project is 18 months or 60 months. The timeframe shouldn't be inserted on a whim.**

Feasibility studies can't be endless. Procurement can't be endless either. Contract approvals can't be endless. Mobilization of equipment and providing the right of way can't be endless either. Contractors can't work whenever they want. Government can't pay completed certificates whenever they wish.

Performance bonds should have a clause on time delivery. No cost extensions are not enough.

If we have no money to pay contractors, Mr. President Elect, let your people in government not sign a contract. Don't do launch events when you know detailed designs aren't complete or the right of way hasn't been secured. Let your ministers not do endless visits to pause for photos for projects they are not pushing to complete.

“ Let your ministers not do endless visits to pause for photos for projects they are not pushing to complete.”

And it isn't just infrastructural projects. Apart from political court cases such as election petitions, courts can't preside over cases indefinitely. Timeframes to complete cases including those at the tax tribunal must be provided. If prosecutors

have not completed investigations, why are they pressing charges?

Civil servants need to understand that they are in office to serve people. Tossing around people, working laissez-faire won't develop our country. Private sector ethos should be introduced in public offices.

**If you don't deliver, you are shown the exit door. Having a job for life with guaranteed pension whether you deliver or not shouldn't be applicable Mr. President Elect. Put performance contracts in place.**

See, Mr President Elect, it isn't so difficult to develop a country. A few things in place and people will be singing your name forever.

**The writer is a communication and visibility consultant. [djuuko@gmail.com](mailto:djuuko@gmail.com)**



**President Museveni launches the construction of Kira-Kasangati-Matugga Road**

Rotary  
Kampala-Naalya



# Happy Birthday!

**CP FRANCIS LAKOR**

Your passion and dedication laid the foundation for our success and we are forever grateful for your unwavering commitment to Rotary. Thank you for your wisdom, generosity and leadership.



RotaryClubOfKampalaNaalya



RotaryNaalya



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# Object of Rotary

*The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:*

## FIRST

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

## SECOND

High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

## THIRD

The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life;

## FOURTH

The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service

# Fun Facts

## Menu

**Y**ou know the drill, right? Every Tuesday, we gather for kimeeza, and someone inevitably spends fifteen minutes staring at the menu like it's the Da Vinci Code, only to order samosas. Again. But have you ever wondered where this anxiety-inducing slip of paper got its name?

Buckle up, because this story is more Rotary than you think.

Our tale begins in ancient Rome with the Latin word **minutus**, meaning "small" or "insignificant." The same root that gives us "minute" - as in that mythical unit of time when the club president promises to "keep it brief." We all know how that ends.

**The French, those linguistic magpies, snatched this word and transformed it into menu, meaning "detailed list" or "small summary."**

By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, fancy restaurants needed a way to tell aristocrats what seventeen courses of powdered-wig-era food they'd be suffering through. Thus, the "menu de

repas" was born: a tiny, detailed list of culinary adventures (and occasional betrayals).

Here's where it gets Rotary-relevant: Just like our Four-Way Test, the menu started as something small but became monumentally important. Think about it. We Rotarians are obsessed with detailed lists!

We have lists for committees, lists for fundraisers, lists for who's in 'good standing.' We've turned list-making into an art form. The French just figured out how to monetize theirs with overpriced toast.

The word sneaked into English around 1837 - coincidentally, just eight decades before Rotary was founded. Perfect timing, really, because how else would we navigate our fundraising dinners without this "small, detailed monument to humanity's eternal desire to shrink chaos into something we can pretend to control"?

Today's utility? Immense. The menu lets us say "I'll have the beef stew" with the confidence of someone



who definitely didn't just pick it because it was third from the top. It transforms our dining decisions from panicked screaming at waiters into civilized discourse.

**So next time you're agonizing over your lunch choice while your tablemates discuss service projects, remember: you're not just reading a list of food.**

You're engaging with centuries of linguistic evolution, French sophistication, and very Rotarian attention to minute details. Now if you will excuse me so I can complete my 'Chef's Menu' in time.

## Jokes of the day

1. "Parallel lines have so much in common. It's a shame they'll never meet."
2. "We've almost eradicated polio worldwide. Next up: getting everyone to actually read the weekly bulletin."

3. "Rotary clubs are like families. We argue, we drive each other crazy, but when someone needs help at 2 AM, we show up. Probably complaining, but we show up."



# KATOGO BUDDY GROUP IN CHARGE

## OUR MEMBERS



**Dr Lakor Francis**



**Enid Kabunga**



**Fathila Nanozi**



**Grace Mutungi**



**Herbert Oloka**



**Dr Theo Fokukora**



**Joachim Buwembo**



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