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elcome to the New Month of September! Worldwide, Rotary International has dedicated this month to one of its core areas of focus: Basic Education and Literacy.

Many of us still cherish fond memories of our years in primary school. We still remember our teachers and some of the friendships we developed during those tender years still stand strong today. For a moment, please try to just imagine what would have been if you didn't attend primary school. Yet, there are millions of children with virtually no future at all unless someone put's a pen and a book in their hands.

many generations." Therefor for Rotarians, the theme, Basic Education and Literacy isn't just an abstract concept; it's a call to action. We know that a child with a book is a child with a future, and a community with a literate population is a community poised for progress.

As Rotarian Okello-Omoding argues in his column in this

Bulletin, the returns from an investing in education are immense and diverse as it opens opportunities and contributes to reducing "economic distances."

Undoubtedly, literacy is the bedrock of development. It's the key that unlocks doors to economic opportunity, better health outcomes, and a more engaged society. Think about it: a parent who can read can help their child with homework,

Teaching someone

to read and write

is about giving

people more

power and making

our communities

stronger. It's

a long-term

investment that

will pay off for

a farmer who is literate can understand new agricultural techniques, and a citizen who can comprehend a ballot can make an informed choice. Without basic education, people are trapped in cycles of poverty and marginalization.

This is where Rotary comes in. Our clubs are not just for writing

cheques; we're rolling up our sleeves to take action. We're building schools and libraries in underserved areas, providing scholarships to vulnerable children, and donating scholastic materials.

how they can contribute to

this vital cause. It could be as simple as contributing to a literacy project in your district, or partnering with a local school to support vulnerable girls. It could also be as simple as writing a call-toaction article in the national newspaper or in this Bulletin.

Teaching someone to read and write is only one aspect of our work in literacy and basic education. It's about equipping them with the skills they need to think critically, follow their dreams, and navigate the complicated world of today. It's about giving people more power and making our communities stronger. It's a long-term investment that will pay off for many generations.

We need to reaffirm our dedication to this admirable cause.

Remember that every project we fund and every book we donate contributes to a world that is better educated and, eventually, more peaceful. Let's be the change agents who make sure that everyone has the chance to grow and learn, no matter what their circumstances.

Rtn. Peter Nyanzi **Bulletin Officer**

September is a challenge to every Rotarian to reflect on

Message from D9213 Governor, Geoffrey Martin Kitakule

BY DG GEOFFREY KITAKULE

JOURNEY TO FULL ACCESS TO BASIC EDUCATION, LITERACY STILL LONG

ducation is the cornerstone of development, a pathway through which individuals and communities rise above poverty and create sustainable futures.

In Uganda, significant progress has been made in expanding access to education, especially through initiatives such as Universal Primary Education (UPE).

Yet, challenges remain, making it clear that our continued support for basic education and literacy is both urgent and necessary. Statistics remind us of the task before us; 36% of Ugandans are still illiterate.

While enrollment rates are high, many children do not complete primary school. Some leave early due to poverty, child labor, lack of access to proper menstrual hygiene or early marriage. Others attend school but struggle with poor learning outcomes-too often sitting in overcrowded or no classrooms at all; lacking textbooks, pencils, exercise books or being taught by overstretched teachers. According to recent reports, literacy and numeracy levels among Ugandan learners remain below the desired standards, threatening the nation's aspirations for growth and progress.

Rotarians in Uganda have witnessed these realities firsthand. Across our communities, we meet children eager to learn but held back



by limited resources. We encounter adults who long to read, write, and count but have never been given the chance.

Literacy is more than the ability to decode or read words on a page-it is the ability to access opportunities, participate in civic life, and support families with dignity. Without it, cycles of poverty, unemployment, and inequality persist. This inequality is worsened when one talks about digital literacy in a world that is becoming so digital. A survey presented at the "Building the Future of Fair and Inclusive Digital Work in Uganda," workshop in 2024, highlighted Uganda's low ICT literacy and skills, showing that a lack of knowledge or digital skills prevents 75% of Ugandans from accessing the internet. An illiterate population is not an empowered population. This is why Rotary continues to place basic education and literacy at the heart of our service.

Ugandan Rotary clubs have built classrooms, equipped schools with books and learning materials, provided scholarships to vulnerable children, and organized adult literacy programs. These initiatives change lives: a book in a child's hands sparks imagination; a girl who stays in school delays early marriage; an adult who learns to read opens new opportunities for work and self-reliance.

Yet, our work must go further. We need to champion teacher training, strengthen partnerships with Government and Civil Society, and explore innovative solutions like digital learning to bridge the 'digital divide.' We must ensure that education is inclusive - reaching the rural child, the girl child, the refugee, and the adult learner alike.

As Rotarians, we are uniquely positioned to make a lasting difference. Through our networks, resources, and commitment to service, we can help build a Uganda where every child can read with understanding and every adult can write their own future. Supporting basic education and literacy is not charity; it is an investment in peace, progress, and prosperity for our nation. Let us therefore renew our commitment to this vital cause.

TOGETHER, 'UNITED FOR GOOD,' WE CAN LIGHT THE LAMP OF KNOWLEDGE IN EVERY CORNER OF UGANDA, ENSURING THAT NO CHILD OR ADULT IS LEFT BEHIND.

#ROTARYEYAMBA

President's Message

RTN CHARLES OWEKMENO Club President 2025-2026



Hello Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Guests,

Happy New Month to you all!

s we step into
September, I want to
take this opportunity
to extend my heartfelt
gratitude to each and every
one of you for your active
participation and dedication
over the past month. Your
commitment truly
embodies the spirit
of Rotary, and I am
proud of what we
have accomplished
together.

First and foremost, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who represented our club during the recent club exchange fellowship and the Cancer Run 2025. Your teamwork made these events successful and impactful. Special appreciation goes to the Kikomando Buddy Group for their exemplary leadership during August. Your efforts in organizing, mobilizing, and inspiring your fellow members

have not gone unnoticed. We look forward to witnessing the continued leadership and energy of the Katogo Buddy Group as they take the helm during September 2025.

August was indeed a remarkable month for our club. We hosted a successful District Governor's visit, which provided us with valuable insights and opportunities

for growth. Additionally, we were delighted to induct seven new members into our Rotary family. Their addition signifies a fresh wave of energy, ideas, and commitment

- an encouraging momentum that we must carry forward into the coming months.

As we embark on the Rotary month of September, our focus will be on Basic Education and Literacy. This theme underscores the critical role that Rotary plays in promoting access to quality education and fostering literacy among

communities worldwide. Education is the foundation upon which individuals and societies build sustainable futures. Therefore, this month, we will reflect on our past efforts, evaluate our current projects, and strategize on innovative ways to support basic education initiatives. Whether through scholarship programs, school infrastructure projects, or literacy campaigns, our collective efforts can make a tangible difference in the lives of many.

I wish you all a productive and fulfilling September. Let us continue to serve with commitment and a shared vision for positive change.

Wishing you a great month ahead.

Yours in service above self

YOURS IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF.



September

BASIC EDUCATION & LITEACY MONTH

Embrace new beginnings and make every moment count.

Let's make it an amazing month ahead!

www.RotaryKampalaNaalya.org



TEAM TALK

Recommit to building goodwill, friendship

BY AG FRANCIS LUBUULWA

very Rotarian is familiar with our prayer: "For friendship and fellowship, we thank Thee Lord."

These words remind us that beyond projects, awards, or targets, Rotary is first and foremost about people. We gather because we value friendship and fellowship — the human bonds that sustain our service.

This aligns directly with the First Object of Rotary: "The development of acquaintance

opportunity for service." From the very beginning, Paul Harris and the early Rotarians understood that real impact would never come from resources or skills alone, but from the power of relationships. When we nurture friendships. we unlock opportunities to serve and to grow.

And when we apply

the Four-Way Test, the third principle — "Will it build goodwill and better friendships?" — becomes a compass. It challenges us to ask, in every interaction: Am I strengthening or weakening the fabric of goodwill? Am I leaving behind stronger friendships than I found?

Why must we focus on building relationships especially in Uganda? Uganda is blessed with a vibrant Rotary family. As IPRI President Stephanie Urchick recently noted on her visit, "Uganda is an amazing Rotary country" where membership and partnerships have empowered us to deliver projects such as the Nsambya Cancer Centre and the innovative tuktuk ambulances. These were possible only through collaboration and Rotarians building trust with each other and with external partners. But how do we practically strengthen these relationships?

1. We must be intentional about acquaintance: Instead of rushing through meetings, pause and ask your fellow Rotarians about

their families, careers, or passions.

2. We must add value first: Relationships thrive not on what we take, but on what we give. Ask, "How can I help?" whether in a project, a personal milestone, or a career challenge. When Rotarians organize a fundraiser, don't just show up bring a friend, promote it on your social media pages,



or contribute ideas to improve it. This act of "showing up with value" plants a seed of trust that grows into long-lasting partnerships.

- 3. We must use service to deepen fellowship: Serving side-by-side builds stronger bonds than sitting in meetings. Encourage your club to blend service with fellowship: a project handover that ends in a shared meal, or a joint visit to a partner organization. When your club hands over a borehole to a community, don't just leave after the ribbon-cutting. Stay for a meal with the community or invite members of a neighboring club to join. Shared work followed by shared laughter creates bonds that ordinary meetings cannot.
- 4. We should think beyond the Club walls: The Object of Rotary urges us to see acquaintance as a door to service. Build bridges with NGOs, local businesses, schools, and Government Agencies. If your club partners with a local hospital, don't limit the interaction to

project days. Invite hospital staff to a fellowship evening. Soon, those acquaintances evolve into long-term allies and in times of need, they will readily support your initiatives because they see you as friends, not just project implementers.

5. We should leverage Rotary's global network: Sister club partnerships, Rotary Action Groups, and global grants offer pathways to friendships that stretch across borders. Imagine your club forming a sister-Club relationship with one in India or Singapore. This could mean joint literacy projects, cultural exchanges, or even mentorship for younger Rotarians. These connections are not just "programs" - they turn into lifelong friendships that enrich your Rotary journey and inspire bigger service dreams.

A Call to Action

As Rotarians in Uganda, let us recommit ourselves to being builders of goodwill and better friendships. At your next club meeting, take a moment to intentionally connect with

someone you don't know well. Reach out to a partner organization and ask how your club can support their cause. Encourage your club to explore sister-club partnerships or initiate cross-club fellowships.

Remember the words of our prayer, the call of the First Object, and the challenge of the Four-Way Test. These are not abstract ideals — they are practical reminders that our success depends on the relationships we build.

For in the end, Rotary's strength is not in numbers or finances, but in the friendships that we cultivate inside our clubs, across our District, and out into the world. When we strengthen those bonds, we truly live up to the promise of Rotary: creating lasting change in ourselves, in our communities, and across the globe.

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



Nigerian nominated for Rotary International Presidency



BY SYLVIA NANKYA

he announcement of Nigerian Olayinka Hakeem Babalola as the next Rotary International President is a landmark moment for the continent.

Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, a member of the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria, was been selected by the Board of Directors to become Rotary International's president for 2026-27. His term will begin on 1 July 2026.

Babalola will make history as the second African to head the global organization, after Jonathan Babatunde Majiyagbe (RIP) was the first African president of Rotary International, serving from 2003 to 2004.

Ugandan Samuel "Sam" Owori, would have been the second African in the position but he unfortunately passed away before taking office, which meant that the wait would last more than 20 years.

The Board, guided by the RI code of policies, conducted a special session to select the

organisation's leader after the resignation of RI Presidentelect SangKoo Yun, who decided to step back from his Rotary responsibilities and focus on his recovery from recent cancer treatment.

Babalola began his Rotary journey in 1988 as a Rotaractor. He joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi six years later. His leadership roles include serving as district governor (2011-12), RI vice president (2019-20), and member of the RI Board (2018-20).

Babalola and his wife, Preba, live in the city of Port Harcourt. He supports The Rotary Foundation with a named endowment and as an Arch Klumph Society member. A trustee of ShelterBox UK and director of the Safe Blood Africa project, he is a recipient of the Africa Centennial Heroes Award, the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, the RI Service Above Self Award, and the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service.

A statement released by Rotary Public Image Coordinator, Africa Zone 22, Region 27, Ibim Semenitari, said Babalola will officially assume office on July 1,



Rtn. Olayinka Hakeem Babalola - Next RI President

2026, to lead the global humanitarian organisation with over 1.4 million members across more than 200 countries and territories. Founded in 1905 in Chicago, RI brings together business, professional, and community leaders to provide community service, advance goodwill, and promote peace worldwide. Rotary clubs drive change at the grassroots level, while The Rotary Foundation funds large-scale, sustainable projects through contributions from members and partners.

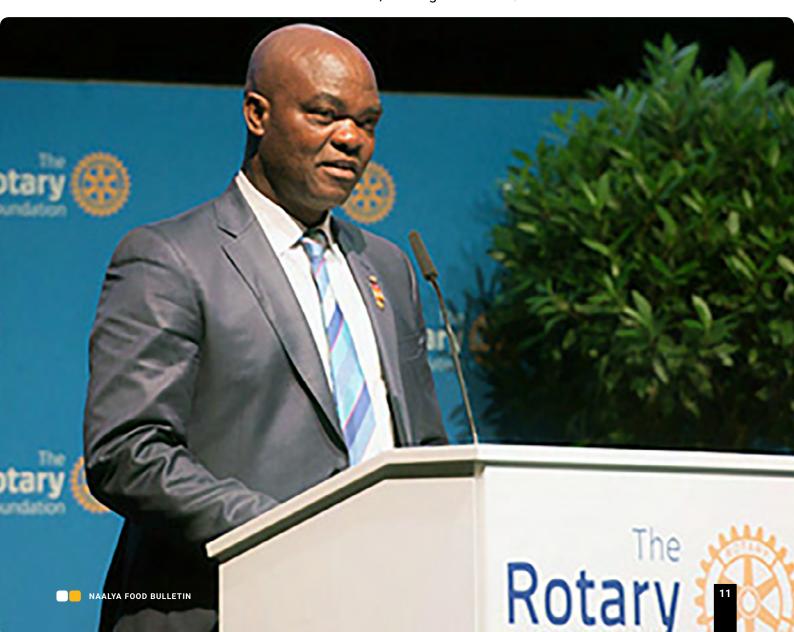
Meanwhile, Larry A.
Lunsford, a member
of the Rotary Club
of Kansas City- Plaza,
Missouri, USA, was
earlier nominated
to become Rotary
International's president
for 2027-28. He will

officially become the President-Nominee on 15 September if no other candidates challenge him.

Babalola at a glance:

- Babalola's Rotary journey began in 1988 as a Rotaractor, and he joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi six years later.
- District Governor (2011-12)
- RI Vice President (2019-20)
- RI Director and Member of the RI Board (2018-20)
- Actively involved in committees such as the End Polio Now Countdown to History Campaign Committee and the Nigeria National PolioPlus Committee, serving as

- adviser since 2016.
- A lawyer and engineer with over 25 years in the oil and gas industry, including senior roles at Shell PLC.
- Supports The Rotary Foundation as an Arch Klumph Society member and named endowment donor
- Serves as a trustee of ShelterBox UK
- Director of the Safe Blood Africa project.
- Has received multiple awards, including the Africa Centennial Heroes Award, RI Service Above Self Award, and the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World.
- One of Babalola's notable contributions to Uganda is his involvement in establishing the Rotary Peace Center at Makerere University in Kampala.



ROTARY CANCER RUN RAISES UGX3.5 BILLION

ozens of members of the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya have been some of the 60,000 runners who participated in the Cancer Run under the theme, 'Many Cancers, One Race,' which was held on August 31.

The Cancer Run is an annual event organized by the Rotary Cancer Program Uganda since 2016 to raise funds to tackle the cancer crisis in Uganda by building and facilitating the Rotary Cancer Center Nsambya Hospital in Kampala with the required equipment for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients.

The Rotary Cancer Run is one of Uganda's largest charity events, bringing together

Rotarians, Rotaractors as well as partners and friends of Rotary.

More than UGX3.5 billion was raised from the run, up from about UGX2.1 billion last year.

Rotary Uganda's campaign chair, Samuel Ngabwaki, explained that the required funds will go directly to installing linear accelerator machines—state-of-theart equipment critical for treating cancer patients, which can only be accommodated in specially constructed radiation bunkers.

Mr. Emmanuel Katongole, the CEO of Quality Chemicals,

was the chief runner at this year's event.

The annual event has over the last decade been pivotal for Uganda's fight against cancer, uniting individuals, organizations, and governments under a shared vision.

Immediate Rotary International Past President Stephanie Urchick launched the 2025 Rotary Cancer Run, becoming the first donor to the campaign by purchasing the cancer run kit at \$100 (about UGX370,000).

Centenary Bank has boosted several Rotary International projects spanning health, education and environmental preservation.





The bank has supported the run, 2 district conferences, medical camps, malaria programs, peace programs and treegrowing initiatives.

As a long-standing strategic partner of Rotary International, Centenary Bank has been a dedicated supporter of the Rotary Cancer Run since its inception, contributing to all 14 editions and donating over UGX3 billion Uganda towards the fight against cancer. Beyond the Cancer Run, the Bank has actively participated in over 150 health camps across the country in collaboration with Rotary.

The bank has also supported a wide range of impactful initiatives, including the Vijana Powa youth program, the Rotary Peace Centre, national blood donation drives, district conferences, malaria prevention efforts, cancer awareness parades, and early detection

media campaigns. Notably, the bank played a key role in the construction of the Rotary-Centenary Bank Cancer Centre and the installation of radiotherapy bunkers at Nsambya Hospital.

Being a platinum sponsor of the run, Centenary Bank, Uganda's biggest indigenous bank, contributed over UGX600 million towards this year's Cancer Run. This commitment is dedicated to ensuring that the bunkers project is completed so that cancer patients across the country can get the critical care they need to support the prevalence of cancer in Uganda.

Fabian Kasi, the Centenary Bank Managing Director, expressed gratitude to the participants, sponsors and partners who organised and turned up for the run. (You have given partners like Centenary Bank a chance at making a difference in the health sector, particularly in cancer. This year we were honoured to support and participate in the nationwide medical camps that Rotary organised prior to run, where attendees were taken through various important medical checks, blood donation drives and education on early cancer detection. At Centenary Bank, our commitment to social responsibility is a principle embedded in our DNA," he said.

He said the Rotary Cancer Run continues to be a powerful movement for collective action in achieving a future where cancer is no longer perceived as a death sentence but a fight that we are well-equipped to face. Centenary Bank remains committed to standing in solidarity with Rotary to build a stronger and healthier Uganda.







We are delighted to partner with Rotary in tackling some of Uganda's biggest health challenges.

This pledge reinforces our purpose of transforming lives and demonstrates the power of collaboration in creating a healthier future for our communities.

MD & CEO, DFCU Bank Rtn. Charles Mudiwa On Saturday, 30th August 2025, a special ceremony was held at DFCU Towers in Nakasero, Kampala, to mark two major milestones: the official launch of Uganda's first corporate-based Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of Kampala Blue Hearts, and the installation of its first President, Brenda Marjorie Namayalo. The event also featured the announcement of a landmark partnership between DFCU Bank and Rotary Uganda.

The Rotary Club of Kampala Blue Hearts is the first of its kind in Uganda, bringing together staff of DFCU Bank under the Rotary family. Unlike traditional Rotary clubs, this corporate model accommodates professionals with busy schedules, enabling them to participate in service while balancing work commitments. Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kampala, this initiative represents an innovative approach to widening participation in Rotary's mission of community service.

During the ceremony, DFCU Bank Managing Director and CEO, Mr. Charles Mudiwa, who is also a Rotarian, announced the Bank's pledge of UGX 1 billion to support Rotary-led health initiatives across Uganda. The funds, to be disbursed over three years, will focus on increasing access to medical services, addressing barriers such as cost, drug availability, expertise, and proximity. This commitment is part of DFCU's Corporate Social Responsibility and ESG agenda, aimed at transforming lives and businesses in Uganda.

Past District Governor Xavier Francis Sentamu, representing District Governor Geoffrey Martin Kitakule, also attended the ceremony and applauded the partnership, noting the significance of the collaboration in advancing healthcare and service in Uganda.

With the launch of the Rotary Club of Kampala Blue Hearts and DFCU Bank's billion-shilling pledge, Uganda has entered a new chapter of corporate-driven philanthropy. Rotary District 9213 leaders expressed optimism that this innovative partnership will expand access to quality healthcare and inspire more organisations to Unite For Good.





This collaboration with DFCU Bank and the launch of the Rotary Club of Kampala Blue Hearts are powerful testaments to our shared vision of creating a healthier Uganda and doing good in the world.

Past District Governor Rtn. Xavier Francis Sentamu

#RotaryEyamba



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BY PETER NYANZI

otary Districts 9213 and 9214 in Uganda have entered into a landmark partnership with Next Media Services to boost public visibility of Rotary's community service projects, inspire new membership, and highlight the organisation's nationwide impact.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signed this week, gives Rotary access to Next Media's powerful platforms, including NBS TV, Next Radio, and Afro Mobile.

It marks a historic first for Rotary in Uganda, aligning its humanitarian mission with one of the country's largest media houses.

The signing ceremony was graced by distinguished leaders, including Rtn Kin Kariisa, CEO of Next Media, RI Director Emmanuel Katongole, District Governor 9214 Rtn Christine Kyeyune Kawoya, and Past Governor Xavier

Sentamu of District 9213.

Kin Kariisa, Group CEO of Next Media and President of the Rotary Club of Kigo Seven Lakes Golf, said the

partnership was built on shared values of service and community transformation.

"Next Media is committed to serving humanity and making Uganda a better place," Kariisa said.

"Through this partnership, we will ensure that every impactful Rotary activity and project receives the visibility it deserves.

Platforms like Afro Mobile will now carry the stories of Rotary's incredible work to every corner of the country."

Rotary's footprint in Uganda is wide-ranging from health camps and scholarships to borehole drilling, youth mentoring, and peacebuilding initiatives.

Yet, many of these projects have often gone unnoticed

by the general public. Leaders from both District 9213 and District 9214 believe this partnership will change that.

"When people see the real impact of Rotary the clinics, the scholarships,

the boreholes, the mentoring they will want to be part of it," said Kawoya, the District 9214 Governor. "This partnership helps us tell our

story boldly and broadly."

This partnership represents more than just an MoU; it is a commitment to telling Rotary's story in ways that inspire, inform, and mobilize communities.

partnership represents more than just an MoU: it is a commitment to telling Rotary's story in ways that inspire, inform, and mobilize communities.



Through Next Media's extensive platforms, Rotary projects and initiatives will now reach wider audiences, showcasing the incredible work Rotarians and Rotaractors are doing in Uganda.

The collaboration aims to:

- Enhance visibility for Rotary projects and service activities.
- Promote community engagement by highlighting real stories of change.
- Inspire more people to join Rotary and Rotaract in creating lasting impact.

The collaboration is expected not only to raise Rotary's profile but also to deepen engagement and encourage more Ugandans to embrace its call to service above self. By moving Rotary's message into prime-time media space, the organisation hopes to shift perceptions — from Rotary as an exclusive club to Rotary as a grassroots force of change.

Rotary's mission is to create lasting change in communities, across the globe, and within ourselves. Next Media's mission is to inform and transform society through powerful storytelling. Together, this partnership ensures that stories of service will no longer remain hidden, but will inspire millions.

With this MOU, Rotary in Uganda signals a new era

of visibility and influence, positioning service projects at the centre of national conversation and giving its humanitarian work the audience it has long deserved.

With this new partnership, Rotary and Next Media are paving the way for greater collaboration between service and media. Rotarians, Rotaractors, and partners can look forward to increased coverage of humanitarian projects, stronger community outreach, and a more vibrant Rotary brand across Uganda.





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Rotary Kampala-Naalya





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FOR FOSTERING A POSITIVE EXPERIENCE FOR ITS MEMBERS
AND REFLECTING THE VALUES OF ROTARY

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STEPHANIE A. URCHICK President, Rotary International MARK DANIEL MALONEY Chair, The Rotary Foundation

TO ENJOY ROTARY, UNDERSTAND ITS CAUSE



RTN GODFREY OKELLO-**OMODING IS A PAST**

PRESIDENT OF THE ROTARY **CLUB OF** KAMPALA **NAALYA AND** A HIGHLY **EXPERIENCED** EXPERT IN **ECONOMIC** DEVELOPMENT. **HE SPOKE** TO PETER **NYANZI ABOUT** HIS ROTARY JOURNEY.

I became a member of RC Kampala-Naalya by fate of work in 2014, working for COWI Consult as the Deputy Country Representative,"

Q: How and when did you first hear of Rotary and later get inducted as a Rotarian?

first heard about Rotary in 2000 in Kibaale District where I was working as Chief Technical Advisor/ Programme Coordinator for Irish Aid. I was invited to attend a Rotary meeting by Dr. Kyamwana, then the District Medical Director of Kibaale District Local Government. Due to the nature of my work overseeing two district development programs (Kibaale and Kumi Districts), I could follow up with Rotary.

But on 25th March 2015, I was inducted into Rotary by Gen. Edward Katumba Wamala, the current Minister of Works and Transport, and who was the Army Commander at the time.

Q: How did you become a member of the RC Kampala-Naalya?

I became a member of RC Kampala-Naalya by fate of work. In 2014, working for COWI Consult as the Deputy Country Representative, I was assigned a very important consultancy assignment under the Embassy of Norway. It

was there that I met IPDG Anne Nkutu, who was representing her company, Nording Consulting Group.

We were paired up to execute this assignment based in the Acholi Sub-Region. We performed the assignment exceptional excellence, with Anne was our Team Leader.

During the course of executing this assignment, she would chip in a word or two about Rotary. She invited me to attend her Club fellowships/meetings and always reminding me of the same. Typical of the biblical woman who kept demanding justice from the judge! Being curious, gentle and polite, I didn't want to disappoint her. I responded to her calls. Through interactions with the rest of the Club members, who were mostly ladies, I found warmth and comfort. The rest is now history.

Q: How did you become Club President of RC Kampala-Naalya and what roles had you played in the Club prior to being elected President?

I had always been requested by some club members to be a Club President. In 2021, I finally accepted the nomination by Rtn. Denis Juuko via Zoom. This was during the COVID-19 lockdown. This time around, I felt ready because I had achieved what was holding me. Today, I reflect on it with pride. In the Rotary Year of 2023-2024, I assumed the role of the President.

Prior to that, I was given a role of the Director Service Projects as soon as I was inducted. I also held the roles of: Treasurer, the Director the Rotary Foundation, Monitoring and Evaluation, Buddy Chef, Women in Rotary Chair, Vice President.

Q: In what ways did the one year you served as President change you as a person and your overall leadership philosophy?

Serving as a President of a voluntary organization and moreover where people pay to become members, requires one to have certain attributes that you must exercise. Attributes such as humility. patience, tolerance, flexibility, and open to learning and accepting to compromise.

I came to appreciate that not whatever is taken to be, is what it is. There are things that do either surprise or shock you.

In the one year, I would talk about what I have appreciated rather than what has changed me and my overall leadership philosophy. Here are the ways: (a) having reliable people you can call on at any time; (b)

being a very good listener and who can sort the information you get; (c) allowing yourself to be approachable; (d) deploying talents appropriately; (e) keep doing what is good based on conviction and keeping your word; and (f) encouraging and supporting others to take roles.

Q: Personally, what were your most important takeaways from your tenure as Club President?

The Club has very resourceful members. Sometimes they need to be challenged. Secondly, when you give members opportunities to serve especially in their areas of skills and competence, the results can be amazing.

Q: If you're given an opportunity to speak to a group of new Club Presidents, what would you tell them?

As a new Club president, it is important to plan, plan, plan. Have a well-thoughtout plan in place. When I assumed the presidency, I had a plan for the whole year. Fellowships/meetings and speakers were known almost to the dot. Secondly, identify talents among your members. Do mix deployment of your club members with how long they have been in the club. Additionally, support your members to deliver. Give them 'gentle' calls in case of some delays. Remember, they are volunteers. Also, have genuine members to consult, try to know the limits of your members and yours too.

Q: In your view as a development expert, how can

the Government ensure that Civil Society Organisations like Rotary effectively complement its community development programmes?

The State exists and forms a government to ensure that all its citizens are served. The disadvantaged ones must be catered for too. From this, the government puts in place a framework within which its citizens should be served. Therefore, the civil society organizations like Rotary must acknowledge that there is a framework from which they deliver whatever they want legally. The issue of effectiveness ought to be assessed within the provided framework. If the framework has gaps or issues that harper achievement of the complementarity of delivery of community development programs, there should be a room for discussions and addressing them.

Q: As a person who has traversed this country over the years, what would you attribute the rampant poverty in rural Uganda to?

True, I have moved around nearly in all the districts of Uganda. I have had opportunities to work deep in the rural areas with households. There are different attributes you can advance for the rampant poverty in rural Uganda. Some of them are area-specific. For instance, in areas that experienced wars and conflicts, one can quickly attribute that to the resultant destruction of those areas' economic base. In other areas, there are several factors. The core issue is about economic opportunities. How are the

available economic opportunities tapped, used, enhanced and transformed? Are there internal and external inducers/catalysts? All in all, rampant poverty in rural Uganda is about lack of economic opportunities.

Q: What insights can you share with Rotary Clubs in regard to making a lasting impact in the communities they serve?

This is how I want to look at Rotary interventions regardless of clubs for the achievement of lasting impact in communities. First, Rotary comes as a complementor not as a substitute. Secondly, Rotary interventions are not holistic in any particular community.

In view of these two, it is important that Rotary in search for lasting impact in communities, must design or have interventions that contribute to the holistic interventions in a particular community. It may be important to work closely with other partners in the community such as local governments, churches, mosques.

Q: What advice would you give to our new Rotarians if they are to enjoy their Rotary journey?

Whenever I hear this phrase; "Enjoy Rotary or Rotary journey," I pause to ask myself; Is it Rotary or Rotary journey that I should enjoy or what do I do to advance the cause of Rotary that I should enjoy? Well, this is the simple advice I can give to our new Rotarians: Understand the cause of Rotary and the rest will follow."







BY RTN SOPHIE N. BAMWOYERAKI

otary International recognizes education and literacy as essential to individuals and societal well-being, helping address poverty, health, and community development.

September is designated as Basic Education and Literacy Month—one of Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus - emphasizing its commitment to expanding access to education, reducing gender disparity, and promoting adult literacy. Rotary clubs worldwide support this cause through projects such as resource provision, teacher training, and community-based programs in areas like early childhood education, special needs learning, libraries, language and after-school programs, and technology initiatives.

Rotary aims to empower communities by promoting basic education and literacy through various initiatives. These include addressing gender disparity in education, supporting adult literacy, donating educational resources, and offering teacher training. Rotary also organizes community literacy programs, collaborates with local stakeholders, provides financial aid to students, and improves school facilities to create better learning environments.

How Rotarians can get involved:

- Clubs can assess the specific educational needs in their communities to tailor their projects. Or, clubs can initiate new projects or expand existing ones to support basic education and literacy.
- Equally, clubs can collaborate with other organisations and stakeholders to strengthen the impact of projects.
- Clubs can share their projects and experiences with other Rotarians and the wider community. Several Rotary Clubs are actively involved in Basic Education and Literacy projects, focusing on supporting communities in various ways. These initiatives range from providing educational materials and resources to building schools and promoting reading programs.

Rotary Clubs have taken impactful steps to improve education and literacy in underserved communities.

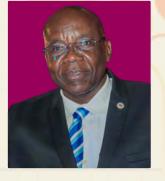
The Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya, for instance, tackled child labor and school dropouts by supporting education and vocational training through initiatives like the Bandera School Program in Kamuli, which aids children of farmers who can't afford school fees.

Similarly, RC Bweyogerere
Namboole constructed a
classroom block in Kiwale,
Mukono, and provided books
and a library at Don Bosco. The
Rotary Club of Kasangati has
expanded access to education by
building classrooms in Makukuba
village, Gonve, Kasaawo, and
Kyenjojo—targeting areas where
children previously walked long
distances to school. They have
also contributed to teacher
training in several schools.

The Rotary Club of
Kiwatule has supported
education by constructing
classroom blocks and
providing books at
Kabutemba, while the
Rotary Club of KololoKampala has enhanced
digital learning through
the provision of computers
to schools. Many other
Rotary clubs have adopted
schools across the country,
with numerous impactful
initiatives underway.

Kudos to all the Rotary clubs for their continued dedication to advancing education keep up the great work.

ROTARIAN SOPHIE BAMWOYERAKI IS A MEMBER OF THE DISTRICT SERVICE COMMITTEE



ELDER'S EYE

Literacy: The only way to create social equity

BY RTN GODFREY OKELLO-OMODING

"EDUCATION IS A
MEANS TO REDUCING
ECONOMIC DISTANCE,"
SAID ECONOMICS
PROF. BANUGIRE IN HIS
TEXTBOOK. WHAT IS THIS

'ECONOMIC
DISTANCE'?
WHERE DOES
IT BEGIN? HOW
IS EDUCATION
AN ECONOMIC
INVESTMENT
TO SOCIETY?

hese and more are questions to ponder during this month of September. The theme of the month, Basic Education and Literacy, is beckoning on us to have a

deeper reflection together. To begin with, is education for economic, social, political or cultural purposes? May be all, depending on where you may view it from.

Education as a means of reducing economic distance requires investments.
To reduce a distance presupposes that there must be a form of distance, there is a beginning, there are measurements (milestones), and there are requirements.

To contextualize this: the form is formal education; the beginning is basic education; measurements are acquisitions - levels, skills, competences, qualification (credentials/certificates) and experiences; and requirements are resources

 human, infrastructure, capital, land, institutions and policies.

So, this economic distance is what determines and influences access to education and resultant equity. These are compounded by many other things. It starts with the persons you want to access basic education and their wellbeing.

...a need for digital literacy is not only important but essential for today's living. Many people face challenges in this digital arena and era.

Remember that this person you want to access basic education is not living in vacuum or isolation. He/she is in the midst of society, and sometimes becomes a medium of manifestation of many societal problems. In other words, there are a lot of complex situations faced by this person.

Often, many of us imagine that what is 'basic' is really basic to everyone. It gets illusory, in some instances, when it is taken that a failure to access basic education is not absence of the form. There is multiplicity of things that hinder the targeted persons.

While declarations such as universal access to basic education have been made. access remains a challenge. Universal free education has been declared, emphasized, or being implementation but many children are still left out. Yet, it's a known fact that investment in basic education vields tremendous economic and social returns. Even political returns, when it comes to reducing spoilt ballot papers, and passing and distilling messages.

Through basic education, one can acquire some skills and literacy. For the theme, literacy is chosen to stand out clearly. This may be for the recognition of the importance of literacy and



a need for its emphasis. It's true that the mainstream educational path imparts literacy knowledge and skills. However, for today, there are different forms of literacy. For instance, a need for digital literacy is not only important but essential for today's living. Many people face challenges in this digital arena and era. The pace at which digitalization is taking and shaping the world keeps throwing many people off board.

For those who missed out from the formal basic education and literacy, there are opportunities in functional literacy - a kind of literacy where one is taught how to read and

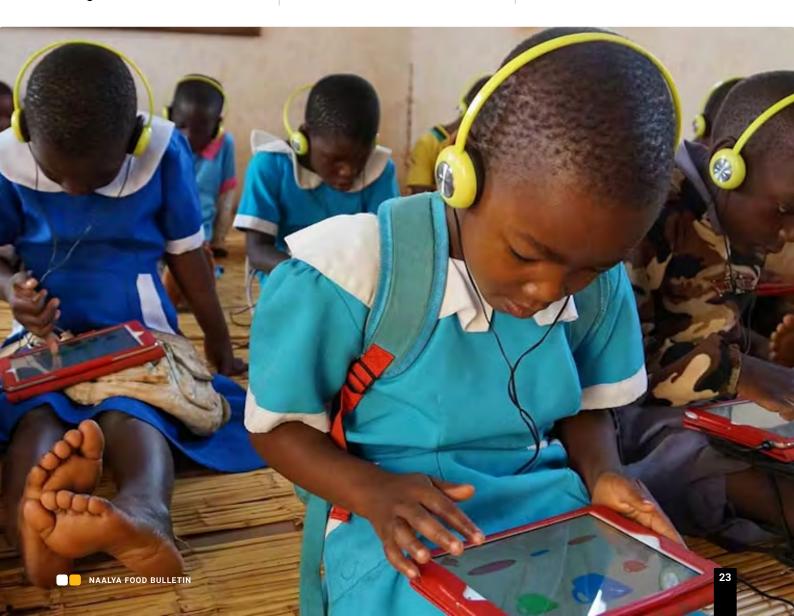
write based on what one is doing to earn a livelihood.

Unfortunately, the outreach and penetration of functional literacy is apparently very low. Yet,

it has immediate
value additions.
For example,
for a farmer, a
customized literacy
is designed and
targeted to the area
of his/her farming.
This enhances his/her
farming and livelihood.

Dear Rotarians, today, society is looking out for those who can create equity; equity that dignifies life and living; restores hope where hope is lost; shine light where darkness is dwelling; promises a future where there is none; gives empowerment where deprivation is the order; and that awakes potentials where they are not explored. One way to achieve such equity is through provision of basic education.

Investing in basic education and literacy is the means. The returns are immense and diverse. It opens opportunities to many and contributes to reducing economic distances. Once a person can have basic knowledge and skills to survive, the chances of society becoming stable and prosperous are high. It's here where people who are 'United for Good' are tested, revealed and revered.





f you are familiar with things in Masaka, you have probably heard

of Nabugabo Beach - a usually quiet beach on the shores of Lake Victoria. A place you would perhaps wish to sit, listen to water waves and reflect. I think one of the major Christian faiths in Uganda even owns a retreat center in the area.

tastiness of beverages in all colors and bottles.

...during my late teens, I wished one day he would wake up and say dress up and we go to Crested Towers, Little Flowers or wherever Afrigo was performing."

46

It seems the whole of Masaka, including those who migrated to Kampala to trade or work as professionals, descends on Nabugabo Beach to celebrate either the birth of Jesus Christ or His resurrection.

Uganda's leading musicians and whoever works in the entertainment value chain

always put their mind to these days. It is a party like no other for those who can manage the crowd.

So, one day, as a teenager, my guardians I thought that I needed to experience Nabugabo Beach. I don't remember if it was Boxing Day or Easter Monday but they decided that I should

not miss out. My guardians were strict people who never allowed us to go to such events. This time, they didn't care. I still don't know why but reflecting about it many years later, I think it was because of the main act — the legendary Afrigo Band.

We arrived at Nabugabo Beach around lunchtime and set our eyes on the stage. Two or so hours later, the MC announced that Afrigo Band was ready to perform. I fell in love with them. The guy on the keyboard, the guy on the drums, the guy on the saxophone. The guy who danced while wearing a waistcoat without a shirt. Great stuff that I remember to this day.

Over the years, I started following them a bit even though I wasn't as much a fan as my elder brother, Tete, whose Friday evenings

But Nabugabo Beach becomes totally different on two days a year — Boxing Day and Easter Monday. The quietness is replaced with the exuberance of youth, the calmness of adulthood, the rowdiness of revelers, the sound of Uganda's most powerful line arrays, and the



only meant Afrigo. And when I started living with him in Kampala during my late teens, I wished one day he would wake up and say dress up and we go to Crested Towers, Little Flowers or wherever Afrigo was performing, but he was never as generous as my Masaka guardians.

Anyway, the other Saturday I didn't need anyone's

invitation or permission to see them perform at their 50th Anniversary celebrations at the expansive Millennium Grounds in Lugogo. The heavy downpour wanted to spoil the evening but it found us "looking."

It is remarkable what Moses
Matovu and his team have done. And for me it isn't just their timeless songs. It is how they have kept it all together for all these years. We are on a continent where we are constantly reminded that businesses don't even celebrate their 5th birthday. And here we have Afrigo

Band - 50 years in the same business with the same name and perhaps ethos.

Although apart from Moses Matovu, all the other founders are long dead, the band still has people who have been part of it for more than 40 years. Drummist Herman Ssewanyana joined in 1983. Joanita Kawalya has been there since time immemorial. Becoming a

Member of Parliament didn't stop Rachel Magoola from singing 'Obangaina.'

Now, how do we evolve to keep people interested in what we are doing for 50 years? At many of Afrigo's shows, it isn't only old people enjoying

Endongo Ssemadongo.
Young people come to
enjoy songs on which their
parents danced "squeeze"
during their wedding
ceremonies. Young people
bring their dates to Afrigo's
shows. Young people hire
Afrigo for their weddings.
I think it is because they

have kept some standards and decided not to cut corners. I may be wrong but I have never heard that Afrigo announced a show and didn't turn up like it is sometimes with some musicians. You don't see their members in the press or on TikTok badmouthing their colleagues. Don't the members have any differences? I think they do, after all they are human even when they enjoy legendary status, but they keep their differences under wraps. They have come to understand that what unites them and keeps them together is far more important.

As we celebrate 50 years of Afrigo, we need to learn a lot from them. Patience; sticking to the basics; doing what we said we would do and ensuring that we can always pass on the baton to the next generation.

The writer is a communication and visibility consultant. Email: djjuuko@gmail.com







Happy Anniversary



President Charles & Brenda Owekmeno

May your love and happiness always be **ETERNAL**.



www.RotaryKampalaNaalya.org

Last week's fellowship













FAMILY MATTERS



BY **PASTOR RONNIE MUTEBI**

UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE ASKING FOR.

ark 10:35-38 (NLT): Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came over and spoke to him. "Teacher," they said, "we want you to do us a favor." "What is your request?" he asked. They replied, "When you sit on your glorious throne, we want to sit in places of honor next to you, one on your right and the other on your left." But Jesus said to them, "You don't know what you are asking! Are you able to drink from the bitter cup of suffering I am about to drink? Are you able to be baptized with the baptism of suffering I

must be baptized with?"

It's common for people
to always ask for more
because of what they see on
or with others. James and
John asked for something
big—they wanted to sit next
to their master
in glory. The
master answered
and said, "You
don't know what

Sometimes, like James and John, we admire great people, positions, offices, and we earnestly pray, "Lord, I want that too!" But what we don't always realize is that greatness has a price.

you're asking."

The glamour and glory comes with responsibility. Yet, the good news is that the Grace and mercy of God is more than sufficient to pay any price to lead into our divine assignments or path of life.

Their Master wasn't trying to discourage them; He was teaching them to understand the weight behind their request. It's not bad to desire great things, offices, positions or assignments but we

must be willing to grow, endure the groanings that connect us to serve, and to sacrifice when needed.

Before you ask and desire to become great, or to be assigned in powerful

admire the

result, be ready

for the process

too —it's in the

process that

you are shaped

and modeled

to fit into what

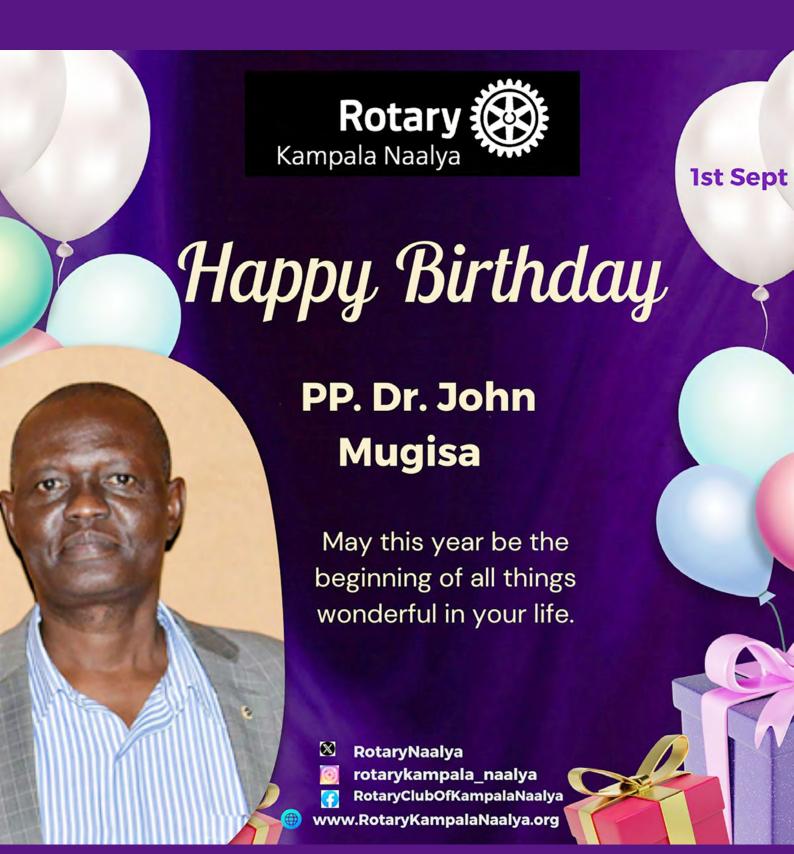
you desire."

positions, take a moment to ask, "Do I really understand what I'm asking for?" Are you ready for the growth, the process, the humility it takes to carry what you're desiring for?

God is faithful. He answers prayers. But He also loves you enough to prepare you for what

you're asking. So don't just admire the result, be ready for the process too —it's in the process that you are shaped and modeled to fit into what you desire.

Take Home: Before you desire to become great, or hold a powerful office or position, take a moment to ask, "Do I really understand what I'm asking for?" Are you ready for the growth, the process, the humility it takes to carry what you're desiring for?



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Live Life

BY PAMELA KAWADDWA

Life is crazy
And totally unpredictable...
It's going to push you over,
Kick you while you're down,
And hit you when you
try to get back up.
Not everything can beat you.
Things are going to
change you,
But you get to choose which
ones you let change you.

Listen to your heart,
Follow your dreams,
And let no one tell you
what you're capable of.
Push the limits,
Bend the rules,
And enjoy every minute of it.
Laugh at everything.
Live for as long as you can.
Love all,
But trust none.

Believe in yourself,
And never lose faith in others.
Settle for nothing but
only the best,
And give 110% in
everything you do.
Take risks,
Live on the edge,



Yet stay safe, And cherish every moment of it.

Life is a gift.
Appreciate all the rewards,
And jump on every
opportunity.
Not everyone's going
to love you,

But who needs them anyway? Challenge everything, And fight for what you believe in. Back down to nothing, But give in to the little things in life, After all, that is what makes you.

Forget the unnecessary, But remember everything. Bring it with you everywhere you go. Learn something new, And appreciate criticism. Hate nothing, But dislike what you want. Never forget where you came from, And always remember where you are going. Live life to its fullest, And have a reason for everything, Even if it's totally insane. Find your purpose in life, And live it!

Till again,

Thuy







DISTRICT GOVERNOR **GEOFFREY MARTIN KITAKULE**

SEPT - WEEK X



District Learning / DLT & Facilitators' Meeting

7:00a.m - Virtual



DG's Joint Official Visit to RC Arua City & RC Arua

6:00pm - Eco City at Le Tsuba Grande Hotel



Project Visit - Global Grant WASH Project Yumbe

11:30am - Yumbe East Cell

DG's Official Visit to RC Yumbe

2:00pm - Bayon Hotel



Mental Health Symposium

8:00am - Virtual

Butoolo Health Centre Fundraiser Metro Oldies -RC Kampala Metropolitan

4:00pm - Lazio Bar & Restaurant, Kololo

#Unite4good9213 #RotaryEyamba

https://rotaryd9213.org



Fun Facts

Cocktail

ocktail' — the magical elixir that turns awkward silences into karaoke nights and mild acquaintances into lifelong drinking buddies (or at least enthusiastic dance partners for one evening).

The origin of the word cocktail is, like most things involving alcohol, a little fuzzy and hotly debated mostly because everyone who might've remembered the real story was probably too tipsy to write it down. It's a tale as muddled and mysterious as the fifth drink you had last night. You'd think a word so universally loved would have a clear origin story, right? A single, definitive moment when some genius cried, "Eureka! I shall call this concoction a 'cocktail'!"

But no. The history of 'cocktail' is a delightful mess, a collection of half-baked theories and boozy folklore.

Theory #1: The Rooster's Tail. This is the most famous and, frankly, the most ridiculous theory. The story goes that in early American taverns, leftover alcohol from various barrels would be mixed together and sold cheaply. The resulting drink,

.....

with its motley mix of colors, was said to resemble a rooster's tail. Or perhaps a bar owner's rooster would steal the leftover dregs, and the bartender, in a moment of exasperated wit, named the drink after the culprit. It's a great story, but it has the ring of a tale told by a man who's had too many roosters' tails already.

The Horse's End. This is my favorite, and perhaps the most plausible, if you've ever seen a horse with a hangover. In the olden days, when a horse was sick or tired, a vet would administer a stimulating drink made of various concoctions. The horse, feeling the effects, would "cock" its tail and perk up. This mixture was called a 'cocktail.' The logic

here is that the word was then adopted for a human drink that had a similar stimulating effect.

So, how do we use this wonderfully vague word today? Well, the use is quite simple. A 'cocktail' is a mixed alcoholic

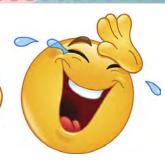
drink. It's not a beer, it's not a glass of wine, and it's certainly not a shot of whiskey. It's a beautiful, often painstakingly crafted, mixture of spirits, mixers, and garnishes. It's what you order when you want to feel a little fancy, a little daring, or just want to taste something other than straight booze.

So, the next time someone orders a cocktail, remember: he's not just getting a drink. He's not going to sip on centuries of confusion. And if your drink comes with a feather in it, don't panic. Just tip your hat to history—and maybe the chicken, too.



<u>Jokes</u>

- 1. "How do you make holy water? You boil the hell out of it."
- 2. "This spider has been in my house so long, it should pay half the wifi. As a web developer, it can afford to."







PAG MARION NATUKUNDA



DR RICHARD KALUNGI

Tuesday Clubs Joint Meeting

PARTNERSHIPS
WITH PURPOSE:
Designing and
Delivering Impactful
Service

TUESDAY

2ND SEPT 6:00PM

HOTEL AFRICANA

KATOGO BUDDY GROUP IN CHARGE



Dr Francis Lakor



Enid Kabuunga



Fathila Nanozi



Betty Doreen Namono



Herbert Oloka



Theopista Fokukora



Keno Lillian



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