Naalya Food Bulletin

11th August, 2026

Rotary Kampala - Naalya

Issue 3 | RY 2026-27



RC KAMPALA - NAALYA

SCAN TO LEARN MORE

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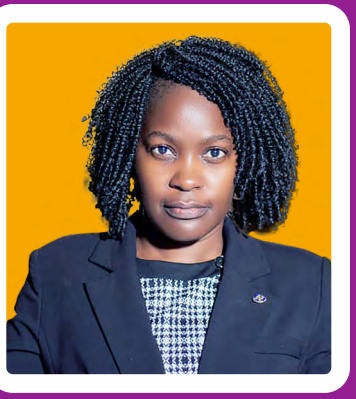




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LET'S DESIGN YOUR CLUB's NEWSLETTER
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Message from the Editor's Desk

By Rtn Jackline Mutimba
Club's Public Image Chair



Dear Rotarians and Friends,

Often, we are reminded that Rotary is about far more than the meetings we attend, and that a lot more is possible when fellowship, learning, partnership and service come together. This has been one of those weeks for the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya.

Our commitment to mental health took centre stage through a series of engagements with partners and stakeholders under our adolescent mental health initiative.

From our inception meeting to the consultative visit to Butabika National Referral Mental Hospital, we learnt that meaningful action on mental health can only succeed through collaboration.

You'll find a detailed account of these engagements in this edition.

There is also plenty from the Membership Docket.

We revisit highlights from last week's fellowship, where Past President Faridah Nankya challenged us not only to invite people into Rotary, but also to ensure they find meaningful opportunities to participate, contribute and truly belong.

As Membership Month continues, our Membership Director, Rtn. Joachim Buwembo, shares practical insights on how each of us can maximise engagement.

> "Do you have feedback for us? Or an enquiry about our club? Feel free to drop us an email..."

Don't skip these tips; they could be the beginning of stronger connections, greater participation and lasting growth for our club.

As you read this week's Naalya Food Bulletin, I invite you to reflect on two simple but powerful questions: Who can I bring into the Rotary experience? And where can I serve more meaningfully?

Also, you may have heard that the All Africa Zone Institute has been postponed.

If your travel or attendance plans have changed, do you know your options? This edition explains what you need to know about cancellations and refunds, so be sure to take a look.

As always, don't miss the latest club and Rotary updates, thought-provoking contributions from our beloved columnists, and many more stories designed to inform, inspire and enrich your Rotary journey.

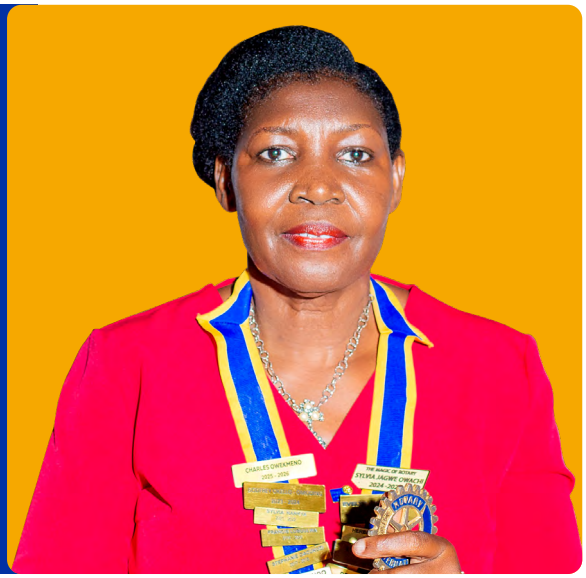
As you read, do not forget to join us for fellowship at Ndere Centre, and follow us on social media @RotaryNaalya on X, Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya on Facebook, and on our website www.RotaryKampalaNaalya.org.

Do you have feedback for us? Or an enquiry about our club? Feel free to drop us an email at rckampalanaalya@gmail.com

Happy reading.

President's Message

RTN CHRISTINE AMUCU
Club President
2026-2027



Dear Fellow Rotarians and Rotaractors,

Last week was another exciting week for the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya.

We had a very insightful presentation on managing member leads, reminding us that membership growth is not only about bringing in new members, but also about how we welcome, engage and support them once they join us.

> "Together, let us keep the spirit of Service Above Self alive as we create hope and make a lasting difference..."

We also held a successful inception meeting for our Mental Health Project, where we met and connected with all our project partners.

We were able to determine what role each partner will play during the implementation of the project. I was particularly pleased to meet the Executive Director of the Butabika National Referral Hospital and her team, who will be working closely with us as we implement this project.

I thank the Service Project Chair and the Service Project Committee for ensuring this meeting was held.

August is our membership Month; let us reflect on what makes our club a place where people feel valued, connected and inspired to serve. Our presentation this week, "Building Clubs that People want to stay in", could not come at a better time. People stay when they find friendship, meaningful service, opportunities to grow and a sense that their contribution matters.

Each one of us has a role to play in creating that kind of club. Let us ask ourselves: What can I do to make someone want to stay?

I look forward to another meaningful fellowship as we continue building a club we are proud to belong.

Thank you for your continued dedication and service. Together, let us keep the spirit of *Service Above Self* alive as we create hope and make a lasting difference in our communities.

YOURS IN SERVICE,

#CoverStory



Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya Launches Adolescent Mental Health Initiative

BY **RTN BRIAN MAYANJA**

The Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya brought together Mental health professionals, community leaders, Rotarians and other stakeholders for the inception meeting of the Mental Health Support for Adolescents in Ghetto Communities Project, marking the beginning of an important two-year journey to strengthen mental health and psychosocial support for vulnerable adolescents.

The Global Grant initiative is designed to improve access to mental health services and strengthen the support systems surrounding adolescents, including families, schools, health facilities and communities.

The goal is to improve the mental wellbeing of more than 3,000 adolescents, starting with Acholi Quarters in Nakawa Division.

Planned activities include school and community engagement, mental health outreach camps, teacher capacity building, community awareness activities, strengthening referral systems and improving monitoring and learning.

Peer approaches will complement this work by creating trusted spaces where adolescents can speak openly, access reliable information and receive appropriate guidance.

The activities are expected to improve access to mental



health and psychosocial support services while strengthening the ability of teachers, health workers, peer educators and community actors to identify adolescents who may require support and connect them to appropriate services.

The inception meeting, opened by Dr Chris Oundo, the Division Health Officer for Nakawa Division, provided a platform for Rotary, health professionals, local government, civil society organisations, community leaders and collaborating clubs to develop a common understanding of the project, clarify their respective roles and begin shaping the practical arrangements that will guide implementation.

During the meeting, James Nsereko, the Principal Clinical Psychologist and Mental Health Project Coordinator at Butabika Hospital, highlighted the increasing burden of mental health challenges and the importance of prevention and early intervention.

The discussions reinforced the understanding that mental health is a shared responsibility.

> "The inception meeting created an opportunity for stakeholders to critically consider how the project should move from planning into implementation."

Psychologists and psychiatrists play an essential professional role, but parents, teachers, peers, community leaders, health workers, civil society organisations and local authorities also have a responsibility to create supportive environments and facilitate timely access to care.

Families and caregivers were also recognised as critical to the success of the initiative.



Teachers were identified as important frontline actors because of their regular interaction with adolescents.

They may be among the first to notice changes in behaviour, school performance or social interaction. Strengthening their capacity to recognise warning signs and facilitate appropriate referrals will therefore be an important part of the project.

Participants reflected on the effects of anxiety, depression, substance use, difficult family environments, stigma and other pressures on the lives, wellbeing and aspirations of young people.

Particular attention was given to reducing stigma. Adolescents experiencing mental health challenges need communities that encourage them to seek help, support their recovery and treat them with dignity rather than environments where they fear discrimination or rejection.

Participants also highlighted the growing challenge of substance use among young people and the need for prevention, early identification, professional support and stronger community awareness.

The inception meeting created an opportunity for stakeholders to critically consider how the project should move from planning into implementation. It was followed by a stakeholder engagement held at Butabika Hospital on 7 August 2026.

Stakeholders Meeting 2026



















Stakeholders Meeting 2026










Rotary
Kampala-Naalya

BUILDING CLUBS PEOPLE WANT TO STAY IN:

THE ROLE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE



Join us this

TUESDAY 11TH AUGUST 2026

7PM PROMPT

NDERE CULTURAL CENTRE

PP. Owomugisha Blessing Immaculate

District Vice Chair, Governance and Ethics

Buddy group in charge: *Kitoobero*

RotaryNaalya
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"I Want to Stop, But I Can't": What Butabika Taught Us About Addiction and Recovery

BY **RTN JACKLINE MUTIIMBA**

What happens when someone genuinely wants to stop using alcohol or drugs, but simply cannot?" That question stayed with me during our recent engagement at Butabika National Referral Mental Hospital as part of consultations for our Rotary mental health initiative.

Our interaction with health workers at the Alcohol and Drug Unit (ADU) on Friday challenged some common assumptions about substance-use disorders.

One message that stood out was that recovery is not simply about telling someone to stop.

People use substances for different reasons. For some, alcohol or drugs become a way of coping with difficult emotions, family conflict, stress, peer influence or other challenges.

Others fear the withdrawal symptoms associated with stopping. Even when someone genuinely wants to change, they may not know how to escape the cycle.

This is why the ADU team asks an important question:



"Why can't you stop?"

Understanding the "why" helps health workers to identify the underlying drivers of substance use and determine the support an individual needs.

> "Even when someone genuinely wants to change, they may not know how to escape the cycle."

We learned that rehabilitation involves a multidisciplinary team of psychologists, nurses, social workers, occupational therapists and other health professionals.

While medication may be necessary for detoxification, withdrawal management or coexisting conditions, psychological and behavioural interventions are central to rehabilitation.

But perhaps one of the strongest lessons was about family involvement.

Every last Friday of the month, the ADU holds meetings with parents and caregivers to help them understand substance-use disorders and how to support recovery.

Health workers noted that some families initially do not understand what their loved one is experiencing or



how their own responses and home environment may affect recovery.

A person can undergo successful rehabilitation and still return to the same pressures and circumstances that contributed to substance use.

Families may also have high expectations. Someone who previously excelled academically may immediately be expected to return to school. A professional may be pushed back into demanding employment.



Yet discharge from rehabilitation does not automatically mean someone is ready to resume every previous responsibility. Reintegration must therefore be gradual and individualised.

We also learned that caregivers need care.

Families can spend years navigating repeated treatment, relapse, financial costs, stigma, frustration and disappointment.

One health worker summarised it powerfully: *When we treat the patient, we also treat the relatives.*

Despite these challenges, the most encouraging message from Butabika was that recovery is possible.

People who have experienced serious substance dependence have returned to school, rebuilt careers, established families and resumed productive lives.

> "One health worker summarised it powerfully: When we treat the patient, we also treat the relatives."

For us in Rotary, Mental health interventions must move beyond awareness to stronger referral systems, family education, caregiver support, rehabilitation, reintegration and sustained follow-up.

We should not only ask: "How do we help someone stop using substances?"

We must also ask: "How do we help them build a life in which recovery can be sustained?" That is where lasting change begins.

DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS ADVANCING WOMEN IN ROTARY?

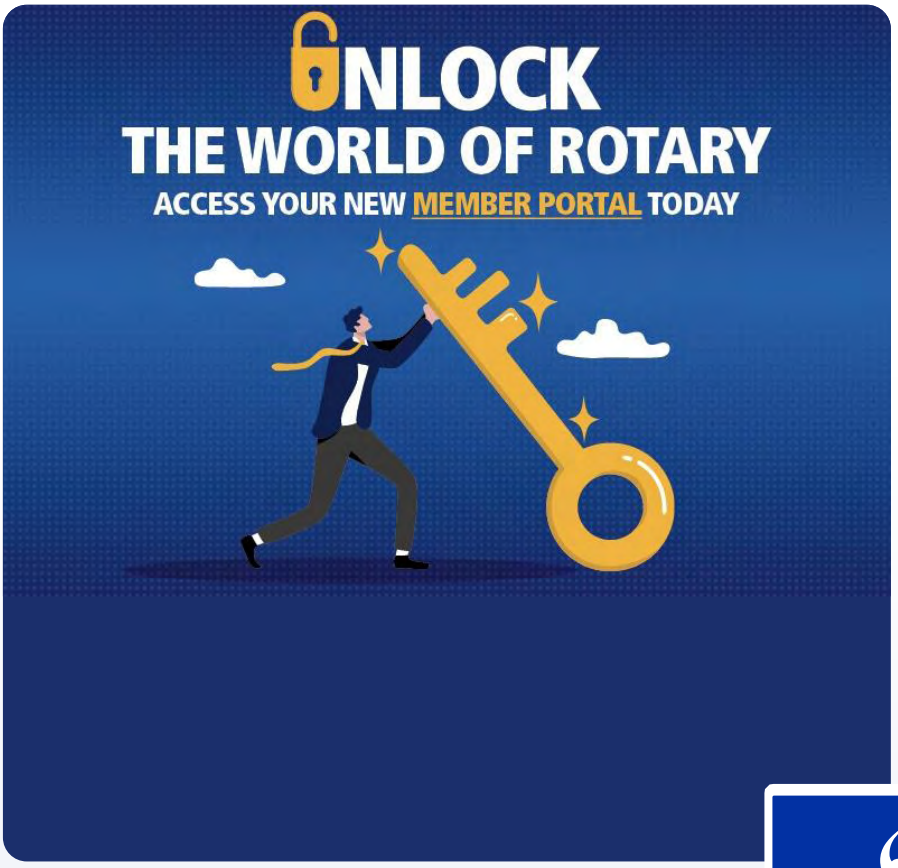


Rotary



#SolRise

Beyond the Login: Turning Rotary Interest into Lasting Membership



BY **RTN JACKLINE MUTIIMBA**

Attracting people to Rotary is one thing. Turning their curiosity into commitment is another.

This important conversation took centre stage during our fellowship when the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya hosted PP Faridah Nankya of the Rotary Club of Kampala Impala, District IT Support Chair, for an insightful session on "Managing Member Leads with My Rotary."

The session challenged members to look beyond My Rotary as simply an online portal.

It is a powerful resource for membership development, club management, learning and connection across the global Rotary family.

She demonstrated the wealth of information available through the platform, including club profiles, goals and targets, leadership and membership information, projects, learning opportunities and other resources.

Through My Rotary, members can explore other clubs, learn from their experiences and identify opportunities for collaboration.

A key focus was the Member Leads feature, which connects people who express interest in Rotary with clubs in their communities. Once an individual expresses interest, their information can be directed to an appropriate district or club for follow-up.

> "Once an individual expresses interest, their information can be directed to an appropriate district or club for follow-up."

But the evening's discussion revealed an important lesson: technology can generate a lead, but people build the relationship.

Members reflected on the realities of following up prospective Rotarians. Some people enthusiastically express interest online but become difficult to reach when contacted.



Others attend a fellowship and disappear. At times, membership officers may even feel as though they are "chasing" people who initially expressed an interest in joining.

This sparked a lively discussion about conversion rates, appropriate follow-up and how clubs can keep prospective members engaged without overwhelming them.

The conversation reinforced that membership development should not be treated as a transaction.

A prospective member may need time to understand Rotary, experience fellowship, participate in service and discover where they fit within the organisation.

> “Ultimately, the session reminded us that membership growth is about more than increasing numbers.”

Clubs were therefore encouraged to respond to leads promptly, maintain meaningful communication, invite prospective members to fellowships and service projects, and ensure visitors feel genuinely welcomed.

Responsibility for My Rotary should also not rest with one person; building the capacity of several club leaders ensures continuity.

Members were further encouraged to explore the Rotary Learning Centre and other resources available through My Rotary for continuous learning and leadership development.

Ultimately, the session reminded us that membership growth is about more than increasing numbers.

It is about creating an experience that makes people want to belong, contribute and stay.

Perhaps the more important question is: "What experience are we creating when they arrive?"

The writer is a Rotarian, Mental Health Advocate, Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability & Learning (MEAL) Specialist



Who visited us last week?

Rotarians

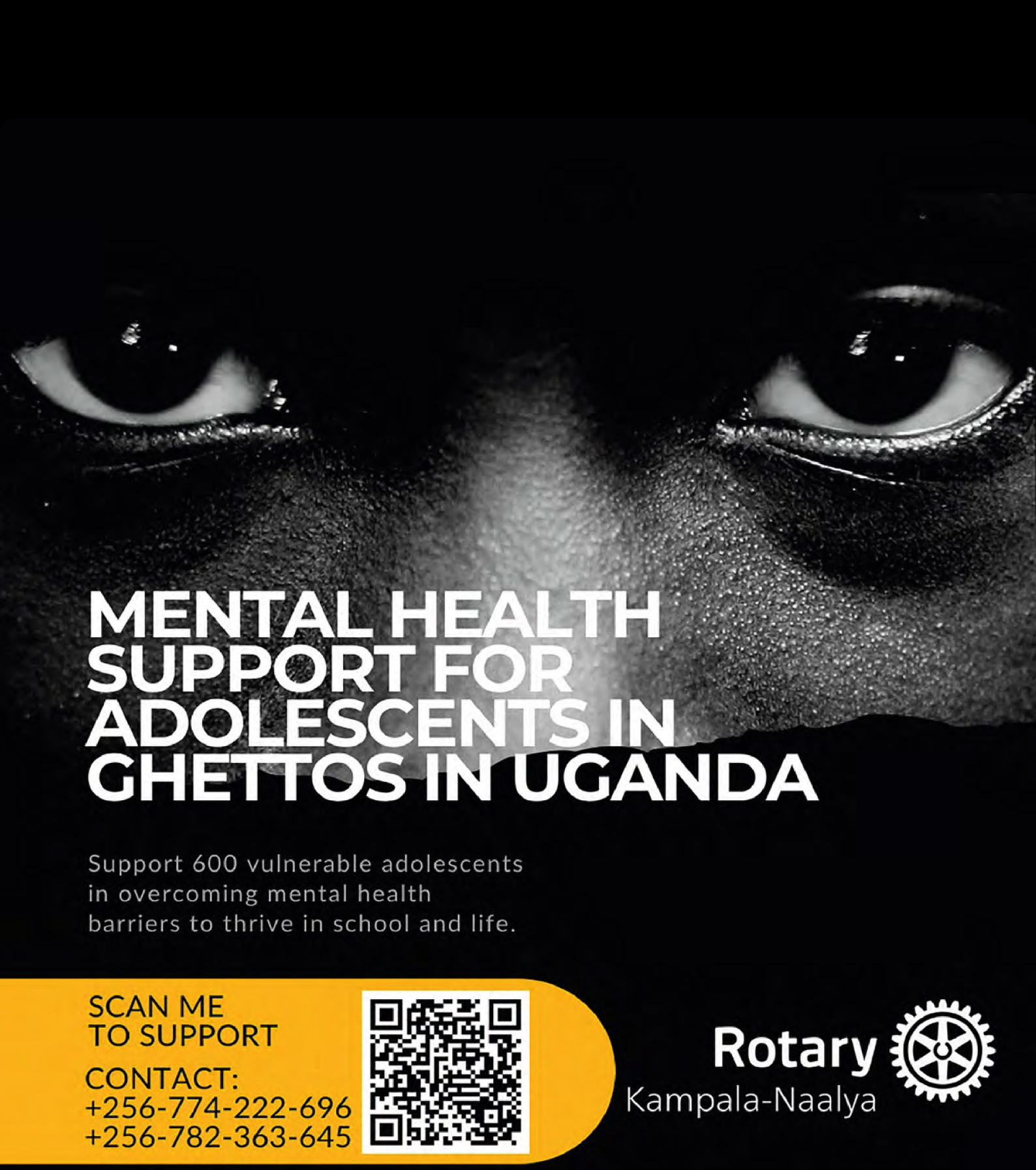
- **Rtn Betty Nabirye** – RC Mbalwa D9213
- **Rtn Beatrice M. Mucunguzi** – RC Kiwenda D9213
- **Rtn Eng. Dominic Mucunguzi** – Rotary Club of Kiwenda
- **Rtn Fredrick Ssekyana** – RC Kampala Central
- **Rtn Nankya Faridah** – RC Kampala Impala

Rotaractors

- **Rotaractor Muhindo Gloria** – RAC Kyambogo
- **Maria Batenga** – RAC Uganda Martyrs University, Fort Portal (In Formation)

#RotaryLove

Thank You, Come Again!!


MENTAL HEALTH
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Rotary
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How To Maximise Engagement During Membership Month

BY **RTN JOACHIM BUWEMBO**

What a roaring start of the Rotary year RC Kampala-Naalya has had, with Buddy Group Katogo in charge! The vibe, fellowship attendance and activity participation have been up there.

Can we "blame" their indefatigable chef Rtn Anne for setting the bar that high? Whatever the case, the good news is that it is possible to maintain the tempo, or even better it!

The club board actually intended it that way, which is why it was decided to make the year buddy group centred.

This is how it will work, in a nutshell:

1. Projects

Starting with Rotary's "heart" of service, we must have each buddy group adopt at least one PRIMARY project from the existing ones and also start initiating one NEW proposed project.

The group members also have a duty to ensure FULL participation of ALL its buddies in its project and MAXIMUM mobilisation of other club members who should be updated about the project progress at all times.

2. Identification and Recruitment

Each buddy group shall have a target of getting a minimum of only two (02) new members inducted by the end of the Rotary Year. There is no maximum, so the minimum has been set extremely low to ensure zero failure for any group. (Since there is no provision for deleting a buddy group, failure has been made impossible by the near-zero minimum target!)

> "Every Tuesday at the start of the Fellowship, five (05) minutes shall be devoted to reporting progress."

3. Attendance and Participation

Each group should ensure maximum physical attendance by its members (rather too obvious to require stating, but for the record…). Equally, each group is to ensure maximum participation of its buddies in all club and DISTRICT activities.

4. Individual Growth

Each group is to ensure its members learn by taking at least one course this year through the Rotary Learning Centre or Rotary Leadership Institute. Mentorship will also be an ongoing process.

WEEKLY PROGRESS REPORTS

Every Tuesday at the start of the Fellowship, five (05) minutes shall be devoted to reporting progress.
Each buddy chef shall be granted one (01) minute to READ their report on all four deliverables, e.g. "In the week Project X received item Y while proposed project Z's stakeholder met at…and decided to…

Today we have n members in attendance, unlike last week when we had … We now have f prospects of whom half have progressed and only remain to be declared fit for induction.

Rtn so-and-so has completed Course X while Y and Z hope to finish A and B in a month. As for the upcoming Service Project Y activity, we have confirmed members' participation so far.

The emphasis is on reading the report to ensure no chef takes more than a minute. This way, dear members, we hope to have a club of 100 per cent active Rotarians.

We wish everyone a REAL Rotary year!

The writer is the Membership Director for the Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya




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District 9213
Rotaract
District 9213
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Network
The next Rotarian could be your colleague, neighbour, client, or friend. Think of three people and invite one today.
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#RotaryEyamba
#RotaryKonyo
#RotaryMembershipMonth
https://rotaryd9213.org
Rotary District 9213



ELDER'S EYE

Translating Membership into Action for Maternal and Child Health

BY **PP GODFREY OKELLO-OMODING**

Action speaks louder than words," is a common saying. But this must be complete with the presence of persons who can cause action. As we reflect on membership and the new club development theme of the month, we ought to put it in some context. Why do we seek more members and new club development?

Simply put, there are issues and challenges in communities which need solutions to be provided. They require people who are willing to act. Rotary is one source of such people.

> "Recruitment of one Rotarian or starting of a Rotary club gives that assurance that Rotary is there to stand for years."

Take, for example, issues of maternal and child health (MCH). The statistics are still worrying: maternal mortality ratio standing at 189 per 100,000 live births, one (1) in 66 lifetime risk of maternal death, and neonatal mortality ratio standing at 22 per 1,000 live births.

To improve these statistics, we need people who are willing to move away from lamenting to acting. Where do we get them? In Rotary, we can get them. We need to retain, attract, recruit, and increase numbers through the development of new clubs.



Even with the current numbers, are they active? Today, Rotary in Uganda is challenged to do more in MCH and other areas of focus. As we appreciate the current level of participation of Rotarians and their clubs, we could even do more if we are many. The outreaches would be wider and more. However, let the past and current works of our Rotary Clubs be the encouragement for seeking more hands to do more.

As a community of Rotarians, we must attract, recruit and keep increasing our numbers. The fear of extinction must also be our drive. The work we do must be our pride to share with others and bring them on board.

As the birds of the same feather keep flocking together, they should care how the flock is sustained. Recruitment of one Rotarian or starting of a Rotary club gives that assurance that Rotary is there to stand for years.

What Rotary is doing in MCH in Uganda in the provision of practical solutions can

be sustained and increased further through growth in numbers. It gives an assurance both locally and internationally that Rotary clubs will continue to be looked upon for the future and in bridging public health care gaps.

There is no better way of assuring the public than Rotary having its internal growth.

Numbers matter. They are important in tackling public health care gaps. These numbers come wrapped with different skills, competences, experiences, knowledge and outlook on things. Rotarians and clubs can be used widely and rightly in addressing several areas of public health.

For instance, some Rotarians and clubs can be used to tackle structural issues, others engaged in systemic challenges, others in capacity building of staff, others in addressing infrastructural issues, others can pick on medical supplies and commodities, and while others can go on to increase community outreaches and care. In this way, Rotary steps out to be counted, and its numbers will speak louder with actions.

We do know that Rotary has been engaged in building infrastructure and in equipping health facilities. Yes, projects such as "Oxygen for Life are good. However, it is limited in coverage. While this one is based in Kawempe National Referral Hospital, such projects are needed in other parts of the country to ensure that there is a steady, well-maintained supply of medical oxygen to save newborns from birth asphyxia. With more numbers, how many of this kind of initiative can be spread countrywide? And how many newborn babies will be saved?

> "In MCH, let us remember that every mother counts, and every child's life matters. With numbers, our voices will form a loud trumpet call..."

With numbers, the Rotary Club of Kampala Central modernised a maternity ward and operating theatre in Ngora. More of this can be replicated elsewhere. The power of numbers is not only useful in political elections but better in transforming society.

When like-minded people willingly come together, they can achieve a lot. A better illustration of this is the termites. Small as they are, with their numbers and patience in undertaking tasks, they can throw down a big dry tree trunk or cause it to fall. How about us, Rotarians? How much can we achieve with our numbers?

Evident by the Rotary Family health days. Rotarians have been able to take medical camps to many remote communities. They have drawn massive, multi-partner campaigns, taking free medical testing, immunisation, providing free drugs and prenatal checkups to thousands of people and families.

Expectant mothers have been able to get *Mama Kits.* These kits contribute to lowering the risk of lethal postpartum sepsis. Rotarians pointing out some of these admirable and deserving interventions is a testament that our actions are useful and impactful.

However, there is a need to keep rethinking and reinventing how to sustain these responses and keep increasing them.

In MCH, the need to rethink and reinvent the delivery of MCH services should come with having numbers that are equipped to provide options that facilitate and/or enable.

With working on our numbers, the responsibility we have as a voice for underserved communities, as we always recite in the Rotary grace, *"...mindful of the needs of others..."*, we can achieve a lot. In MCH, let us remember that every mother counts, and every child's life matters. With numbers, our voices will form a loud trumpet call and hands of action.




CANCER RUN 2026
GGWANGA MUJJE!
Rotary Clubs of Uganda
No matter the Distance, every Step counts.
Choose your Challenge:
5KM
21KM
10KM
KOLOLO INDEPENDENCE GROUNDS & MAJOR TOWNS ACROSS THE COUNTRY
6:00AM
SUN 30TH AUG 2026
Scan the QR Code to Register
UGX 30,000
comes with a vest
#CancerRunUg26
@CancerRunUg
@UgRotaryCancerP
PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA
Centenary Bank
KRYSTAL
nbs
Sumz
MAD McCANN
ecare
events

Rotary District 9213

Rotaract District 9213

MEET THE DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE



DG. Gerald Obai
District Governor
RC Gulu



PDG. Francis Xavier Ssentamu
Regional Membership Coordinator
RC Kiwatule



PDG. Stephen Mwanje
Membership Advisory Team
RC Mukono



PDG. Anne Nkutu
Membership Advisory Team – New Club Models
RC Kampala Naalya



Rct. Ruth Amber Bagunda
Chair, District Rotaract Committee
RCT Kampala Central



Rtn. Dorothy Kyeyune
Chair, District Membership Committee (DMC) Chairperson of Chairpersons
RC Kampala Maisha



Rtn. Margaret Okello
Chair, District Family of Rotary Committee
RC Kampala Naguru



Rtn. Proscovia Arima
Chair, District New Club Development Committee
RC Arua



Rtn. Jesca Nyanzi
Chair, District Membership Engagement Committee
RC Wobulenzi



Rtn. Herbert Muhumuza
Chair, District Rotary Community Corps Committee
RC Kampala North



Rtn. Elizabeth Kyomugisha
Chair, District Membership Attraction Committee
RC Upper Kololo



Rtn. Emmanuel Lukeera
Chair, Rotaract – Rotary Transition Committee
RC Kampala



Rtn. Dorcas Tusubira
Chair, District Rotary Fellowships Committee
RC Sunrise Kampala



Rtn. Patrick Lasu
Chair, District Youth Committee
RC Kampala South



Rtn. Charity Namaganda
Chair, District E- Clubs Development Committee
RC E-Club Ntinda Uganda



Rtn. Ronald Mulindwa
Chair, District Corporate Membership Committee
RC Kampala Metropolitan



Rtn. Mariam Mutalaga
Chair, District Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee
RC Namugongo



Rtn. Gakenia Wamuyu
Chair, District Rotary Action Groups Committee
RC Najjera



PAG Ronald Kawaddwa
RI Membership Experience & Growth Committee Member 2024-2027
RC Kasangati



Rct. Patience Asiimwe
Chair, District Alumni
RCT Naguru



Rtn. Kenneth Obito
Membership Support Officer - Northern Region
RC Kitgum



Rtn. Allen Nangalo
Membership Support Officer - Central Region
RC Manyangwa Nakwero



Rtn. Jackstanley Ovua
Membership Support Officer - Western Region
RC Masindi



Rtn. Mathias Okongo
Membership Support Officer - Eastern Region
RC Abim



Need to Cancel Your Zone Institute Registration? Here's What You Should Know

BY **RTN SYLVIA NANKYA**

Unexpected circumstances can sometimes prevent delegates from attending the **7th All Africa Rotary Zone Institute Uganda 2026**. For those who may need to cancel or transfer their registration, the Institute has outlined a policy detailing the refund process, transfer options and other important conditions.

Under the policy, all cancellation requests must be submitted in writing to the Zone Institute Secretariat. Delegates who cancel 90 days or more before the Institute will receive a 75 per cent refund of the amount paid, while cancellations made between 31 and 89 days before the event will qualify for a 50 percent refund.

> "Requests must be submitted in writing and include the replacement participant's full name, email address, telephone number..."

No refunds will be issued for cancellations made within 30 days of the event, or to delegates who do not formally cancel before failing to attend. The event will take place from 26-28 November 2026 following a recent postponement.

The policy also gives registered delegates the option of transferring their registration to another participant at no additional cost up to and including 1 November 2026.

Requests must be submitted in writing and include the replacement participant's full name, email address, telephone number, Rotary District and club details. Any financial arrangements between the original and replacement delegates remain their responsibility.

Delegates should also note that the Organising Committee may make programme changes at short notice without offering partial refunds of registration fees.

In addition, anyone who loses an official event name badge will be required to pay **USD 20** for a replacement, as badges will be mandatory for access to the Institute.

The policy further states that participants are responsible for meeting Uganda's health and visa requirements and that the Host Organising Committee's liability is limited under the terms set out in the policy. It also reserves the right to alter or cancel activities in the event of force majeure, with no compensation payable for resulting losses.

The event, which was initially scheduled to take place in October, was postponed last week and, according to the organisers, the decision was informed by travel restrictions and quarantine requirements that some international delegates were likely to face upon returning to their home countries.

Although Uganda has since been officially declared Ebola-free, the organisers said rescheduling the Institute would provide greater certainty and allow delegates to make travel plans with confidence.



Rotary
District 9213

GOVERNANCE IN ACTION

CELEBRATING 104 CLUBS LEADING THROUGH ACCOUNTABILITY & STEWARDSHIP

JULY CLUB REPORTING

- RC Acacia Sunset
- RC Abim
- RC Arua
- RC Bugolobi
- RC Bukeerere
- RC Bulindo
- RC Buloba
- RC Busia
- RC Busia Boderline
- RC Busia Lumino
- RAC Busitema University
- RC Butabika Royals
- RC Bujuuko Kireka
- RC Buwaate
- RC Bweyogerere Central
- RC Bweyogerere Namboole
- RC E- Club Ntinda
- RC E Club of Naguru
- RC E Club of Uganda
- RC Fotrt Portal
- RC Greater Nebbi
- RC Gulu
- RC Gulu City
- RC Hoima Kitara
- RC Iganga
- RC Jinja
- RC Kabarole
- RC Kampala
- RC Kampala 7 Hills
- RC Kampala Day Break
- RC Kampala Impala
- RC Kampala Kawempe
- RC Kampala Ssese Islands
- RC Kampala Central
- RC Kampala City
- RC Kampala Day Break
- RC Kampala East
- RC Kampala Early Bird
- RC Kampala First Aid Emergency
- Response
- RC Kampala Kibuli
- RC Kampala Maisha
- RC Kampala Mahaba
- RC Kampala Metropolitan
- RC Kampala Morning Stars
- RC Kampala Naalya
- RC Kampala South
- RC Kampala Sunshine
- RC Kasangati
- RC Kasubi
- RC Katakwi
- RC Kanyanya
- RC Kayunga
- RC Kiboga
- RC Kira
- RC Kireka Movers
- RC Kisaasi Kyanja
- RC Kitukutwe
- RC Kiteezi
- RC Kiwatule
- RC Kiwenda
- RC Koboko
- RC Kololo Summit view
- RC Kulambiro
- RC Kyadondo
- RC Kyadondo Rugby
- RC Kyambogo Kampala
- RC Kyegegwa Pioneers
- RC Kyenjojo Metro
- RC Lugazi Central
- RC Lugogo Mango Tree
- RC Makindye
- RC Manyangwa Nakwero.
- RC Masindi
- RC Matugga
- RC Mbalwa
- RC Mbale
- RC Mbale Metropolitan
- RC Mityana
- RC Mpererwe
- RC Mubende
- RC Mubende Metro
- RC Mukono
- RC Mukono Central
- RC Mukono Namilyango
- RC Naalya States
- RC Najjeera
- RC Nakasero Central
- RC Nansana
- RC Nansana Metro
- RC Ngora
- RC Njeru
- RC Ntinda
- RC Ntinda Metropolitan
- RC Portbell
- RC Saturday E Jazz
- RC Seeta
- RC Serere
- RC Sonde
- RC Ssingo Mityana
- RC Sunrise Kampala
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- RC Tororo Sam Owori
- RC Upper Kololo
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OUT TO LUNCH

Students Joining Universities Could Teach Themselves AI to Disrupt Sectors Like Agriculture

BY **RTN DENIS JJUUKO**

The month of August sees public universities open their gates to first-year students. Joining university is one of the milestones many young people celebrate, the last step in the journey to the pinnacle of education. In a few years, they would be out of university and joining the workforce.

But also, university in Uganda is really the first time somebody enjoys adulthood. The pampering starts to end once you join university. No teachers and wardens are chasing you out of your room to attend class.

Most universities don't care much about how you dress. If you are female, you decide whatever you want to do with your hair.

Nobody sends you back home for having a mobile phone. It is, in fact, a taboo not to own a smartphone. You can return or not even return to your digs.

Real freedom is perhaps only enjoyed while at university. When you leave and get married, you start being accountable for every little thing, but then I digress.



> "Today, there is no guarantee. The number of people joining the labour force is higher than the jobs available."

However, it must also be mixed feelings for many parents, guardians and the students themselves. Have they chosen the right academic course? Will the jobs be available when students finish their academic journeys given the artificial intelligence (AI) disruptions we hear about every day?

Many decades ago, a university degree meant a good job. Employers booked future workers before they even graduated. And upon graduation, people found themselves with decent jobs, housing, cars and whatever they needed to succeed.

Today, there is no guarantee. The number of people joining the labour force is higher than the jobs available. The majority of Ugandan jobs, more than 70%, are in agriculture. Many young graduates aren't very comfortable working there.

In many poor agrarian economies, the pay is usually low, and work is in remote areas. The majority of students are from rural communities, and they want to try life elsewhere.

They have been told for nearly two decades that education is the clearest pathway to a better life, which it is. If they attain education at the highest



level only to return to the village to work in agriculture, many people would look at them as failures.

Yet it shouldn't be. If you remove gold, coffee is Uganda's biggest export earner, bringing in billions of dollars annually. People have turned their lives around recently because of coffee.

The agronomical practices may have changed a bit thanks to campaigns like Mmwanyi Terimba of Buganda Kingdom, but there is still a lot that needs to be done.

> "If coffee is improving the lives of farmers in Bukomansimbi, it means it can employ young people and give them decent salaries."

If we are to reach our target of 20 million bags of 60kg annually from about 8.6 million, we need to send some of our educated people to agriculture.

The knowledge acquired at university should be used to improve the coffee value chain or any other agricultural product. It could be sales and marketing, post-harvest handling, agronomy, logistics, finance, investments, procurement, accounting, value addition, etc.

Farmers would also have to appreciate the value that graduates bring to the field if they are to see improved yields. Many people employ the least educated and qualified people to look after their investments in agriculture.

Pick a boy who can't even write his name and put him in charge of a poultry farm of 20,000 birds or a 20-acre coffee farm. The results are expected. Frustration upon frustration.

Africa's food import bill is nearing US$100 billion a year, yet we have a youthful population that is looking for work.

How do we put young, highly educated people to work in agriculture? If coffee is improving the lives of farmers in Bukomansimbi, it means it can employ young people and give them decent salaries. And the young people will work hard to improve yields on the farms or profitability in the value chain because that is a guaranteed way for them to improve their incomes too.

If we reduce how much food we import, that can be money directly put in the pockets of young people.

However, the policymakers might be on other perfunctory things. As young people join universities, they need to think of how they can work in sectors like agriculture and turn them around using whatever qualifications they acquire. That is where the jobs are. The universities will likely teach them basics.

The majority of university students have a lot of time.

Some have classes for a few days a week or just in the evening or a few hours a day. They can use new technologies like AI to teach themselves a few things that may help them disrupt sectors like agriculture. That way, they will create value that leads them to secure decent jobs.

The writer is a communication and visibility consultant.
djjuuko@yahoo.com



Meet Rotary International's President for 2028-29

BY **RTN SYLVIA NANKYA**

When Rotary International announced Dr Bharat Pandya as its President Nominee for 2028-29, many Rotarians around the world celebrated the appointment of a leader whose Rotary journey spans nearly four decades.

Yet beyond the announcement lies the story of a surgeon, humanitarian and servant leader whose life has been shaped by a simple but powerful belief: that professional excellence and community service belong together.

A charter member of the Rotary Club of Borivli, Mumbai, Dr Pandya joined Rotary in 1989. Over the years, he served at virtually every level of the organisation, from club and district leadership to the Rotary International Board of Directors and The Rotary Foundation.

Professionally, Dr Pandya built a distinguished career as a general and laparoscopic surgeon, practising medicine for 38 years. Together with his wife, Dr Madhavi Pandya, a gynaecologist, he established a private hospital in Mumbai, where the couple combined medical expertise with compassionate patient care.

Throughout his medical career, he earned a reputation for ethical practice and clinical excellence, receiving fellowships from the Association of Surgeons of India and the International College of Surgeons, among several professional honours.



> "Those who know Dr Pandya speak not only of his leadership but also of his integrity."

Within Rotary, Dr Pandya has consistently championed The Rotary Foundation as a catalyst for sustainable change.

During his tenure as Governor of District 3140 in 2006-07, the district contributed more than USD 2 million to The Rotary Foundation, the highest contribution by any district in the world that year.

Dr Pandya's leadership has also been instrumental in one of Rotary's greatest achievements: the global fight against polio. As a member of the India PolioPlus Committee between 2011 and 2015, he contributed during the period in which India achieved certification as a polio-free nation, a milestone once considered impossible given the country's size and population.

He has served as Rotary International Director and Treasurer, Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinator, Training Leader and member of several key committees, including Finance, Strategic Planning, Membership, Convention Promotion and Programmes.

Equally significant has been his service to The Rotary Foundation, where he has served as Trustee, Vice Chair, Executive Committee Chair, and Vice Chair of both the Finance and Stewardship Committees.

His current responsibilities as Chair of the Rotary International Programs Committee and Vice Chair of The Rotary Foundation Programs Committee place him at the centre of Rotary's global service initiatives.

Those who know Dr Pandya speak not only of his leadership but also of his integrity. Rotary has honoured him with its highest distinctions, including the Service Above Self Award, The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service, and The Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award.

Dr Pandya's wife, Dr Madhavi Pandya, is a Past District Chair of Inner Wheel District 314. Together they are Major Donors and Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation.



Man Was Born Poor, *Not Doomed to Stay Poor*

BY **RTN EDGAR ATEGEKA**

Poverty is man's natural state. That statement sounds paradoxical because of the natural abundance of the world, but man, in his original state, is incapable of harnessing that abundance.

It is only after man or society is layered with knowledge and technology that man then begins to be able to master their environment and harness all that natural abundance of the world.

You see that with how our initial place of abode was trees, but then with the discovery of fire, we were able to move to caves. The caves had always existed.

We just lacked the capacity to harness their potential for shelter.

However, with the technology of fire, we were then able to harness the warmth and light that we needed to utilise the caves, in addition to expelling the wild animals that had previously inhabited the caves. Society cannot improve its lot without upgrading its tools. The primary tools in that struggle are knowledge and technology.

> "Society cannot improve its lot without upgrading its tools. The primary tools in that struggle are knowledge and technology."

And that's why you see even historically recent well-intentioned interventions aimed at radical economic redistribution failed at improving the material conditions of societies because they failed to prioritise the improvement of the primary tools of knowledge and technology.



The 1970's Ugandan and 1980's Zimbabwean expropriations can be argued by some to have been well-intentioned, but very little had been done prior to improve the capacity in terms of knowledge and technology of the intended recipients.

It's akin to if today Uganda expelled Total and CNOOC from the Albertine and yet we still depend significantly on them for access to financing, specialised machinery and specialised oil and gas knowledge.

So inevitably, the result of those 1970s and 80s' expropriations was economic ruin. Yes, we

now had control over the factories, the sugar plantations and the farms - most of which were, in fact, simply distributed to the UG and ZIM political and social elite - but did that give us the capacity to harness those factories and plantations and farms? No, the economies were ruined, and decades later, both countries have had to course-correct by making efforts to compensate and invite the victims of the expropriations back.

Of course, today, Uganda and many African societies have grown by leaps and bounds in terms of those crucial capacities of knowledge and technology required to harness the natural abundance around us, but more still needs to happen, and those capacities, instead of only handouts, are what need to be spread across the entire society.

> “...keep improving the material conditions of man, and to spread those discoveries as widely as possible..”

The evolution of material conditions is arguably the most objective way to analyse societies.

And material conditions evolving is not rocket science limited to some economic high priests; it's things as simple as realising that, as with our example of natural abundance, lakes and rivers and waterfalls had always existed, but why then did man not have piped running water and hydroelectric power? And why does man then have them today?

So that's an example of man's natural state being poverty, even when surrounded by abundance. Without man improving his material conditions, the rivers and lakes and falls would have flowed all they liked, but there would have been no electricity and no piped water.



It took man improving his knowledge and technology to move us from the state of lack (no electricity, no clean piped water) to harnessing the natural abundance of the water bodies that had always existed.

Modern transportation, dams, vaccines, the internet, fertilisers, settled farming, and a myriad other advances are all chapters in man's long struggle to move from that original state of lack where none of these things existed, by improving his capacity to harness his environment.

We stand on the shoulders of humans who kicked off with no fire and no permanent shelter; humanity owes it to them and to future humanity to keep improving the material conditions of man, and to spread those discoveries as widely as possible.



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