

Naalya Food Bulletin

9th September, 2025

Rotary
Kampala - Naalya



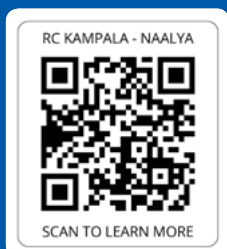
UNITE
FOR
GOOD

Issue 10 | RY 2025-26

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO
ROTARY CLUB
OF
KAMPALA - NAALYA
QUALIFIED FOR RY 2025/2026**

**#Unite4Good9213 #RotaryEyamba
D9213 DISTRICT QUALIFICATION COMMITTEE**

Inside This Issue



**Tips on how to partner on
service projects**



**PK's Corner:
Whispers Within**



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Menu

Tap any title to jump to page

- 4** Editor's Note
- 5** Message from RI President
- 6** Message from D9213 Governor, Geoffrey Kitakule
- 7** President Charles Owekmeno's Message
- 8** Make goodwill a way of life in Rotary, society
- 10** Experts tip Rotary Clubs on how to partner on service projects
- 12** Journey of Qualification, a Future of Impact
- 14** Qualification, a vote of confidence
- 16** No intervention is too small to give hope
- 18** Residential house or business? Your risk appetite matters
- 20** Last Week's fellowship
- 22** Whispers Within
- 23** Fun Facts



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Editor's Note



**Fellow Rotarians,
and friends,**

What a momentous month it has been for the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya! Our Club has officially qualified for global grants! This is a milestone that marks, not just an achievement, but a new chapter in our journey of service to our communities.

It signifies that our planned projects have met the rigorous standards of Rotary International, proving their feasibility, sustainability and impact. Our dedication to serving our communities through life-changing projects has paved the way for this incredible vote of confidence.

As the Projects Director testifies in our cover story, this is a testament to the hard work and

passion of the team. Each person's contribution has been invaluable. Securing this qualification is like receiving a powerful toolkit, allowing us to build bigger and more impactful projects that address our community's most pressing needs. We are no longer limited to what we can do alone locally; we now have

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**Let's combine
our passion
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the potential to leverage the resources of Rotary International to change the life stories of thousands of vulnerable people on a larger scale.

Indeed, this incredible journey has taught us the profound importance of collaboration.

Our success in qualifying for global grants was not a solo effort. It was the result of teamwork. Similarly, when Clubs join forces, they pool resources, share expertise, and amplify their impact. A single Club's efforts might be a ripple,

but when we partner, we create a wave of change.

At the Tuesday Club's joint fellowship, Club were strongly encouraged to embrace this spirit of partnership. Reach out to other clubs, both locally and internationally, to explore joint projects. Let's combine our passion for our young people's education and literacy with the strength of our collective network. By working together, we can design and implement projects that are not only sustainable but also truly transformative.

▶ **With the potential of global grants, we can now dream bigger. We can envision projects that not only restore hope for a brighter future, but that also create programs that empower young people to build sustainable livelihoods.**

**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
Club President 2025-2026



Dear Rotary Family
and Guests,

Welcome to another week
of Rotary service!

Last week, we enjoyed a successful joint fellowship for the Tuesday Clubs, demonstrating that together, we are stronger and more impactful. As a Club, let us continue to embody and promote this spirit, as reflected in our recent engagements with RC Bukoto, RC Naalya States, and RC Kyadondo.

This week, we are honored to host a representative of one of District 9213's

main partners - Old Mutual Insurance Company. The focus of our discussions will be on personal finance and securing a prosperous

future. I warmly invite everyone to join us in large numbers for this fellowship on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at Ndere Center, starting at 7:00 pm.

I would also like to congratulate our Service Project Team for successfully completing the

Club's qualification process. Our next goal is to submit an additional one or two Global Grant projects by the end of October 2025. I encourage all members interested in supporting service projects

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to join the Service Project Team through participation in the project writing and application process.

Furthermore, I commend The Rotary Foundation Team for the impressive progress that has been made so far. A special congratulations to our Club President Nominee, Rtn Pamela Kawadwa, upon earning the Paul Harris Recognition. I encourage as many members as possible to contribute to The Rotary Foundation this month.

▶ **With the Katogo Buddy Group in charge, I wish you an exciting and rewarding journey in Rotary Service during this month.**

YOURS IN SERVICE
ABOVE SELF.



TEAM TALK

Make goodwill a way of life in Rotary, society

BY AG FRANCIS LUBUULWA

Rotary is not only about building relationships but also about sustaining them through goodwill.

If relationships are the roots, then goodwill is the fruit that nourishes our clubs, our communities, and the world.

It is no surprise that the third question of the Four-Way Test challenges us to ask: "Will it build goodwill and better friendships?"

Goodwill is not accidental; it is intentional, and it is what gives Rotary its moral authority.

Lessons from Rotary's founders

When Paul Harris founded Rotary in 1905, he did not set out to start a global movement.

He simply brought together three friends from different professions in Chicago. But what made this gathering unique was that it crossed barriers of background and business. The "Chicago Experiment" came at a time when people in cities often felt isolated, mistrustful, and divided. Harris recognized that professional acquaintance

could break these walls and create goodwill. That goodwill, multiplied, gave birth to Rotary International.

The lesson for us today is simple but powerful: just as the early Rotarians bridged divides in Chicago, we in Uganda must intentionally build bridges - across tribes, professions, political

affiliations, and even national borders. Goodwill is the glue that

transforms acquaintances into friendships and friendships into service.

Goodwill within Clubs

Goodwill begins within our own clubs. To build it, we must embrace the following:

1. Respect differences: Rotary thrives on diversity. Our clubs bring together people from different professions, beliefs, and generations. Respecting those differences is what turns diversity into strength.
2. Handle conflict with grace: Disagreements are inevitable in any relationship, but goodwill means addressing them with humility, fairness, and openness. Anchoring ourselves in the Four-Way Test allows us to turn disputes into opportunities for deeper understanding.
3. Celebrate each other: A club that remembers birthdays, graduations, professional milestones, and family successes naturally builds goodwill. These small gestures

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communicate that every Rotarian matters as a person, not only as a member.

Goodwill in the Ugandan context

In Uganda, goodwill is often expressed through hospitality and presence. Inviting a fellow Rotarian home, or sharing a simple meal after a project, creates bonds of trust and brotherhood. Clubs build goodwill by showing up in moments of both joy and sorrow - weddings, childbirths, and celebrations, but also bereavements and hardships. This presence is the true spirit of the "Rotary family."

▶ **Beyond clubs, goodwill is built when Rotarians engage communities with humility. We do not enter villages, schools, or hospitals as benefactors with all the answers, but as partners walking alongside. It is this attitude of equality that makes Rotary projects sustainable and credible.**

Building goodwill globally

Rotary was designed to be global, and goodwill is our passport. Through sister club relationships, Rotary Action

Groups, and global grants, we connect across borders. These are not just mechanisms for funding or recognition; they are opportunities to create lifelong friendships. Rotary's emphasis on peace provides a global lens for goodwill. Peace is not merely the absence of conflict but the presence of justice, equity, and opportunity. When we respect our international partners as equals and treat them with dignity, we are not just delivering service. Instead, we are planting seeds of peace. Ugandan Rotarians act as cultural ambassadors, carrying Uganda's warmth to the world and bringing back lessons that enrich our communities.

The Four-Way Test as a goodwill compass

The Four-Way Test asks us: "Will it build goodwill and better friendships?" This is not an abstract question but a daily compass. Before we speak or act, we must pause to consider whether our words and choices are strengthening trust or eroding it. Goodwill is not a byproduct; it is the sum of intentional decisions made with kindness, fairness, and foresight.

A call to action

As Rotarians in Uganda, let us recommit ourselves to being ambassadors of goodwill.

In our clubs, let us create an atmosphere of welcome and respect. In our communities, let us engage with humility and partnership. And globally, let us extend a hand of fellowship that assures others: "You are not alone - Rotary stands with you."

▶ **In Paul Harris's words: "Friendship was the foundation rock on which Rotary was built and tolerance is the element, which holds it together." If we carry this spirit into our clubs and into the world, we will not only build goodwill but also sustain the very essence of Rotary for generations to come.**

Let us therefore go forward, determined to make goodwill not just a principle we recite, but a way of life we embody. For in building goodwill, we also build peace, trust, and a future worthy of Rotary's ideals.

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



Experts tip Rotary Clubs on how to partner on service projects

BY PETER NYANZI

By 6 pm on September 2, Hotel Africana's KIBS Hall was already packed to capacity with Rotarians from Tuesday Clubs. They had come to get tips from PAG Marion Atukunda and Dr Richard Kalungi on how to partner with other clubs for impactful service projects.

There was a good reason for the enthusiasm, if Atukunda's startling revelation was anything to go by. She started off by stating that in the previous Rotary Year, 18 clubs did not implement any service project. This pretty much took the entire audience by surprise, given that Rotary is all about designing and implementing impactful projects in the communities they serve.

According to Atukunda, Clubs are struggling to implement projects because they choose projects for visibility reasons, rather than for impact. Their

focus is on inviting the media, wearing T-shirts, posing for photos in front of a banner and saying they went to a community and did such and such a project. "That is visibility, but did it make a difference?" She asked. Secondly, it is also common to find a club where only five members are carrying the entire weight of the Club when it comes to implementing service projects. This tends to create fatigue and disillusionment, which makes them to relax too. Thirdly, members also tend to forget about sustainability such that the moment Rotary leaves the community, the project also dies.

▶ Atukunda proposed the 'DNA Test' of impactful projects.

First, an impactful project must seek to solve a real need in the community. That means that the intervention should be community-led, rather than Rotary imposed.

▶ **"Many of us impose ourselves and our Clubs on the community. We go and say, 'we are here as Rotary and we have a water tank for you, whether you have rain or not. We have given you this tank. We have to put our name on it.' Then you take pictures and off you go," she said.**

Secondly, an impactful project should engage most of the Club members and not just the President and the Service Director. All members should be able to put hands on the deck and participate.

Thirdly, an impactful project should have sustainability. The community should own the project, such that it should continue serving the community long after Rotary has left the community.

Lastly, let's have it mind that an impactful project doesn't just change the community; it also changes the Club members implementing it in terms of their perception of the world. "The day you walk into a community where people have no shoes and you have come wearing your expensive Clarks shoes and jeans, you don't go back the same," she said.

Her co-presenter, Dr Richard Kalungi, urged members to start a conversation about partnering and explained the difference between 'cooperating,' 'collaborating' and 'partnering.' He noted that sometimes, clubs collaborate or cooperate without necessarily partnering. For example, they can cooperate to hold a joint fellowship. Collaboration may more serious but it can be informal or part time. But partnership on the other hand, is about defining goals or interests, time frames and the roles to be played by each partner. He urged members to reach out and ask for help instead of struggling as if there is



PAG Marion Atukunda

no one to give a helping hand. “There are clubs that have done these things before and that know how partnerships work and it’s up to you to know how to use them,” he said.

▶ **He cautioned members that partnerships may take time and may require clarifying goals and being intentional about what you want to achieve.**

He stated that one of the biggest opportunities for partnerships is that they make it easier to get a global grant, which may not be easy to implement as a single club. “Global grants give us an opportunity to scale and work together as Clubs,” he said.

There is also a chance of getting international partners on board especially in Asia, Europe, etc. Finally, Kalungi stressed the importance of story-telling. “If we do not share what we are doing, it becomes very hard for people to reach out to us,” he said.

Five Ds of service projects

1. Discover needs. When you go to the community, try to listen to the community members rather than making assumptions about the community’s actual needs.

2. Design solutions to the needs that the community has identified. Then set SMART goals in regard to how the intervention is going to look like.

3. Do the work. Let it not be the ‘usual suspects’ who put in the work. Let everyone get involved.

4. Deliver with excellence. Demonstrate the impact of your intervention by measuring actual lives touched.

5. Double the value. If it has worked well, replicate the same intervention in another community or scale it up to serve more members of the community.

Quick wins for struggling clubs

- Start small, but

meaningfully. I adapt one school or clinic and do a project in your simple way. If you adopt a community clinic, handle only one cause, rather than trying to implement all Rotary’s Seven Areas of Focus in one clinic. It won’t work. Adopt one clinic and implement one area of focus.

- Partner with a Rotaract Club, an NGO or Government. Don’t be tempted to do it alone.
- Create a signature project. Signature projects are discouraged at District level but Clubs may have signature projects – what they can be known for. For example, Kampala Naalya has Women in Rotary while the Rotary Club of Kampala has Five-a-side as is known to bring together Rotarians, Rotaractors, and friends of Rotary to play and have fun while raising funds for community projects.
- Tell your story loudly. Visibility attracts partners and members.



JOURNEY OF QUALIFICATION, A FUTURE OF IMPACT



BY BRIAN MAYANJA

On the evening of Saturday, September 6, 2025, as many wound down their weekend, members of the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya were celebrating a milestone that opens doors to transforming lives on a much larger scale: earning qualification to apply for Rotary Global Grants.

► **This achievement didn't come by chance. It was the fruit of tireless collaboration, integrity, and the spirit of Service Above Self—a spirit that defines Rotary worldwide.**

Inside story of qualification

Qualification is not just paperwork. It is a rigorous process designed to ensure that every Club entrusted with Global Grant funding has the systems, governance, and integrity to manage resources responsibly.

For Kampala Naalya, the process became a story

of incredible teamwork.

- **Presidential Leadership:**

President Charles Owekmeno worked closely with the Service Projects Director to set the tone - ensuring strong leadership support and accountability from day one.

- **Commitment from Leadership Transition:**

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Club President Owekmeno and President-Elect Christine Amucu was signed, affirming continuity of commitment.

- **Financial Integrity and Accountability:**

Treasurer Rtn Steven Kakonge meticulously provided proof of payments to Rotary International and the District, and ensured the audited books of accounts were certified and ready.

- **Transparency in Audits:**

Past President Godfrey Okello-Omoding responded swiftly to comments raised on the audited accounts, reinforcing the Club's commitment to transparency and accountability.

- **Club Resolution and Unity:**

Immediate Past President Sylvia Jaggwe Owachi and Immediate Past Secretary Babra Ninsiima worked hand-in-hand to provide the Club Assembly Resolution authorizing participation in Global Grants.

- **Legal Compliance:**

Our legal support team, led by Rtn Bonita Mulelengi, ensured that all necessary

documents were duly certified by URSB, securing compliance with national regulations.

- **Operational Responsiveness:**

Vice President Herbert Kefa Oloka promptly addressed queries and offered clarifications throughout the process, keeping the Club on top of every requirement.

- **District Team**

Partnership: The District Qualification Team, led by Rtn Richard Mayebo, demonstrated remarkable commitment. Their responsiveness—sometimes even at midnight—was a living testament to Service Above Self.

“Qualification is not just paperwork. It is a rigorous process designed to ensure that every Club entrusted with Global Grant funding has the systems, governance, and integrity to manage resources responsibly.”

The result? A letter of qualification for RY2025/26 was issued, placing Kampala Naalya among 26 Clubs trusted to steward life-changing Global Grants, so far.

What it means

For our Club, qualification is more than a certificate; it is an invitation to scale our impact. It confirms that Kampala Naalya is a Club of integrity, transparency, and vision - ready to lead projects that change lives far beyond our immediate reach.

It also strengthens our credibility among partners and communities - we are not only dreamers, but doers equipped and trusted to deliver on large-scale initiatives that tackle pressing challenges in our communities.

Two Global Grants in motion

Even as we celebrate this milestone, RC Kampala Naalya is already rolling up its sleeves to deliver impact through two major Global Grants currently in process:

1. Mental Health Project in Ghetto Communities

(Grant ID No. 2570450). Mental health challenges in ghetto communities are often hidden under layers of stigma and neglect. This project seeks to break the silence by providing counseling, raising awareness, and connecting cases to service centers through structured referrals. In these vulnerable communities, it means restoring dignity, rebuilding hope, and unlocking potential for a brighter future.

2. Empowering teenage mothers and learners in Kamuli District. Teenage pregnancy often forces young mothers out of school thus limiting their future potential. This project seeks to change that by providing vocational training, reintegration into learning, and peer-led awareness to prevent early pregnancies. In Kamuli, it means transforming stigma into strength, and turning despair into lasting opportunity.

Together, these projects illustrate what Global Grants are all about - sustainable solutions that address real needs while strengthening

communities for the future.

Looking ahead

Our qualification marks the beginning of a new chapter. It is a statement that Kampala Naalya is ready, not just to plan, but to deliver life-changing projects with accountability, transparency, and impact.

The journey of qualification reveals something deeper than compliance: it reveals who we are as a Club. We're a family of Rotarians committed to doing good in the world, ready to rise to the challenge of humanity's greatest needs.

► **And as we prepare to implement these Global Grants, we extend an invitation - please join us! Whether as a member, a partner, or a supporter, there is a place for you in Rotary. Because when hands and hearts unite, there is no limit to the change we can create.**

THE WRITER IS THE SERVICE PROJECTS DIRECTOR AT THE ROTARY CLUB OF KAMPALA NAALYA



26

CONGRATULATIONS
TO
**ROTARY CLUB
OF
KAMPALA - NAALYA**
QUALIFIED FOR RY 2025/2026

#Unite4Good9213 #RotaryEyamba
D9213 DISTRICT QUALIFICATION COMMITTEE

Qualification a vote of confidence



This certification is a significant milestone for our Club, as it grants us the authorization to design, submit, and manage multiple global grant projects throughout this Rotary year. Our goal is to actively pursue and apply for at least two global grants, which will enable us to expand our service impact both locally and internationally.

Achieving this global grant qualification is a testament to our Club's strength and commitment to Rotary's core principles. It reflects our consistent efforts to uphold our obligations, including timely dues payments and active participation in District and Rotary International activities. It also demonstrates that we are a Club in good standing, with strong leadership, effective governance, and the capacity to manage complex partnerships and projects responsibly.

This milestone not only recognizes our current achievements but also opens new

opportunities for us to grow and expand our service footprint. It positions the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya as a credible and reliable partner in community development initiatives. I urge all members to leverage this vote of confidence in our Club's capabilities. Let us use this qualification as a springboard to attract more partners, secure additional grants, and enhance our profile and portfolio of impactful projects.

Together, we can harness this opportunity to make a lasting difference in our community and beyond. Your active involvement and support will be crucial as we embark on this exciting phase of growth and service.

Rtn Charles Dwekmemo

Club President, 2025 - 2026
Rotary Club of Kampala - Naalya



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ELDER'S EYE

No intervention is too small to give hope

BY RTN GODFREY
OKELLO-OMODING

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU DO LITTLE THINGS WITH THE LEAST EXPECTATION IN MIND ABOUT THEIR IMPACT ON OTHERS. YET, OUT OF THOSE LITTLE THINGS, SOMEONE CAN OBTAIN IMAGINABLE HOPE.

As members of the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya, we have experienced such moments. For example, there are “small” interventions that we have done in St. Mbaaga Kiwatule Primary, in Kiyunga in Kamuli District, and Akwang Senior Secondary school in Agago District. They have given hope, dignity and empowered pupils and students.

St. Mbaaga Kiwatule Primary School is one the public schools in Kampala City. The school is surrounded by both the “better” settlements and “poorer” settlements, though largely Kiwatule is a suburban community with a fair class. The pupils in the school are mainly from

the poor settlements. The children from the better settlements attend school elsewhere. The school is thus symbolic of the divide in education service provision.

The Club began a partnership with St. Mbaaga Kiwatule

Primary School in 2022. The first interventions were under the flagship of Basic Education and Literacy Enhancement Program (BELEP). Afterwards, came the Boy Child Uplifting Program (BCUP). Through BELEP, the Club and individual members donated books and launched “Drop Every Thing and Read (D.E.A.R),” which later culminated

into the school setting one morning in every week for promoting reading. At least 30 minutes is allotted in all the classes (pre-school to primary seven) to read a story or more. With BCUP, skilling of pupils, particularly boys, was started. The Club engagement with the school has continued with other interventions in skilling, environment, modern and urban agriculture, candidate class success talks, etc.

Similarly, in Kiyunga village,

the Club and individual members have made donations and supported the skilling of girls, provided school materials, and sponsored students for both primary and secondary education. Also, in Akwang Senior Secondary school, the Club took up a task of promoting digital learning in 2014 through building and equipping a computer laboratory. This is indeed transforming today's and the future generation for digital living.

These are ordinarily “small” interventions but they have brought great hope and celebrations. Reflecting on these interventions along this month's theme - Basic Education and Literacy - clearly brings out the following: (a) celebrations can be brought through small giving; (b) giving is not about amounts, it's the attitude behind the giving; (c) anyone

“...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.”



can give, and make a child smile and (d) transforming others and changing lives is a matter of action.

► **Today, as Rotarians, you have an opportunity to shape and transform your communities. Don't look too far. You can start with a community around you. For example, St. Mbaaga Kiwatule is a school in the city but needs your support. Don't even think that living in the city makes it all the better. You could be near a buffet but if you don't have access, you will not touch it even if you have the appetite.**

Additionally, the theme for September draws us to appreciate the distance we have covered as individuals from darkness to the light. It should be refreshing to you in the sense that without basic education you wouldn't be able to connect words and letters; without literacy your level of maneuvering the world wouldn't be as it is; and it should echo to you that someone invested in you so that you can be able to shine and be bright. You now have the opportunity to radiate your rays of light to others.

► **Therefore, this month is a call of choice; either you stand "united for good"**



with others on the side of light or stand to watch darkness engulf generations.

You should, at least, be able to offer an inspirational message; a message of encouragement; a message of hope, and be an instrument of transformation. May your commitment and encouragement transform our communities.



#OutToLunch

Residential house or business? *Your risk appetite matters*

BY RTN. DENIS JJUUKO



It's one of those debates that will never end, similar to, 'which came first; the chicken or the egg?' Which should come first; a personal residential house or a business/investing?

We have discussed it before in previous editions of #OutToLunch.

Since it won't go away, why not revisit it? First, let us get to speed with the differing arguments. One side of the coin posits that people, especially the youth, who are building residential houses are stifling financial growth as funds that may have been used to invest elsewhere are stuck in bricks and mortar. That renting is many times cheaper

than owning a personal residential house. That people should only build personal residential houses when they are financially secure. Tens of millions of shillings can be stuck in a residential house, which doesn't provide much returns.

The other side of the coin argues otherwise. That a personal residential house is a prerequisite

for growth. That it's an investment too and unlike businesses or financial assets, it is not too much affected by inflation. The argument is that a residential house's value increases year on year as the country develops. It is a low-risk asset class that leads to increment in one's net worth.

Proponents of this view also argue about peace of

mind. The landlord doesn't have to get worried if he popped in and found you eating chicken (when rent is due). And it can be an asset one could use as collateral for financing to invest in other areas, the argument continues.

What decision, then, should a young person make? Invest their money in business, bonds or start on a personal residential house journey? These questions need contextualization, which is never provided by those who advance one argument against the other. For example, what does one want? What does the person do for a living? Can one do both?

Many people are not wired to lose money especially if they can withdraw it at any time the way it is with financial assets. If they hear

“Real estate is hard to liquidate, which forces many easily excitable people to keep their wealth for the long term.”



something is profitable, they rush to invest into it without thinking. That is why many scammers exist. They know people who have money are easily tempted. A cousin has no fees? They rush to give it. Real estate is hard to liquidate, which forces many easily excitable people to keep their wealth for the long term.



But does a personal residential house curtail somebody's financial growth? It could - where money that would have been invested in business is channeled into an asset that may not bring back immediate returns. Many Ugandans love building houses in their ancestral villages where they visit a few times a year and can't rent out or turn them into small bed and breakfast enterprises. Others want very big and fancy ones, which they probably don't need. Such projects could lead to the collapse of a business or deny one funds that they could have invested elsewhere to

ensure financial growth. This brings us back to the issue of contextualization that we talked about earlier. In this case, it is the profile of the person. If you decided to invest in a business or financial assets, do you have the temperament to see money accumulating on your investment account without spending it on ostentatious goods? Can you see your friends holidaying in Santorini and not feel the urge to do the same?

If you are a man, are you be able to handle a spouse that sings in your ear everyday about not owning a house? Of if you visit your friends, do you feel left out because you are renting? Will you be able to handle the stress that comes with a business failing? Or you will regret why you didn't build?

As you can see, there are many questions in this article. Questions whose answers can only be provided, not by financial advisors on X and TikTok, but by the person who

is in the middle of making the decision.

▶ **Building a personal residential house may be the best decision one could make. For another, it might not be the best decision. The type of house and where it is built matters as well. Similar to financial assets, where one invests matters.**

However, I believe that people can build residential houses while also investing in businesses or financial assets at the same time. Most Ugandans build incrementally, which is done over several years. If one had a certain amount of money, depending on their interests, they could have a percentage in a personal residential house and another in business or financial assets.

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

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Whispers Within

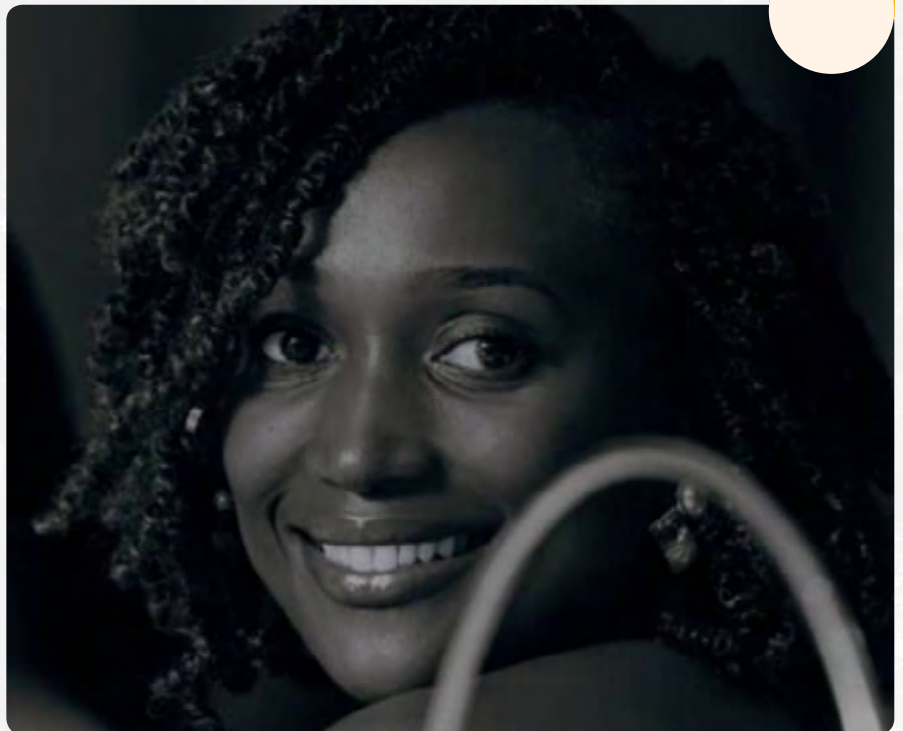
BY PAMELA KAWADDWA

Amid the chaos, the buzz
and beep, where words
collide and secrets creep,
There's a tiny whisper,
soft and sly, Winking at
you with a knowing eye.

Shhhhss..... settle
down with me.
Shut the doors to the
racket and roar,
Turn down the volume,
and let peace explore.
Breathe in the quiet,
let tension slide,
Dance with the hush
that lives inside.

Psst....Hey you!.. yes you!
Shut the world, if you dare!
Let your inner self, a
cheeky flame, lead you
home without a name.
In stillness, giggles
bubble and grow,
A garden blooms where
thoughts can flow.

Shush-shush-shush,
close the door,
Noise is knocking?
Tell it, "No more!"



Take a big breath,
puff out the strife,
Tiptoe, twirl—this is your life!...

Trust the rhythm under
your ribs, the gentle
nudges, the little jibs.
For in the hush, the magic
is told - a playful story,
bright and bold....

Listen you!..Busy!..
Shushhhhh..... Listen
to your inner self...!

Till again,

Phwyy

Fun Facts

Nocturnal

The word 'nocturnal' is basically a Latin import, a linguistic hand-me-down from ancient Rome. The Romans had a simple word for night: nox. It sounds a bit like a sneeze, but bear with me. To describe something of the night, they added the snappy suffix "-urnus," creating nocturnus. It's like adding "-y" to "rock" to make "rocky" – simple, elegant, and way more complicated than it needs to be.

This word then took a scenic route through Old French as nocturne before finally arriving in English, probably on a creaky, moonlit ship, around the 15th century. So, when you call yourself a nocturnal person, you're not just saying you're a night owl; you're also giving a subtle, yet profound, nod to a bunch of toga-wearing ancients who were likely asleep by the time you're having your third cup of coffee.

The term 'nocturnal' is the polite, scientific way of saying, "This creature's sleep schedule is completely bonkers."

When applied to people, 'nocturnal' is a much more poetic way of saying, "I'm

not a morning person." We are the humans who come alive when the sun goes down. Our brains spark with brilliant ideas at 2 a.m., we do our best creative work when the world is quiet, and we find the sheer silence of the night to be incredibly inspiring.

The "nocturnal human" is a fascinating subspecies. We're the people who:

- Know all the best late-night snack spots.
- Can accomplish a week's worth of chores in a single, focused midnight blitz.
- Are often asked, "Why are you still awake?" and "Don't you have work in the morning?"

Like the animal counterparts

'Nocturnal animals such as bats and owls are basically the night shift workers of the animal kingdom. They're up when the rest of us are drooling on our pillows, doing their thing. These guys don't have alarm clocks or the urge to hit snooze. Their natural instinct is to get a good day's rest and then, under the cloak of darkness, go out and cause some havoc, er, I mean, forage for food.

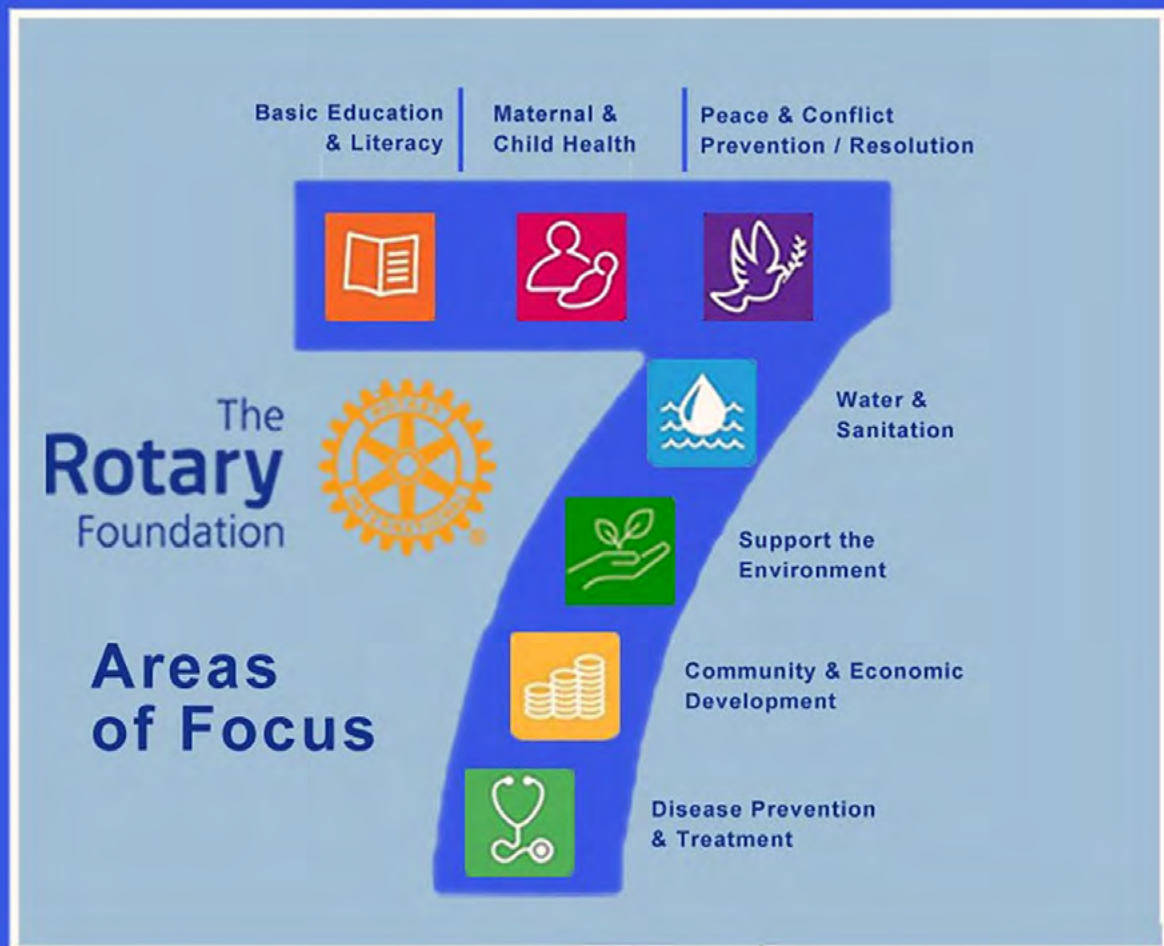
So, the next time someone scolds you for being up late, just tell them you're simply honoring your Latin roots. The Romans would be proud.



Jokes

1. **Wife:** I slept like a baby last night!
Husband: Oh, really?
Wife: Yeah! I woke up every two hours, crying!
.....
2. Why did the ancient Egyptians like to keep their heads shaved? To be more Pharaoh-dynamic.







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