

Naalya Food Bulletin

30th September, 2025

Rotary
Kampala - Naalya



UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Issue 13 | RY 2025-26

PDG Anne Nkutu -
2024 - 2025

RC KAMPALA - NAALYA



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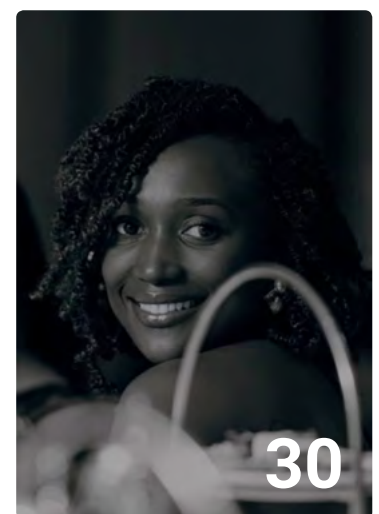
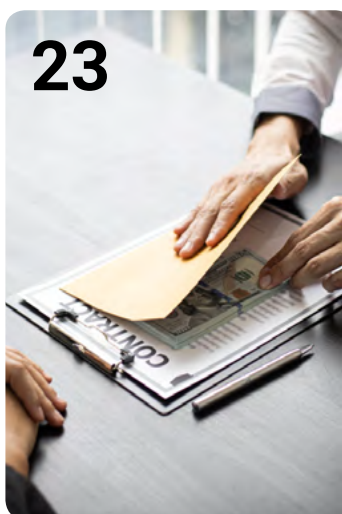
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Editor's Note



Dear Rotarians and friends,

As the school year makes a countdown to the end of year exams, we reflect on a September dedicated to one of Rotary's most foundational causes: Basic Education and Literacy.

▶ **Throughout the month and indeed the entire year, Rotarians have risen to the challenge, demonstrating an unwavering commitment to unlocking human potential through the power of reading and learning.**

We've distributed scholastic materials, built classrooms, sponsored scholarships, trained teachers, and mentored students. We've recognized that literacy is not a passive skill; it's the ultimate investment, providing returns not just for the individual, but for the entire community.

Yet, our work doesn't stop when the final examinations are written. True empowerment is a continuous cycle, and this October, we shift our focus to the natural extension of a well-educated populace: Community Economic Development.

When a person can read, they can prepare a CV and sit for an interview for a job. When they understand basic arithmetic, they can manage a household budget or run a small business. Education plants the seed; economic empowerment helps it

grow into a self-sustaining forest.

In communities grappling with poverty, Rotarians are the agents of change who understand that charity alone is not a sustainable solution. We must instead equip people with the tools to become architects of their own prosperity; their own financial future. This month, we're challenged to look beyond simple donations and embrace projects that foster true economic resilience.

Community Economic Development is about more than just microloans and handouts, though they are a vital component. It's about vocational training that matches local job market needs. It's about teaching financial literacy and business management skills. As we shall learn in a new column starting this October, it's about supporting women-owned small businesses, mentoring young entrepreneurs, and building infrastructure that facilitates commerce and provides sustainable livelihoods.

The beauty of this focus area is its tangible, lasting impact. When a family is lifted out of poverty, they become more stable, contributing to lower crime rates, better health outcomes, and a stronger tax base—which, in turn, allows

for better schools and more literacy programs. It's a cycle.

This October, let the spirit of empowerment guide our service by forming partnerships to identify skills gaps and offer solutions to problems in our desperate communities.

As a Club, we're getting set to descend on Banda for our mental health camp targeting the ghetto community in Acholi Quarters.

We also have a community project that is targeting teenage mothers in Kamuli District, in eastern Uganda.

“
Rotary is not just an organization of good intentions; it is a global network of practical problem-solvers.”

As 'people of action,' these are all opportunities to take action. Rotary is not just an organization of good intentions; it is a global network of practical problem-solvers.

▶ **We started by teaching the world to read; now, let's show the world how to use that knowledge to build a better life. The future of a stable, prosperous world is in your hands. Let's get to work.**

Rtn. Peter Nyanzi
Bulletin Officer

Message from Rotary International President

BY FRANCESCO AREZZO
PRESIDENT, ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL

PEACE THROUGH EDUCATION

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

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

This year, our message is 'Unite for Good.' "Unite" speaks to the strength we find in each other. When



we unite our talents and resources — not only among our Clubs but across partners, organizations, and communities — we expand our reach. And when we do so consistently over time, we create lasting change. Rotary service cannot be measured only in annual goals.

Our work in education must extend beyond a single year. Literacy projects take time to take root, grow, and bear fruit. Now is the time to think boldly and creatively. New types of clubs can help us engage educators, students, and advocates in new ways.

Let us use this month to welcome new members with

a passion for education and empower existing ones to lead service projects that reflect local needs. Whether you're building libraries, distributing textbooks, or mentoring students, your actions matter. Education is also peacebuilding. Every scholarship we provide, every early childhood program we support, every adult literacy class we fund is an act of peace. And Rotary has been building peace in this way for more than a century. Let us not forget that the fight for literacy is not only about access, it's about equity. It is about ensuring that every learner, regardless of background,

has the opportunity to reach their full potential. And it is about standing together — across borders, languages, and generations — to say that education is a right, not a privilege.

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

Together, we can change lives, starting with the power of education.

TOGETHER, WE UNITE FOR GOOD!

Message from D9213 Governor, Geoffrey Martin Kitakule

BY DG GEOFFREY KITAKULE

JOURNEY TO FULL ACCESS TO BASIC EDUCATION, LITERACY STILL LONG

Education 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
Unite For Good President
2025-2026



Dear Family and Guests,

Welcome to another Rotary week.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all of you for your continued support for our Club. Special thanks to the Board for the insightful and productive discussions during our meeting last Friday.

As we close this month, let us celebrate the Katogo Buddy Group for their outstanding leadership and contributions. They brought us excellent guest speakers,

including last week's visit from Prof. John Francis Mugisha, the Vice Chancellor of Bishop Stuart University. Moving forward, we look

forward to building on this success in October, led by the Rolex Buddy Group.

In this regard, I warmly invite all Club members to attend in large numbers our first quarter Club assembly on Tuesday, 30th September 2025. This is a vital opportunity for us to reflect on our achievements

and identify areas for improvement as a team and Rotary family.

“
This is a vital opportunity for us to reflect on our achievements and identify areas for improvement as a team and Rotary family.”



▶ **Wishing you and your loved ones a fulfilling and successful October, in which we focus on community economic empowerment.**

YOURS IN SERVICE
ABOVE SELF.



TEAM TALK

Community empowerment is our role as Rotarians

BY AG FRANCIS LUBUULWA

October starts tomorrow, right? During this month, Rotary International sets aside time to reflect on Economic and Community Development (ECD), one of our seven Areas of Focus. Yet, for many Rotarians, this theme can feel broad and abstract. As Rotarians, we must reflect on what the theme means. And what does it look like in Uganda today?

Broadly speaking, economic development is about people having the chance to earn a living. It's about jobs, entrepreneurship, access to finance, and the dignity of work. Without this, poverty becomes a trap passed from one generation to the next. On the other hand, community development is about the systems and relationships that allow people to thrive. For example, schools that teach useful skills, health centres that keep families strong, cooperatives that help farmers earn more from their harvests, and networks that give the vulnerable a safety net. This is what economic empowerment encompasses overall.

For Rotary, economic and community development cannot be separated. A young person who learns tailoring has achieved

economic development; but when their entire village has access to training, markets, and savings groups, the community is transformed.

According to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), approximately 80% of Uganda's workforce is in the informal sector working without contracts, protections, or opportunities to grow. The World Bank reports that one in three young Ugandans is neither in employment, education, nor training. Uganda's youth population is one of the fastest growing in the world, yet too many are underemployed or idle. These are not just numbers.

▶ They are the boda riders in Naalya who long to expand into transport logistics but lack capital. They are the young graduates in Gulu working in small kiosks far below their potential. They are the farmers in Mityana who produce food but have no stable market.



Community development is about the systems and relationships that allow people to thrive.”

Rotary's October theme matters here and now because it speaks directly to the deepest challenges of our society. While Rotarians in Uganda have not been idle and mute about these realities, we need to plant more seeds of transformation as our founders envisioned.



► **Paul Harris and Rotary's early leaders saw the dignity of honest work as central to Rotary. The idea was simple: through fellowship and ethical business, communities could flourish. That same vision lives today in our Four-Way Test: "Is it fair to all concerned?"**

When we procure uniforms for a Rotary project, is it fair to all concerned if we bypass a small Ugandan tailor and import them instead? When we host

a Rotary event, could we make a deliberate choice to buy food, crafts, or décor from local entrepreneurs in our communities? Rotary is not about handouts. It is about empowerment. And empowerment is about making choices that build people up.



Let's always ask ourselves, "In my own Rotary life, am I building dependency or am I building dignity?"

As we begin this series about the October theme for economic and community development, let us reflect deeply:

- Can we offer mentorship or internship opportunities to the many job-hungry

youth around us?

- Could we focus more projects on equipping as opposed to giving handouts, so that beneficiaries walk away with tools, skills, or markets?

Economic and community development is not someone else's work. It is our work as Rotarians with businesses, skills, and networks — to create pathways of dignity, opportunity, and hope. Let's always ask ourselves, "In my own Rotary life, am I building dependency or am I building dignity?"

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



District 9213 scoops top Rotary in Africa accolades

BY PETER NYANZI

Uganda's District 9213 scooped top spot in The Rotary Fund (TRF) awards at the recently concluded Rotary Institute gala in Brussels, Belgium. During the Rotary Year 2024-2025, D9213 contributed USD900,000 to The Rotary Foundation and was recognized as the best-performing District in Zone 22, which comprises all of Africa.

"The Rotary Foundation would like to congratulate District 9213 for being the top contributing district in Zone 22 for the year

2024-2025," wrote Espen Malmberg, the manager for Philanthropy and Grants at TRF, on the certificate.

► **D9213 was also recognized as the top contributor to the Annual Fund and second highest contributor to Polio Plus Fund. D9213 also took second slot in net membership growth in Zone 22; and third slot in membership growth globally.**

IPDG Anne Nkutu, who led D9213 in the 2024-2025 Rotary Year, attributed this success

to the collective efforts of her 'Magic team,' including Presidents, Assistant Governors, the Secretariat, District and Club Officials in charge of the Rotary Foundation and Membership Development dockets. She was particularly thankful to all the individual donors and clubs for their generosity.

Rotary District 9213 had an exceptionally strong performance during the 2024-2025 Rotary Year, themed 'The Magic of Rotary.' Nkutu and her 'Magic Team,' focused on achieving the Rotary International Action Plan goals of increasing the impact of Rotary,



DG Nkutu accompanies RI President Stephanie Urchick during her visit to the Katikiro of Buganda Charles Peter Mayiga

expanding its reach, enhancing participant engagement, and improving its ability to adapt.

“Our contributions to TRF increase our impact and will be translated into project grants that will enable us to increase communities’ access to education, health and clean water; save more mothers and children, grow local economies, promote peace and conserve our environment. The more we contribute to the Rotary Foundation, the better for the communities we serve,” Nkutu said.

In 2024-2025, the District sought to increase the number of contributors to the Foundation by making giving easier through the Jjengo App. “By encouraging small giving, we were able to raise the % of Rotarians contributing to 50% of our membership, Nkutu added.

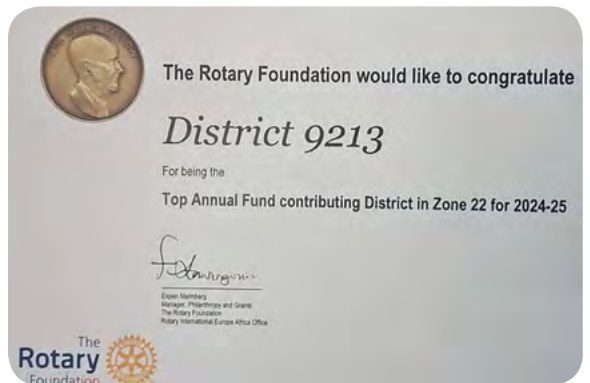
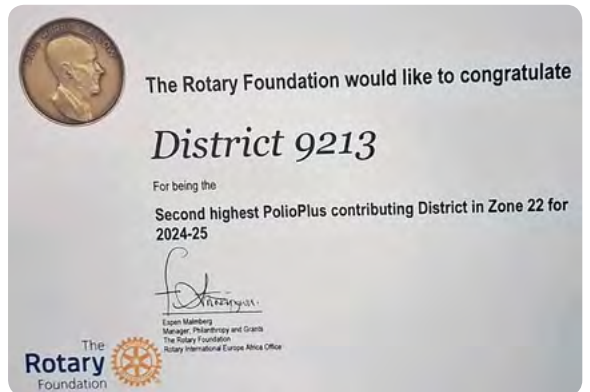
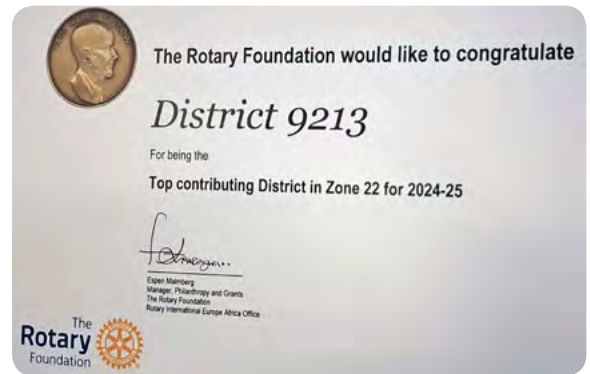
For the first time ever, D9213 also achieved 100% giving by all Clubs. “I believe that our District’s giving to the Rotary Foundation can only go higher if we

encourage all our members to contribute something, however small. Every coin matters,” she said.

Rotarian Nkutu was only the second woman to be elected Governor of District 9213. Her installation drew a parallel to the Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, at the time also being the second woman to hold that position in 120 years.

Interestingly, Nkutu’s home club; the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya, led by ‘Magical’ President Sylvia Jjagwe Owachi, was also recently awarded the Excellence Award for being one the best-performing Clubs in the District during the same year.

Comprising 17 Districts, Zone 22 is one of Rotary International’s 34 Zones.

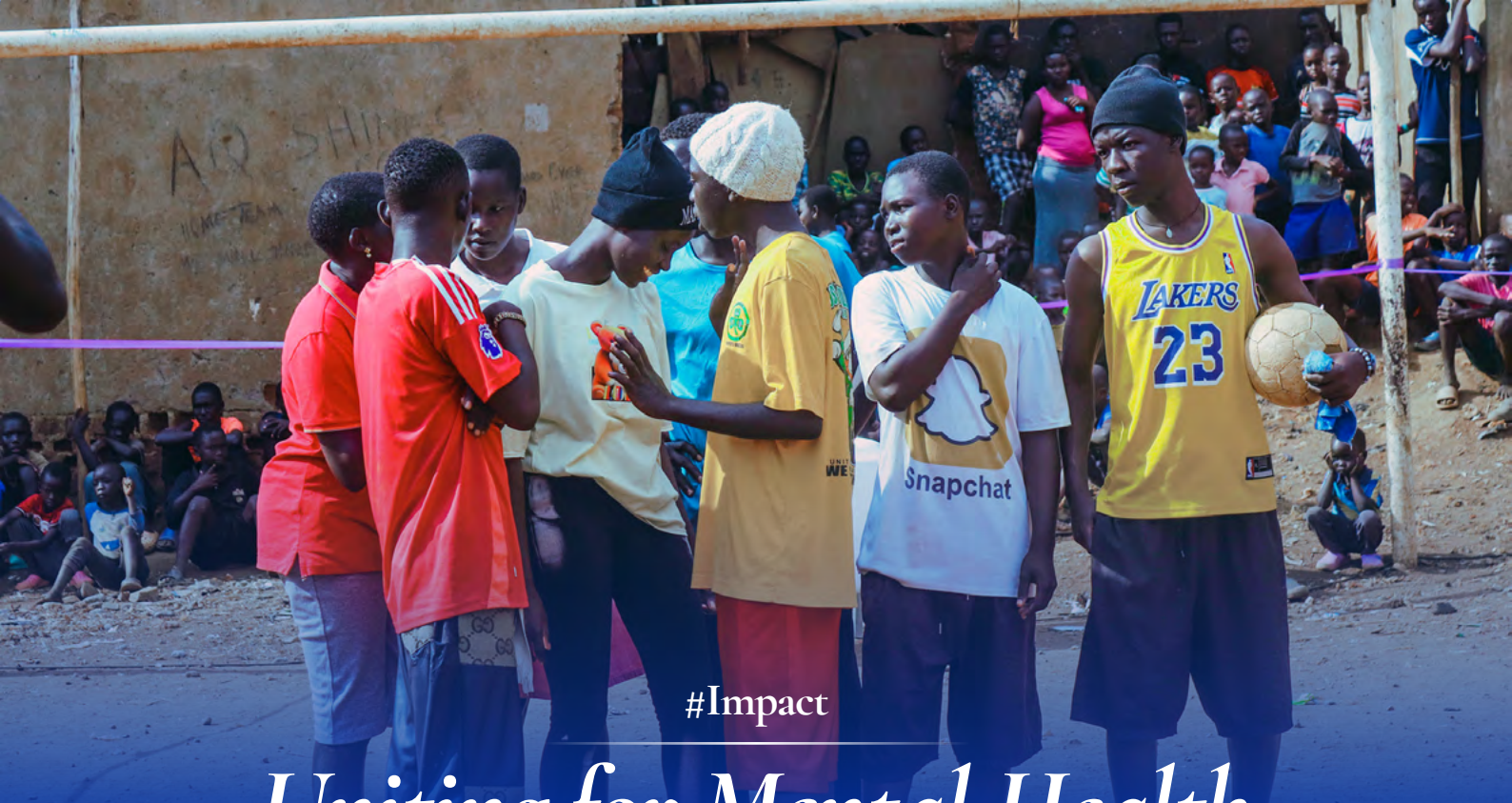


Uganda’s Emmanuel Katongole has been nominated as the next Rotary International Director for Zone 22, representing the continent on the RI Board for the period 2026-2028.

► **Thanks to the giving of the 2024-2025 Rotary Year, the District, currently led by Governor Geoffrey M. Kitakule, is now implementing a number of high-impact community projects through more than 280 Clubs and more than 8,600 members.**



IPDG Nkutu presides over the launch of ‘25x25 TRF Relay,’ a tool aimed at encouraging all Rotarians to contribute to TRF



#Impact

Uniting for Mental Health and Wellness

RC NAALYA, BUKOTO SET FOR BANDA HEALTH CAMP TO COMMEMORATE WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

Every year on 10th October, the world comes together to talk about something many people still whisper about in silence – mental health.

It is a day of reflection, a day to remind ourselves that

mental health is just as important as physical health.

This year, the call is even louder:

Access to Services – Mental Health in Catastrophes and Emergencies.

Because no matter what we are going through, everyone deserves good mental health.

But in the bustling heart of Kampala, in the narrow, crowded lanes of Acholi Quarters, the weight

of life is heavy. Here, young people wrestle not only with poverty and uncertainty, but also with invisible battles – anxiety, depression, and trauma. For too long, these struggles have gone unseen.

Two Rotary Clubs, One Shared Mission

This year, two Rotary Clubs – Kampala Naalya and Bukoto – decided to write a different story. They asked themselves: ***What if we brought hope right where it is needed most? What if we stood shoulder to shoulder with young people in the ghettos and said, “You are not alone”?***

And so, on 11th October 2025, they will gather in Banda B1, Acholi Quarters, together with Butabika National Referral

Mental Health Hospital, Mulago School of Dentistry, Rela Dental, Reproductive Health Uganda, and the District Medical Office in Nakawa. They will bring doctors, counsellors, dentists, lawyers, and Rotarians, all united by one cause: to shine a light on mental health.

A Day of Healing and Unity

The camp will feel like a festival of wellness. There will be tents dedicated to offering free health checks, counselling corners where adolescents can talk in confidence, and mentorship circles where young people can share stories and find guidance.

There will be dental check-ups, family planning services, HIV testing, and even legal aid for those who need it. Skits and drama performed by youth groups will bring the message home in ways that words alone can't. And amid the bustle, quiet

“...amid the bustle, quiet spaces will be carved out for reflection, prayer, and testimonies — real-life stories of resilience and healing..”

spaces will be carved out for reflection, prayer, and testimonies — real-life stories of resilience and healing.

More Than an Event — A Beginning

But this is not just a one-day event. This is the launch of a bold global grant project led by RC Kampala Naalya, RC Bukoto, and their international partner; RC Carlsbad Hi-Noon. Its aim? **To enhance mental health and psychosocial support for vulnerable adolescents in Kampala City.**

For Uganda, where over half the population is under 15 and mental health struggles among adolescents are rising, this project is set to be a lifeline. It is a chance to change the narrative — to stop treating mental health as a hidden shame and start embracing it as a vital part of community wellbeing.

A Call to all of us

This is a story still being written, and it needs many hands to tell it well.

On 11th October in Acholi Quarters, we are not just commemorating World Mental Health Day. We are nurturing a movement. A movement that says no young person should walk alone in their struggle. A movement that reminds us that mental health is a shared responsibility, for everyone, everywhere.

▶ **We are deeply grateful to the partners already walking with us, Butabika National Referral Mental Health Hospital, Mulago School of Dentistry, Rella Dental, the Nakawa District Medical Office, Reproductive Health Uganda, and fellow Rotarians from**

Bukoto and beyond. Your commitment has laid the foundation for hope and healing in our communities.

But this journey is bigger than any one organization. To our wider network of collaborators, service providers, and potential partners, there is room for you at this table. Your presence, your skills, and your commitment can help us reach even more young people, families, and communities in need.

So come. Join us. Stand with us. Let us unite for mental health and wellness, because when communities and partners walk hand in hand, hope becomes stronger than despair.

BY RC KAMPALA NAALYA
- SERVICE PROJECTS
DIRECTORATE



Rotary 
Kampala-Naalya

Rotary 
Bukoto

Mental Health Day!!!

Mental Health
Comprehensive - Health
Camp

11.10.25

9 AM – 6 PM

**Acholi Quarters
Banda B1**



#Leadership

Parenting amidst the new curriculum, AI

BY PETER NYANZI

Alvin is 14 years old and is currently in Senior Two. When he passed Primary School with flying colours, his mum rewarded his efforts with a high-end smart phone. Whenever he is at home during holidays, Alvin and his siblings use various apps on their phones to do research on various topics.

However, their parents complain that the children are not allowed to take their phones to school, which they say is hampering their progress in the use of Artificial Intelligence among other technologies in a learning environment. Prof. John Francis Mugisha, the Vice Chancellor of Bishop Stuart University in Mbarara District, is concerned about how society has gone ahead of educational institutions in regard to the application of technology.

At just 55, Prof. Mugisha is one of the younger Vice chancellors, in a country where the majority of chancellors in well into their 60s.

Indeed, some of his children are still in secondary school

and so he understands the challenges that parents and teachers go through in regard to how to support their children amidst a world where technological advancement is moving at a galloping speed.

Speaking to Rotarians at the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya on the topic, 'Parenting amidst the new curriculum, AI, Prof. Mugisha said parents have a big role to play particularly in regard to helping their children to aspire for great things and navigating an increasingly complex world.



As a typical teacher, he began his presentation by defining the term 'parenting.' "It's the deliberate process of nurturing children to enable them to grow into responsible adults. It's not about providing

food and school fees, and constructing a good house for shelter. Parenting goes beyond that," he noted.

"You have to connect with the children. Understand what their aspirations are.

Sometimes the difference between success and failure in life is about aspiration."

He gave an example of one of the brightest students he had ever studied with who ended up as a Gombolola Internal Security Officer, yet with his IQ and talents he had the potential to work as a director at the World Bank or as a permanent secretary in the Government or as a professor like himself.

He said parents and teachers should take the aspirations of their children very seriously. Indeed, the mission of Bishop Stuart University is: 'Producing multi-sectoral leaders/

operators who know the way, show the way, and go the way.'

Experienced expert

Prof. Mugisha has been a Member of the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), representing private universities. He has also served on the East African Science & Technology Commission (EASTECO).

These roles have put him in a position of influence on policy, setting standards, and advocating for integration of new technologies (including AI) across the different



learning environments.

For example, he has articulated a strategic aspiration called the 'REEE Strategy' - Responsible, Entrepreneurial, Ethical and Employable citizens – ensuring that academic programmes are deliberately aligned with job market demand and employable skills.

In his presentation, he stressed the importance of parents helping their children to embrace technologies such as AI as they are critical to access to global educational resources.

▶ **However, he noted that while it's the role of parents to help their children to have higher aspirations thanks to technologies such as AI and the competence-based curriculum, parents are also struggling "due to lack of familiarity with the technologies."**

"They have difficulty in supporting digital learning at home. And I have witnessed it," he said.

"We are not familiar with the technology ourselves, and yet we have to support them within the digital economy. We have to plan these things."

He also noted that some parents are right to be concerned about the time children spend on the screen, as well as safety online and the unregulated content that children can actually get exposed

to. One way to deal with those challenges, he noted, is for the parents to actively participate in their children's activities, aimed at supporting independent thinking so the children can acquire critical thinking skills. "Of course, it means that parents have got also to be familiar with and use AI supported tools themselves," he said. "Somehow, as a parent, you need to study this. Actually, even ask your children to teach you, and then you can guide them along the way." He also added that it's the role of the parent to guide children in the responsible use of technology, aimed at minimizing of addiction

to technology, which he said is already affecting learning for some students. "So, parents stay informed," he advised.

Attitude of teachers

Within the school environment, stakeholders should create a learning environment where the students

have access to devices but also where they know how to manage these gadgets.

"Let's promote digital literacy among your children, deliberately get them people to coach them," he said, adding that collaboration is very critical.

He expressed surprise that there are schools that never allow students to learn using gadgets such as phones and tablets, warning that they are going to

remain behind and miss out on the opportunities that are associated with exposure to AI and on the full benefits of the competence-based education. "AI helps our children to access global content, to be able to run using their own running space. AI can allow personalized learning. But of course, also, competence-based curriculum promotes entrepreneurship and innovation. It promotes application of learning so that our children leave school when they are able to stand on their own. The chances of survival through employment or even through entrepreneurship are actually much higher," he said.

However, some of the listeners expressed concerns about inadequate preparation for rolling out the competence-based curriculum and the lack of funding to facilitate it across the country.

▶ **However, Prof. Mugisha noted that if we were to wait to overcome the problems of the digital divide in order to prepare all our teachers at the different levels, we would have to wait up to 2060 to rollout the new curriculum. "The only way to start is to start," he stressed, adding that our regional counterparts Kenya and Tanzania are already ahead of us in this area.**

He ended his presentation by quoting Jackson Brown Jr. who said, "The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today."

“AI helps our children to access global content, to be able to run using their own running space.”

Secret is making every member feel that they matter

ROTARIAN EDGAR GONZA ATEGEKA, THE CHARTER PRESIDENT OF THE ROTARACT CLUB OF KAMPALA NAALYA, WAS RECENTLY INDUCTED AS A MEMBER OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF KAMPALA NAALYA. IN THIS INTERVIEW, HE SPEAKS ABOUT HIS JOURNEY IN ROTARY.

Q: What is your earliest memory of hearing about Rotary?

I first heard of Rotary in 2010 while I was a Form One student at St. Mary's College Kisubi and happened to join the Interact Club.

Q: How and when did your journey in Rotary begin?

My father, the Late Ladislao Amooti Ategeka, was a Rotarian and I would on occasions attend events such as musicals and charter nights with him. In 2016, the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya decided to form a Rotaract Club. And it fell upon me and some others to build the membership of the club.

Q: What impressed you the most when you became a Rotaractor?

I enjoyed the fellowships especially because of the quality of the speakers. I also



“Rotaract is voluntary and as a leader, one gets to deal with people with different preferences and aspirations.”

was very happy with the sense of community that Rotaract membership fostered.

Q: Please take us through how the process of chartering the Rotary Club Kampala Naalya was?

We started meeting in 2016. We slowly grew our membership, with the core coming from students that were at MUBS but happened to live in Naalya and other surrounding areas. We were sponsored to RYLA camps in Hoima and Kibaale to build our knowledge and leadership capacity until we were able to commence operating as a Club.

Q: How did serving as the Charter President

impact your leadership philosophy?

Rotaract is voluntary and as a leader, one gets to deal with people with different preferences and aspirations. My job was to make everyone feel like they mattered to the Club, and in that way, the Club would matter to them. I pursued an approach that sought to softly influence members to collectively take whatever direction we had decided upon, ensuring that we always had broad consensus and participation.

Q: What advice would give new Rotaract Club Presidents?

I would advise them to strive to build close relationships with all their members. Leadership is very important for the sustainability of an organisation. When people feel close to you, when they are made to feel that they matter, they will naturally do more for the organisation. Success in volunteer-based organisations comes from fostering good relationships and fostering an environment in which people feel comfortable.

Q: You were recently inducted into the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya. What factors explain your decision to transition from being a Rotaractor to a Rotarian?

It felt natural for me. I admire the sense of

Q: If you were invited to speak to a group of young Rotaractors who want to charter a new club, what would you tell them?

Q: Briefly, what would you point at as the key highlights of the Rotaract Club's involvement in the communities that it has served since being chartered?

Q: What are your suggestions on how the relationship between Rotaract Clubs and Rotary Clubs can be made more effective?

I think there should be a deliberate effort to have



Q: Where do you see yourself in Rotary in the decades to come?

I see myself serving to the best of my ability in whatever roles are assigned to me and keeping the flame of the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya burning.





ELDER'S EYE

Milestones in education are worth celebrating

BY RTN GODFREY
OKELLO-OMODING

Life is spiced with and by celebrations. Every milestone attained in life is worth celebrating. Even death is celebrated especially of older persons. This may be a recognition of accomplishments and, among others, years lived.

As this month of September, themed 'Basic Education and Literacy,' comes to an end, Rotarians, let's lift up our spirits to celebrate it. There are various accomplishments in basic education and literacy registered.

▶ **The month has given us an opportunity first, to remember that our society has education challenges. Secondly, it has awakened us to our expected roles and pointed to us that we are well placed to do something.**

Thirdly, it has enabled us to know that our actions are contributing to addressing basic education and literacy challenges. So, there are things to celebrate together. Celebration brings out new togetherness

and it reenergizes.

When we celebrate what we are doing in education, it is an acknowledgement and a recognition of the benefits of education. This is emphasized in the 2024 population census report. It states that; **"Education sector is key in promoting sustainable development through human capacity development of the population in various skills, raising awareness on various issues of national importance and improving general standards of living."**

“Statistics show that the literacy rate of men stands at 76.6% and women at 71.6%, making a national literacy rate of 73% in a population of 45.9 million.”

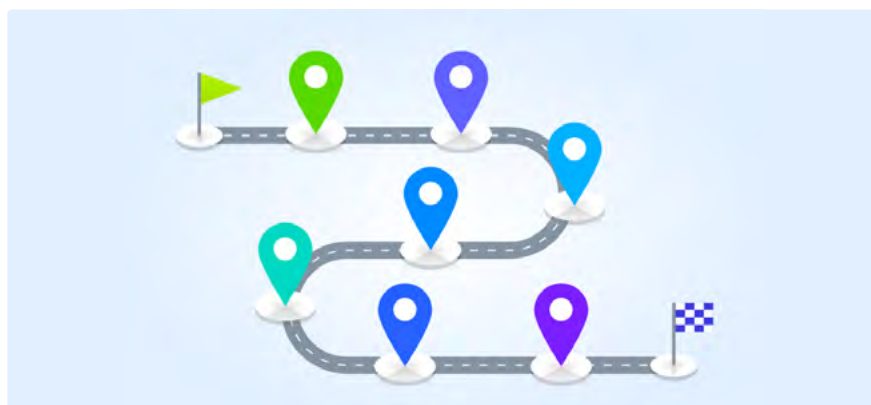
Rotarians, what you are doing is a contribution to promoting sustainable

development. With this, you have touched a number of aspects of development, some least expected and

unknowingly. For instance, in improving children's learning environment, and literacy and numeracy competencies, it's as well contributing to improving their health. Children must be able to read and understand health messages better.

It's difficult most times to distil out contribution of Rotarians and Rotary's actions in the education sector. Statistics show that the literacy rate of men stands at 76.6% and women at 71.6%, making a national literacy rate of 73% in a population of 45.9 million. Several factors have contributed to this achievement including support from Rotary. These statistics are suggestive of results of actions in progress. The 27% remaining illiterate in the population too need our renewed energy.

Therefore, Rotarians, any positive statistics in education sector deserve



to be celebrated too, and where they need our actions, we strategize and act. Knowing numbers reconnect us to appreciate the challenges. The end of basic education and literacy month should be the beginning of redefining new approaches and plans. This should take us to measure how ready we are to tackle the challenges ahead. Also, we get to know our partners better, and get into new and renewed engagements.

Celebrating together comes with asking fundamental questions and seeking practical solutions. By September next year, what is it that I and my club should have accomplished? What should we be celebrating again? How shall we make our celebrations cyclic, purposeful and accountable? What opportunities are there that we should take advantage of and make our participation impactful? These questions

and many others ought to form a ground for us to forge a head.

Indeed, Rotary comes in handy to rally and enable its members to be part of endeavours that improve humanity. There is always room in Rotary for any

willing person to extend support to those who are in need. The spirit of Rotary is built on a foundation whose creed is to facilitate the transformation of lives.

As this month ends, it should end in a manner that we are left with an enhanced framework for basic education and literacy improvement. Let's avoid situations where

the month ends with terminated hopes. We need to remain exploring and enjoying the productive engagements in addressing basic education and literacy across different communities including children with special needs. Every child yearns for an opportunity to have

knowledge and skills for the betterment of his/her life. Adults who missed out in also need to have the ability to read and write.

Truly, Rotary is in that league of families, communities and organizations that have the capacity, assets, resources and goodwill to radically improve basic education and literacy. These can be directed into, for instance, changing the status of the 20% of the Ugandan population aged six years and over that the report of the population census 2024 recorded to have never been to school.

▶ **The story of 'United for Good' year can be better told in a celebration where transformation has been realized out of a united spirit and reflected by actions. Sweet stories are better told where there is impact. As you say bye to the month of September, where is your footprint in basic education and literacy? What can you celebrate together come next September 2026?**

“

Rotary is in that league of families, communities and organizations that have the capacity, assets, resources and goodwill to radically improve basic education and literacy.”





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#OutToLunch

Corruption, unemployment are national security challenges

BY RTN. DENIS JJUUKO



The public service ministry recently announced that

more than 40,000 people applied for 287 jobs across different government ministries, departments and agencies. More than 28,000 of those who applied qualified, meaning they were selected for aptitude tests, which were to be held at the Mandela National Stadium at Namboole. It must be frustrating looking for job in Uganda.

The news came after a bombshell report emanating from research by the Inspectorate of Government (IG) and the Economic Policy Research Centre (EPRC) that

indicated that Ugandans pay a whopping Shs42.34b annually to district service boards to get jobs. Averagely, the report indicated, 130,000 people pay bribes to land jobs.

“The people who are competent end up doing very little at work so that the incompetent boss doesn't feel insecure and threatened.”

The people who ask for these bribes know that the jobs are scarce and people are desperate and willing to do anything to get a job. When somebody who bribed their way to a job gets employed, it means a few things.

First, the person is not the most qualified for the job. They just had the money to pay a recruiter. The best candidate may not have had the money and therefore wasn't considered. Because the person knows they only got the job through bribery, they will continue bribing their

way into senior positions.

▶ **That is how we end up with incompetent people in positions of authority. People who can't execute anything and making sure things don't work or looking at everyone who is competent as a threat or what people call 'work politics.'**

The people who are competent end up doing very little at work so that the incompetent boss doesn't feel insecure and threatened. That is how we end up with 'yes' people who won't advise their bosses. They will do whatever the boss wants whether it makes sense or not. Remember, there are no jobs and these people have families to feed. Rocking the boat isn't something that they want to do.

Second, the people who bribed their way to jobs will only hire those who



pay them a bribe. That way, you end up with a corrupt layer at every level and an incompetent lot everywhere. Service delivery is impacted. Government then fails to create jobs that young people can apply for and get on merit.

▶ **Third, because the Public Service is corrupted, the private sector suffers too. People can't start and run businesses professionally. The people who are in positions because they paid a recruiter will endlessly try to get a return on their investment (read bribe). Procurement processes will be compromised. Payment for services and goods delivered will be frustrated unless somebody is paid.**

The bribery doesn't end at Public Service. We recently saw many statements from politicians who lost elections for positions in their political parties claiming their rivals won

through bribery. Some wondered why people were bribing for positions that were actually 'voluntary.' We hear that candidates for Members of Parliament in some constituencies spend more money than they would earn as salary in the five years they would spend in the office should they win. If somebody spends more money than they would be officially paid, it means they are doing so to illegally get something. Somebody who sells their house to get money for election will do anything to get their house back.

That is how we end up without jobs and seeing young energetic people leaving the country for the Middle East not to do highly technical jobs but menial ones or being trafficked for sex like we recently heard in a BBC investigation.

Government has been saying that they are intending to grow the economy to US\$500 billion annually. Great stuff but with rampant corruption, it will be a tall order. There is a need to nip corruption in

the bud in order to create sustainable jobs for the working age population.

Otherwise, we shall continue to see thousands of people filling up soccer stadiums to apply for a few jobs they know they stand no chance of getting. That is what they call desperation. And desperate people can do pretty much anything. Unemployment ends up being a key national security issue that the government must urgently address.

▶ **The public have a chance to play a key role here by voting people in 2026 not because they bribed them with t-shirts or some cheap alcohol but those who can address the challenges they face such as unemployment.**

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

Last week's fellowship



RLI Graduation Ceremony & Visit to Bukoto



FAMILY MATTERS



BY PASTOR RONNIE MUTEBI

KEEP MOVING FORWARD

ACTS 14:19-21 (NKJV): "THEN JEWS FROM ANTIOCH AND ICONIUM CAME THERE; AND HAVING PERSUADED THE MULTITUDES, THEY STONED PAUL AND DRAGGED HIM OUT OF THE CITY, SUPPOSING HIM TO BE DEAD. HOWEVER, WHEN

THE DISCIPLES GATHERED AROUND HIM, HE ROSE UP AND WENT INTO THE CITY. AND THE NEXT DAY HE DEPARTED WITH BARNABAS TO DERBE."

Paul, a great icon and influencers of his days, was beaten so badly and left for dead. But when the disciples stood around him, he got up.

The next day, Paul didn't run away to hide. He didn't say, "I'm done." He went to another city and kept teaching and changing lives.

“

Let Paul's life shout something into your resilience: If they seek to tarnish you, just keep on doing that good over and over again.”



Paul teaches us something powerful: Don't give up when things get hard or when people don't seem to understand you.

Some people stop doing what's right because they get tired of being

misunderstood, attacked, bad-mouthed, or rejected. They start thinking, "Why even bother?" Always remember this: You are not just doing it for yourself. You are doing it for God and for the good of others who are watching your life - a true reflection of 'Service beyond self.'

Let Paul's life shout something into your resilience: If they seek to tarnish you, just keep on

doing that good over and over again. If they mock you, love again and again. If they doubt you, believe again and again. If life or people knock you down—get up. Dust yourself off. And go again on your path of changing lives.

Take Home: Your persistence is proof that the assignment on your life is stronger than any setback. Keep moving forward!



Rotary
Kampala-Naalya



28th Sept



Happy Birthday

Rtn Fathila Nannozi

May your days ahead be
filled with love and joy



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Checklist

1. Register for Discon 101

2. Tell a friend to register
for Discon 101

16TH - 18TH
APRIL 2026

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Scan to register.
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Fortress of Peace

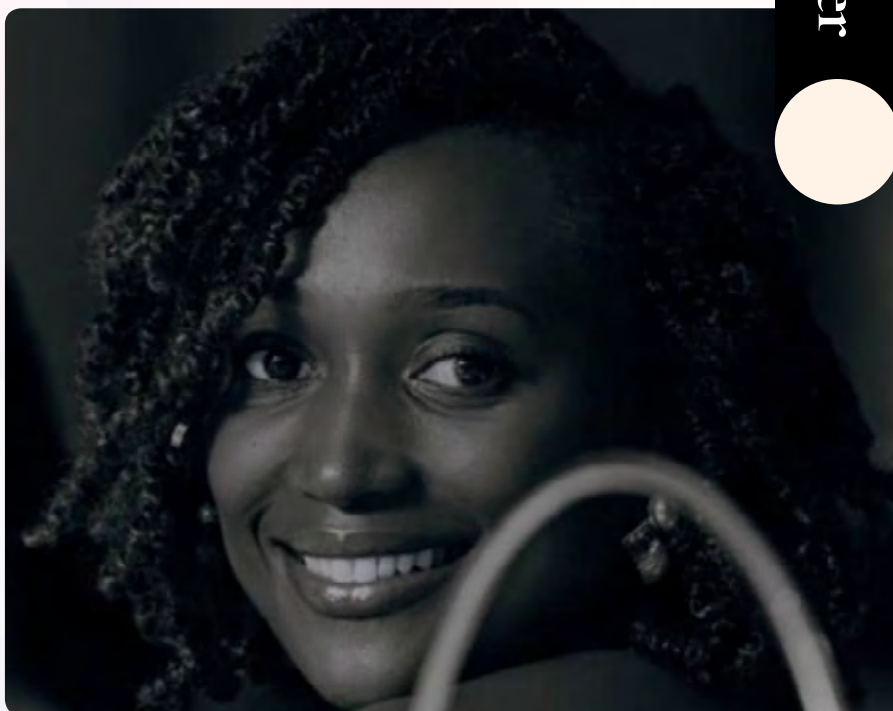
BY PAMELA KAWADDWA

**I built my walls with
quiet hands,
Not of stone, but
shifting sands.**

A gentle fortress, calm
and kind, protecting
soul, heart, and mind.
There is no room for storms
that twist and break,
No poison words,
no heavy ache.
I choose the light,
the softer air,
A sacred space
beyond despair.

If shadows knock,
I will not bend,
Not every hand
deserves a friend.
For peace is priceless,
pure, divine,
And what is mine
stays wholly mine.

So, I will bloom where
calm resides,
Unshaken by the
changing tides.
A life of grace, love, and ease.
I guard my space. I
guard my peace.



Not everyone has access.
No situation or
circumstances will
tell me otherwise.
So, knock, knock—
oh, it's toxicity?
Sorry babe, no vacancy.
This mind's a spa.
This space is mine,
Reserved for joy,
love, and shine.

My vibe's a VIP zone,
Peace of mind? Yeah,
that's my throne.
If you bring chaos,
take a seat outside the gate,
not in my suite.
My space, My rules...

Till again...

Phvy

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Democracy

Picture this: ancient Athens, around 500 BC. A bunch of philosophers were lounging around, munching on groundnuts, and arguing about who should be in power. Up until then, kings and tyrants had the job – and tyrants were basically emperors who could get you beheaded for looking sad in their presence.

So, one day, some clever Greek says: "Hey, instead of letting one guy boss us around, why don't we all boss each other around?" Everyone nods, strokes their beards, and boom – democracy is born. The word itself comes from two Greek words: Demos = "the people" and Kratos = "power" or "rule."

So literally, 'democracy' is all about 'power belonging to the people.' So, citizens would gather in a big

outdoor space called the Agora, where they shouted at each other about laws, taxes, and probably whether sandals with socks were acceptable in public. Everyone got a chance to cast a vote and decisions were made by majority, which sometimes meant great social reforms... and sometimes meant voting to ensure that Socrates is forced to drink deadly poison. Oops.

Today, we exercise 'democracy' by voting for people who promise to represent us, then spend the next five years complaining about how they didn't.

▶ In the end, 'democracy' is basically the 'free' world's most polite way of saying: "We can't all be in Parliament, so let's take turns being disappointed."



Jokes

1. "Why couldn't the bicycle stand up by itself? Because it was two-tired!"
2. "Why don't scientists trust atoms? Because they make up everything!"
3. "What do you call a cat that sings? A meow-sician!"
4. "Why did the teacher wear sunglasses? Because her students were so bright!"



KATOGO BUDDY GROUP IN CHARGE



Dr Francis Lakor



Enid Kabuunga



Fathila Nanozi



Betty Doreen Namono



Herbert Oloka



Theopista Fokukora



Keno Lillian



Joachim Buwembo



Pamela Kawaddwa



Johnson Akanyijuka



Nicodemus Majanga



Ruth Mugisha

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