Naalya Food Bulletin

23rd June, 2026

Rotary Kampala - Naalya

UNITE FOR GOOD

Issue 48 | RY 2025-26



Rtn Christine Amucu
Club President, 2026-2027

RC KAMPALA - NAALYA

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Chef's Note

About this time last year, I received a call from Rotarian Charles Owekmeno. He told me that as the next President, he was putting together the team he was going to serve with. He requested for my support with this bulletin. My response was that I would look into it.

At the next fellowship, he called me aside and continued with the conversation about the role he wanted me to play. I said 'yes.' Frankly, it has been an amazing experience working with Rtn Owekmeno.

Indeed, a year is a short time to leave a lasting mark. But President Charles Owekmeno did not need longer.

As he prepares to hand the chain of office to President Elect Christine Amucu on June 30, the evidence of his tenure surrounds us — in the projects completed, the fellowship deepened, and a club that carries itself with renewed confidence and purpose.

Leadership of the kind President Owekmeno has modelled is rarely loud. It is consistent. It shows up on the evenings when enthusiasm is difficult, when the work is thankless.

It asks nothing of others that it has not already demanded of itself.

Across 12 months, he brought precisely that quality to every meeting chaired, every initiative championed, and every member quietly encouraged to give a little more than they thought they could.

Under his watch, we have met key club goals that once sat on paper as ambition and now stand in the world as achievement.

Our service programmes have reached further into the communities that need us most.

Our fellowship — that irreplaceable thread that binds Rotarians not just in work but in genuine human warmth — has grown stronger and more deliberate.

None of this happens by accident. It happens because a president sets a tone, and the tone President Owekmeno set was one of integrity, diligence, and quiet joy in the act of serving others.

There is also the matter of what he leaves behind that cannot be counted. The newer members who found their confidence under his watch.

The spirit of unity and collaboration that he nurtured among us. The sense, collectively shared, that this club is not simply an organisation we belong to — it is a cause we believe in.

That is the most durable legacy any leader can leave, and it will outlast any single programme or project bearing his year's hallmark.

On June 30, President Elect Christine Amucu steps forward to lead, inheriting a club in good health — its foundations solid, its purpose clear, its fellowship alive.

That is the gift President Owekmeno passes on with the chain of office: not just a club in good standing, but a club that knows what it stands for.

To President Charles Owekmeno — you were given a year, and you made it count. Rotary asks its presidents for service above self, and you answered that call without reservation and without fanfare.

The last gavel falls on June 30, but the mark you have made on this club will echo well beyond it.

Well led, Mr. President!

Rtn. Peter Nyanzi
Bulletin Officer

Let's carry the momentum

RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rtn Francesco Arezzo



JUNE 2026

As my year as President of Rotary International comes to a close, I offer my heartfelt thanks to each member of our global Rotary family.

Your kindness, warmth, and dedication have changed my life.

During this year, I had the privilege of traveling across our world, from San Francisco, birthplace of the United Nations, to the innovative Rotary clubs of Nigeria.

In every place, I saw Rotary members and our partners working side by side to create lasting, positive change, reminding me that our strength lies in shared purpose.

That spirit leads naturally to a simple truth: Rotary is not something we attend, but something we do.

> "You have shown that when we Unite for Good, there is no challenge we cannot meet if we stand together."

We are not spectators. We act, and through that action, we transform our communities and ourselves.

As we continue this work, we must keep our focus on building conditions for peace. Rotary is, at its core, a peace machine.

But maintaining that machine requires intention, commitment, and steady effort.

That same resolve is needed now as we push toward polio eradication.

The final mile is often the hardest, but we cannot falter in our promise to the children of the world.

You have shown that when we Unite for Good, there is no challenge we cannot meet if we stand together.

Let us carry this momentum forward with courage, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to the safety and prosperity of all.

Love Made Visible, Mission Accomplished



DG'S MESSAGE

By Geoffrey Martin Kitakule

JUNE 2026

Over the past year, something extraordinary happened across Rotary District 9213. Not in grand fellowships, or events.

But in villages, schools, health centres, boardrooms, churches, dusty community grounds, and in the quiet moments where ordinary people chose service over self.

And if I have learned anything as District Governor, it is this: people still care. Deeply. They care enough to wake up before sunrise for medical camps in Atangi, Busesa, Gulu, and Kazo. They care enough to spend weekends fundraising for communities they may never personally benefit from.

They care enough to believe that a girl child deserves dignity, that a mother deserves safe delivery, that clean water should not be a luxury, and that hope is not something we merely talk about — it is something we build. Indeed… #RotaryEyamba.

When we began this journey, we spoke often about Uniting for Good. It sounded ambitious then. Maybe even slightly idealistic.

But somewhere between fellowships, dinners, project launches, Kimeza, WhatsApp debates at midnight, and those "Governor, we need just one more meeting" phone calls, we stopped being clubs working near each other and became a movement working with each other. And what a movement it became.

> "We equipped health centers; we restored dignity. We opened doors for young people."



Together with incredible partners including Davis & Shirtliff, EACOP, DFCU Bank, Buganda Kingdom, Centenary Bank, Giving Tuesday, and C-Care, among many others, we expanded Rotary's footprint of impact across Uganda and beyond.

We equipped health centers; we restored dignity. We opened doors for young people.

We brought clean water to communities accessing it for the first time. We proved that sustainable service is not a dream when good people decide to move in the same direction.

On the District X platform @dgrotary9213, I often wrote that "service is love made visible." This year, you made it visible everywhere.

To our Club Presidents: you were the captains of this mission. You led with resilience, creativity, and grace. Even in moments of exhaustion, uncertainty, and loss, you remained steady. You were indeed my "RideOrDie Presidents."

And somehow, despite the impossible schedules and impossible targets, you still found energy for fellowship, selfies and conference dance floors. Rotary people are truly special human beings.

To the Assistant Governors, District leaders, project teams, volunteers, and every Rotarian who quietly served without seeking applause; thank you. Leadership is never about the title on the badge. It is about the lives changed because you showed up. And yes, we showed up.

We showed up so powerfully that together we achieved what many considered impossible: raising over one million dollars for The Rotary Foundation. I still remember some of the early conversations where people politely smiled at the goal, the way one smiles at a child describing how they will become an astronaut next week.

But as Nelson Mandela reminded us: "It always seems impossible until it is done." Well… we did it. But beyond the numbers, the grants, the projects, and the milestones, the greatest gift of this year has been the reminder that Rotary remains one of humanity's most beautiful ideas; that strangers can become family through service. I must also pause to thank my own family.

To those who shared me with Rotary when the meetings became longer, the travel became endless, and the phone never seemed to sleep — thank you. Leadership is never carried out by one person alone. Families serve too, often quietly and without recognition. This journey belongs to you as much as it belongs to me.

As this chapter closes, I leave with profound gratitude and deep optimism.

- I have seen it in young leaders stepping forward with confidence.
- I have seen it in clubs choosing collaboration over competition.
- I have seen it in communities that now believe change is possible because Rotarians kept their promises. And so, my fellow Rotarians, let us continue.

Years from now, people may forget our meeting themes, conference décor, or even who held the office. But they will remember that in a season when the world often felt divided, Rotary District 9213 chose unity, chose compassion, chose action and changed communities forever. And we can confidently say together,

- Continue building Rotary in Uganda.
- Continue mentoring.
- Continue giving.
- Continue believing.
- Continue uniting for good.
- Because I have seen the future of Rotary District 9213 confirmed by our ability to start on the journey of re-organizing into District 9217 and 9218.

The work ahead remains enormous. But so is our resolve and capacity to serve. we did more than complete a Rotary year.

Together, we transformed lives and for that, we can all drop the mic with pride.

Indeed… #RotaryEyamba.



President's Message

RTN CHARLES OWEKMENO
Unite For Good President
2025-2026



Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Guests,

Happy new week to you all. I take this moment to recognize and celebrate the fathers among us, and to honor Father's Day.

May your dedication to your families and communities continue to inspire us in Rotary service.

As we count down to the close of this Rotary year, I am mindful that this is my last fellowship as President. It is with deep gratitude that I thank you, the Naalyakos, for your unwavering support throughout the year.

Together, we have achieved many of our key goals and made our club impactful in service and fellowship.

My special appreciation goes to the Board of Directors and my Presidential Advisors, whose guidance and commitment have been invaluable.

> "As I bow out, I encourage us all to carry forward the spirit of unity, compassion, and service above self."

Let us now gear up to support President Elect Christine Amucu, who will be installed on 30th June 2026.

With our collective energy and fellowship, I am confident that the coming Rotary year will be even greater.

This Tuesday, 23rd June 2026, will be my last time to officiate at fellowship. I warmly invite you all to join me for this special occasion, so we can celebrate together the journey we have shared.

We also celebrate with joy those marking birthdays, anniversaries, and personal wins this week.

Your milestones remind us that Rotary is not only about service, but also about celebrating life and fellowship together.

As I bow out, I encourage us all to carry forward the spirit of unity, compassion, and service above self.

Together, we are building a legacy of impact and hope that will continue to shine through Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya.

YOURS IN ROTARY SERVICE,

Rotary
Kampala - Naalya

2025-2026
A YEAR OF IMPACT



DATE

TUESDAY
23 RD JUNE

With
PRESIDENT CHARLES OWEKMENO

Time
7:00PM

Location
NDERE CULTURAL CENTRE

Buddy group In Charge
ROLEX



TEAM TALK

Rotary Legacy Question That Must Be Answered

BY **AG FRANCIS LUBUULWA**



Over the past few weeks, I have had the privilege of attending the installation and handover ceremonies of the clubs I have been honoured to serve as Assistant Governor this Rotary year: Rotary Club of Kiteezi, Rotary Club of Kirinya-Bukasa, and Rotary Club of Ssingo Mityana.

Like many installations, these occasions were filled with celebration, gratitude, and optimism. Outgoing presidents reflected on their journeys.

Incoming presidents shared their vision for the year ahead. Members applauded achievements, recognised service, and renewed their commitment to Rotary.

As I listened to the outgoing presidents speak about their experiences, one thought continued to return to my mind: At the end of every Rotary year, we all eventually arrive at the same place.

The fellowships have been held. The projects have been completed. The reports have been submitted.

The presidential mantle is handed over. And what remains is an opportunity to reflect.

Not simply on what was accomplished, but on what difference our service truly made.

Throughout this month, we have reflected on how clubs finish their Rotary year, how the leader hands over responsibilities, and why effective clubs must think beyond a single presidential term.

> "As we conclude another Rotary year, I would like to leave us with one final question: What legacy am I leaving as a Rotarian?.."

As we conclude another Rotary year, I would like to leave us with one final question: What legacy am I leaving as a Rotarian?

During installation ceremonies, much attention is understandably given to achievements. We celebrate projects completed, funds raised, members inducted, and milestones reached. These accomplishments matter. They represent real effort, sacrifice, and service.

Yet as I listened to leaders reflect on their year, I was reminded that Rotary's most meaningful impact is often found beyond what appears in annual reports.

It is found in the member who stayed in Rotary because someone took the time to encourage them. It is found in the young leader



L-R: DGE Gerald Obai, AG Hope Tumwesigye, DG Geoffrey M Kitakule, President Charles Owekmeno and IPDG Anne Nkutu, during the DG's official visit in August 2025.

who discovered confidence through Rotaract or Interact.

It is found in friendships built through shared service. It is found in the example of a Rotarian who consistently lives the values of integrity, fairness, and Service Above Self. These are the things that often endure long after a term of office has ended.

Think for a moment about the Rotarians who have had the greatest influence on your own journey. Chances are you remember them not because of the titles they held, but because of how they treated people. Now, that is legacy.

As another Rotary year begins, I believe it is worth asking ourselves whether Rotary is changing us as much as we hope it is changing our communities.

Because Rotary was never intended to be something we merely participate in. It was intended to shape the kind of people we become.

> "They will remember whether we left our communities better than we found them."

As I conclude my year of service as Assistant Governor, I do so with gratitude for the lessons I have learned from the clubs and Rotarians I have encountered along the way.

I have witnessed remarkable acts of service, resilience, friendship, and leadership. Rotary's greatest strength has always been its people.

The projects we complete matter. The communities we serve matter. The funds we raise matter. But the person we become through service matters too.

Years from now, few people will remember every project we undertook or every position we held. But they will remember how we treated others.

They will remember whether our presence strengthened our clubs. They will remember whether we left our communities better than we found them.

And so, as we begin a new Rotary year, I leave you with the question that has occupied my own reflections over these past weeks: ***When your Rotary story is told, what will people remember?***

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

#CoverStory



PE Amucu Unveils Forward-Looking Plan for 2026/2027

Some 14 years ago, Rotarian Christine Amucu was among a handful of Rotarians who chartered the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya. On June 30, she will stand at Ndere Centre and be installed as the Club President.

That arc — from founder to leader — is the story of a woman who has watched this club grow from an idea into an institution, and who now carries both the memory of what it was and a concrete plan for what it must become.

She is not arriving at this role as an outsider with fresh ideas. She is arriving as someone who has lived every chapter of this club's story, and who has earned the right to write the next one.

At a Club Assembly on June 16, Amucu presented a workplan that, in its specificity alone, signals a different kind of presidency. She is not asking members to trust a vision; she is asking them to hold her to a plan.

The targets are exact: raise at least US$10,000 for the Rotary Foundation, with every member contributing a minimum of US$100, plus an additional US$1,500 specifically for Polio Plus.

Grow membership from 55 to 65, with a net gain of at least 10 new members - the first induction already pencilled in for July 28 during the District Governor's visit.

Achieve 80 percent attendance at district events and 30 percent at RI events. Sponsor four young people for RYLA, at UGX 400,000 each. Plant 200 trees with the Rotaractors.

Equip a computer lab in Agago with 25 additional computers and solar panels, in collaboration with the MTN Foundation.

These are not aspirations dressed as plans. They are plans dressed as commitments.

What Amucu brings to this role is harder to quantify but just as important as any figure on a workplan. She understands, from years of service, that numbers without people are hollow.

> "Amucu understands, from years of service, that numbers without people are hollow."



DGE Gerald Obai with PE Amucu

Her workplan addresses this directly - she has made member engagement a structural priority, not an afterthought.

Two Rotaractors will be supported to transition into full Rotary membership. Every member will be encouraged to bring a friend each month.

Digital campaigns will run alongside the personal outreach, widening the club's reach beyond its existing networks.

And TRF giving will be woven into the induction process itself, so that new members understand the

Rotary Foundation not as an obligation introduced after they join, but as a core reason they are joining.

That shift in sequencing is small in design and significant in effect.

Service project participation will also be widened deliberately. She was direct about this at the Assembly: if a club runs three projects with only three active members, that is not a club serving the community; it is three individuals doing so. That distinction matters, and she means to close the gap.

> "Amucu is not a new voice asking to be heard; she is a founding voice returning to steer the Club to even greater heights."

The goal is not merely to run more projects, but to ensure that every member has a stake in the ones that exist.

The club's signature service work continues and deepens under her leadership. The mental health integrated medical camp - now heading into its third edition - will run twice during the year, in October and May, with further project details to be shared in July.

The St. Mbaga Primary School outreach continues, with road safety training, career guidance, and distribution of essential items for learners.

The Green Walkathon is back on the calendar, this time with the Rotary Peace Centre at Makerere as a collaborating partner.

The Missionaries of the Poor Christmas outreach will be even bigger this year. And two Global Grant applications are already under review - one of them the Kamuli project - meaning that even before her year formally begins, the groundwork for impact is already laid.

On the social and administrative side, the club will mark members' birthdays and anniversaries, hold at least 12 social events including home hospitalities and monthly fellowships, and maintain the award schemes - TRF Giving, Rotarian of the Month - that recognise service and strengthen belonging.

Back in June last year, Nalyakos gave President Charles Owekmeno their full support through his year, and the club is stronger for it. Christine Amucu deserves nothing less - and nothing different.

She is not a new voice asking to be heard; she is a founding voice returning to steer the Club to even greater heights.





PDG Nsibirwa Appointed Zonal TRF Coordinator

BY **EDITORIAL DESK**

Uganda is no longer just a participant in global Rotary. It is becoming a force that shapes it.

On 16 June 2026, Jennifer Jones, Chair of The Rotary Foundation for 2026-27, wrote to Past District Governor Robert Waggwa Nsibirwa with a clear and deliberate invitation.

She asked him to serve as Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator for Region 28, covering fifteen countries across East and Southern Africa. His term runs from 1 July 2026 to 30 June 2029.

The appointment was copied to RI Director-elect Emmanuel Katongole and incoming TRF Trustee Francis "Tusu" Tusubira - both Ugandans, a detail that signals something significant about where Uganda now stands within the Rotary world.

Katongole and Tusubira did not arrive at their roles by chance. They earned them through sustained, credible service at the highest levels of Rotary leadership. Nsibirwa's appointment completes a remarkable trifecta.

Three Ugandans, three distinct but complementary leadership roles, all active at the same time on the international Rotary stage.

For a country and a Rotary district that has long punched above its weight, this convergence is historic.

Nsibirwa brings a profile that is rare even among senior Rotarians. A statistician by training and holding a Master's degree in Economic Policy and Planning, he's a Fellow Emeritus of the Centre for the Study of African Economies at Oxford University - tools he has already deployed in service of Rotary's economic and community development agenda, both at district and zone level.

He served as District Governor of D9211 during 2015-16, when the district covered both Uganda and Tanzania. That tenure shaped collaborative cross-border projects that remain active today. Since then, he has not retreated into the comfortable distance of past leadership.

> "He served as District Governor of D9211 during 2015-16, when the district covered both Uganda and Tanzania."

He has remained in the work - advising on economic development, coordinating visits of Rotary International Presidents, and championing a fundamental shift in how Rotary delivers impact.

That shift is perhaps his most important contribution. Nsibirwa has consistently argued against one-off charitable donations as a model of service. He believes in building economic frameworks that generate resources to sustain service over time.

His flagship initiative, Rotary *Vijana Poa* (Youth are Cool) - is the clearest expression of this philosophy.

The programme was designed to transform young Ugandans from job seekers into job creators.



PDG Nsibirwa was the RI President's Representative at Discon for District 9126 in Nigeria recently

It addresses unemployment not with handouts, but with mindset change and practical enterprise skills. For a region where youth unemployment remains a defining challenge, this approach is not just relevant. It is urgent. Region 28 serves 15 English-speaking nations across eastern and southern Africa.

The communities within these nations face intersecting crises — economic fragility, limited access to education, persistent public health gaps, and the specific vulnerabilities of youth.

> “Nsibirwa was selected based on strong recommendation from Rotary leaders who regard his expertise and leadership capabilities highly.”

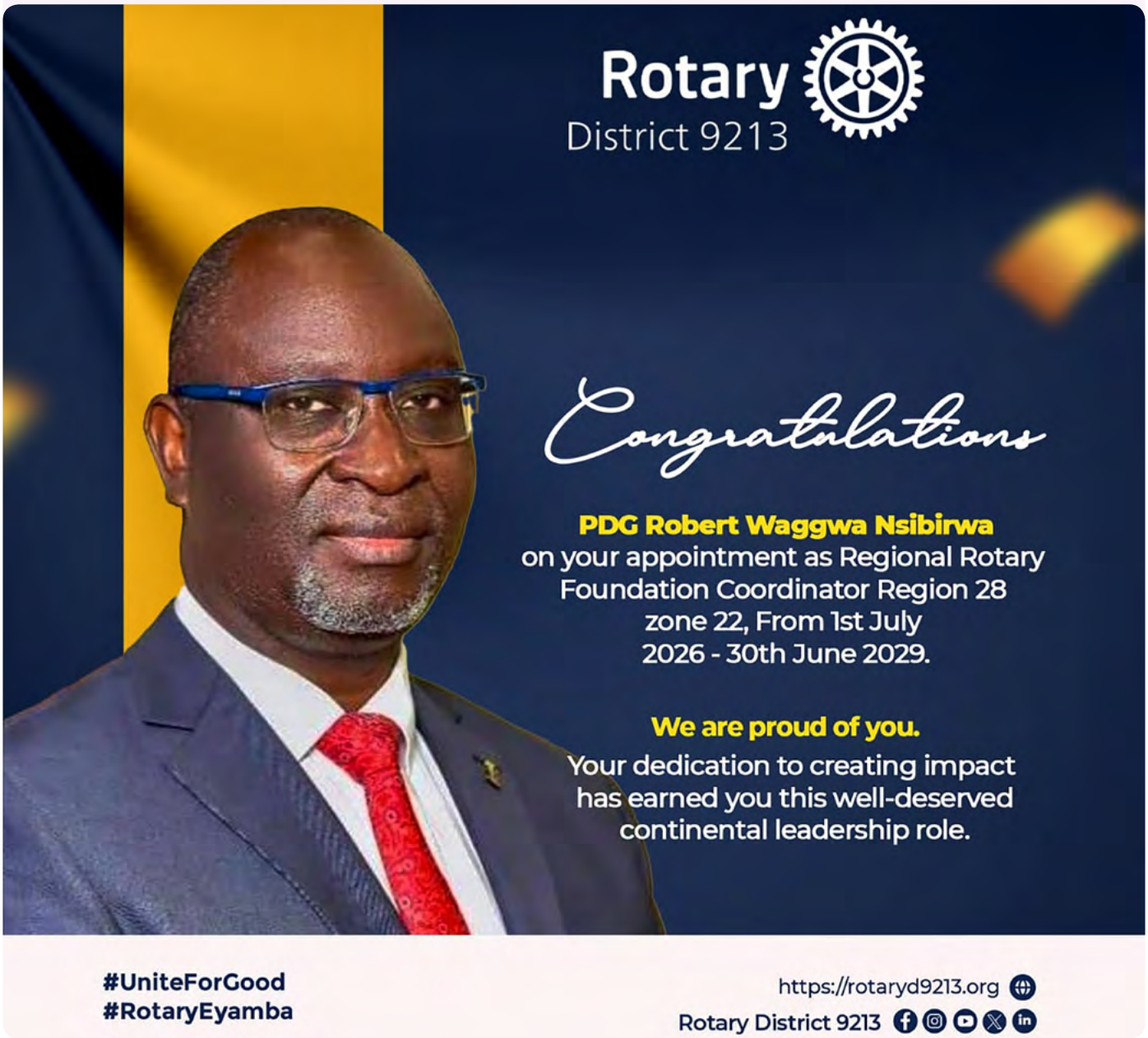
These are precisely the challenges that Nsibirwa has spent decades studying, designing solutions for, and implementing on the ground.

He does not arrive in this role as a learner. He arrives as a seasoned practitioner.

Jones noted in her letter that Nsibirwa was selected based on strong recommendation from Rotary leaders who regard his expertise and leadership capabilities highly.

District Secretary Kyambadde Kaziro echoed this in an email to all Rotarians, describing the appointment as recognition of "years of dedicated service, visionary leadership, and a steadfast commitment to advancing the mission of The Rotary Foundation."

It is indeed a proud moment for Uganda, which now has three of its finest Rotary leaders at the centre of global Rotary leadership.





#SolRise

The Man Who Never Cried

A FATHER'S DAY LETTER TO EVERY DAD CARRYING MORE THAN WE KNOW

BY **RTN JACKLINE MUTIIMBA**

There is a man you know.

He wakes up before everyone else. He checks the locks at night. He runs the numbers in his head — rent, school fees, groceries, medical bills — and still shows up at the breakfast table smiling like everything is fine.

He never says "I'm not okay."

Because somewhere along the way, someone told him that not being okay was not an option.

Happy Father's Day. Now — How Are You, Really?

Today the world is full of flowers, cards, grilled meat, and warm hugs for fathers everywhere. And they deserve every single bit of it.

But on this Father's Day, I want to ask the question nobody is asking in between the cake and the gifts:

Dad, how are you? Not as a provider. Not as a protector. But as a human being — how are you, really?

Because behind many of the fathers we are celebrating today is a man quietly carrying an emotional weight so heavy he has never once put it down long enough to breathe.



The Silence We Celebrate Without Knowing

Men, fathers especially, are handed a script very early in life.

Be strong. Don't cry. Figure it out. Provide. Protect. Keep going.

They become masters of pushing through; masters of carrying pain with a straight face and a steady voice.

But here is the mental health truth we cannot keep ignoring: suppression is not strength. It is a slow leak. When a man spends years swallowing his fears, his grief, his exhaustion, it doesn't disappear. It accumulates.

> "...men die by suicide at rates nearly two to four times higher than women globally.."

It shows up as anger nobody understands; as withdrawal nobody notices; as a breakdown that shocks everyone who thought he was "doing fine."

According to the World Health Organization, men die by suicide at rates nearly two to four times higher than women globally. Not because their pain is bigger, but because their permission to express it is smaller.

We have to talk about this. Especially today.



What Fatherhood Does to a Man's Mental Health

Becoming a father is one of the most profound — and destabilising — experiences a human being can go through.

Studies suggest that up to one in ten fathers experience paternal postpartum depression in the first year of their child's life. Most go undiagnosed. Most just push through.

Then the child grows, and so does the pressure. School fees. Medical emergencies. Job insecurity. The fear of not being enough.

The grief of a childhood they themselves never fully healed from, now staring back at them through their own child's eyes.

Fatherhood doesn't just ask men to provide. It asks them to become. And that becoming, without support or safe spaces, can quietly break a man from the inside.

> "You are allowed to be tired. You are allowed to not have all the answers. You are allowed to say "I'm not okay" and still be a great father; still be a great man."

To Every Father Reading This

You have been strong for so long.

Today I want to give you permission to put it down. Just for a moment. Just long enough to feel it.

You are allowed to be tired. You are allowed to not have all the answers. You are allowed to say "I'm not okay" and still be a great father; still be a great man.

The most powerful thing you can model for your children is not invincibility. It is emotional honesty. Your healing is not weakness. It is legacy.

To Everyone Who Loves a Father

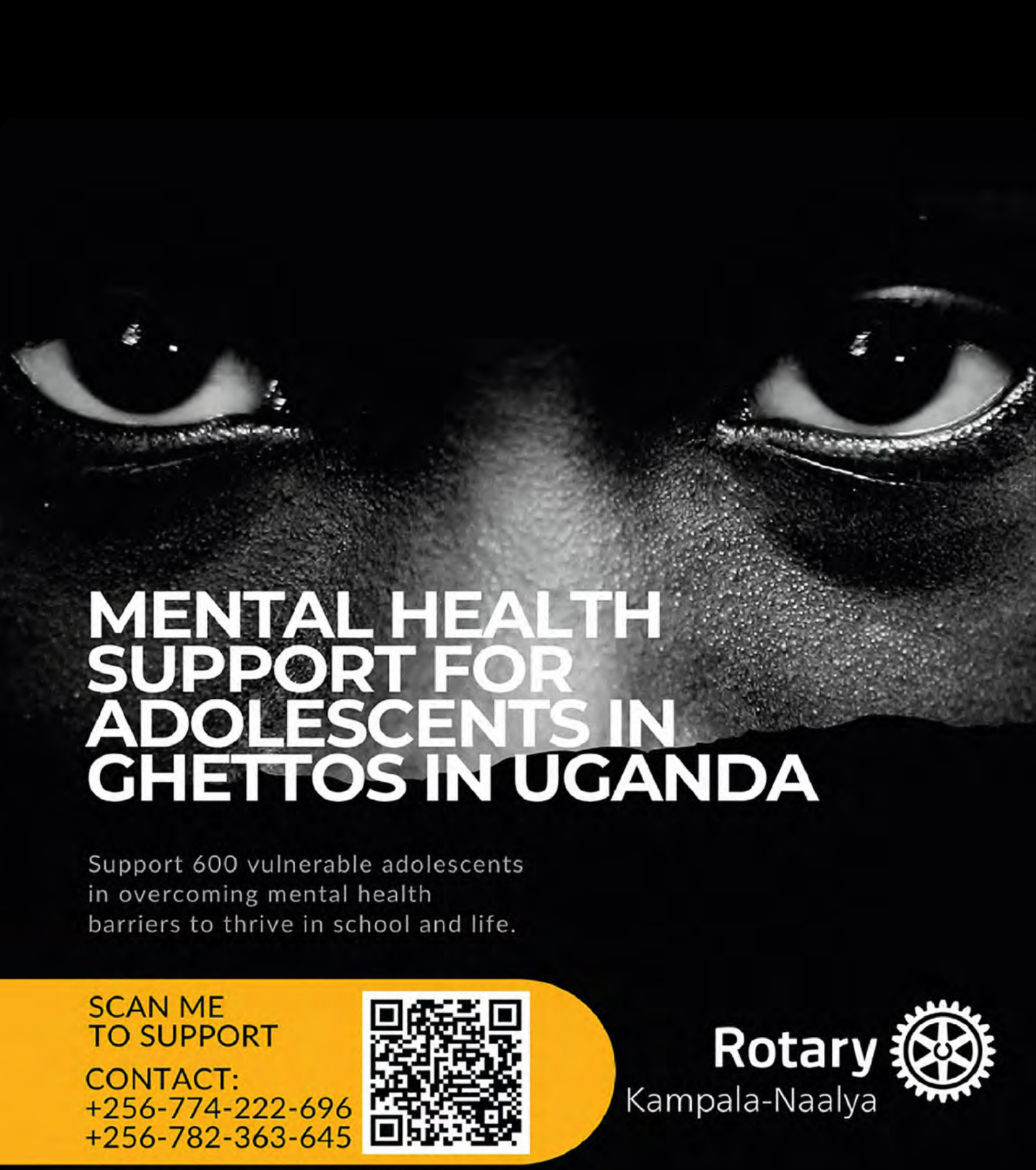
Check on your person today. Not just with a gift, but with a real question asked with real intention.

"How are you doing — honestly?"

Then wait for the real answer. Don't rush past the silence. Create a space where the truth is safe to land.

Let's celebrate fathers fully and loudly today. But let's also truly see them. Because the greatest gift we can give the fathers in our lives is not just appreciation for what they do; it is permission to simply be who they are.

Happy Father's Day.


MENTAL HEALTH
SUPPORT FOR
ADOLESCENTS IN
GHETTOS IN UGANDA
Support 600 vulnerable adolescents
in overcoming mental health
barriers to thrive in school and life.
SCAN ME
TO SUPPORT
CONTACT:
+256-774-222-696
+256-782-363-645
Rotary
Kampala-Naalya



ELDER'S EYE

Creating the Club You Want



BY **PP GODFREY OKELLO-OMODING**

There is just one week to go before we enter the new Rotary year. A new year ignites renewal. Club members feel revitalised, and fresh energy is expected to flow into the life of the Club.

However, this may not be the case for all members. There are those who seem incapable of appreciating their Club, who default instead to comparison, grievance, and labels they cannot adequately explain or justify.

They call their Club boring, dull, or lacking — without being able to say precisely what it lacks, or what they themselves have done about it.

For any member who has resorted to such descriptions, let the new Rotary year be the moment to create the Club experience you actually want.

The most common trait of a member who baptises their Club with unflattering names is a lack of self-accountability; an unwillingness to acknowledge their own role in the life of the Club.

There should be a moment of honest reflection, anchored in questions such as:

What has been my role in creating excitement in the Club? What experience have I contributed? What have I done better, or done at all, in and for the Club? What can I point to as my contribution?

> "Whatever tendencies are exhibited in the Club, you bear some responsibility for them."

These are the questions that form the foundation of any meaningful accountability.

Do not wait for others to create an experience for you. If you do, you will very likely be disappointed.

Understand that you are accountable for your experience in the Club, whether it is good or bad, successful or unsuccessful, joyful or miserable. This may not be what you want to hear, but it is the truth.

In life, we generally create the results we seek. If you want an exciting Club, create it. If you want an accountable Club, model accountability. Be active and action-oriented in pursuit of the experience you desire.

Enjoyment, for instance, is produced by participation; you cannot claim to be enjoying something you are not participating in. If the Club is boring, you are part of the reason.

If the Club is egoistic, so is the culture you have allowed to persist unchallenged. Whatever tendencies are exhibited in the Club, you bear some responsibility for them.

Own your membership. If you distrust fellow members, ask yourself what decisions you made that led to that point, and what role you played in them.

Whatever circumstances you find in the Club, you have a share of responsibility in shaping them. Your accountability matters. If you refuse to accept it, you will always find someone else to blame; and that is a complete misdiagnosis of the problem.

In stepping away from your own responsibility, you sever yourself from any real ability to address it.

Pause and ask yourself: why is it always me who is complaining? Honestly define your role in the situation, and your Club will begin to reflect that honesty.

Rotarians, if you want an exciting experience in the Club, create it. Stop treating yourself as a victim. Doing so leaves you with no options except waiting for others to shape your experience for you, which is neither possible nor their obligation.

When you abdicate responsibility, your experience suffers with you. What remains will be defined by complaint rather than contribution.

To enjoy your Club, you must acknowledge your role in creating the experience you want. Let your contribution form part of the Club's collective experience. If you choose not to contribute, you will find nothing of worth to show for your membership, beyond a catalogue of grievances.

> "There is always the excuse that no one listens. Make them hear you. If you cannot make yourself heard, the issue may not lie with them.."

Genuine accountability brings with it the willingness to interrogate yourself honestly: What things in the Club do I dislike? What have I done to change the situation? When I joined the Club, what was I prepared to contribute?

Time matters. The longer you spend complaining without offering your accountability to the Club, the further you drift towards the exit. Eventually, your only experience will be one framed by victimhood and blame.

If bitterness takes root over what happens to you in the Club, it shapes your feelings; and you own those feelings, and the responsibility for their presence in your mind and in your Rotary life. The habit of blaming others for your Rotary experience is both unfortunate and self-defeating. Participate to create the experience you want.

Even if your grievances are legitimate, you still own the problem of not having done enough to change things.

If you believe you are right, step forward and create the results you seek. Do this by taking on available roles in the Club, or positioning yourself in the spaces where your input can be heard and acted upon.

There is always the excuse that no one listens. Make them hear you. If you cannot make yourself heard, the issue may not lie with them; it may lie in how you are communicating. That does not make you a victim. It may, instead, indicate a problem you must own. Accept your role in it and commit to resolving it.

Rotarians, walking out of the Club while casting blame on others is simply a refusal to face the truth: that you had a role to play, and you did not play it.

Others do not create your Rotary experience for you; they shape it alongside you. If you chose to join Rotary, do not also choose passivity. Inactivity has consequences: you become forgotten, irrelevant, and powerless to influence the very things you complain about.

You remain accountable for that choice. Come out, be counted, and you will find others you can count on.



PDG Anne Nkutu (4R) officiated at the installation Rotarian Irene Nekyon at the RC of Kyaddondo.



OUT TO LUNCH

Consolidated Procurements Will Lock Out Small Businesses

BY **RTN DENIS JJUUKO**

A district somewhere in Uganda needs five laptop computers to facilitate its staff. It places an advert, a small and medium enterprise applies and gets the contract.

The total value of the contract is about Shs15m. The computers come with a one-year warranty and free servicing for the same period. The SME is happy. It will turn a small profit once paid, keep its doors open, and sustain a few people in the community in employment.

The SME hopes that this procurement will build its reputation and position it to provide similar services to neighbouring districts.

However, the government is telling the SME to wait. Apparently, the process of each entity procuring its own goods and services is cumbersome and expensive.

Why not do consolidated procurement? What does that mean? If a government entity needs something, it informs a central entity, which places the order on its behalf.

If 100 government agencies each need five laptops, the government will order all 500 units at once. By Ugandan standards, this is a large procurement, one that will require several things to be in place before it can proceed: a track record of supplying at that scale, a substantial bank guarantee, the capital to supply and then wait indefinitely for payment, and contracts with manufacturers, among other requirements.

> "If 100 government agencies each need five laptops, the government will order all 500 units at once."

The SME that supplied the other district reads the advert in the newspaper and bookmarks it. They return to it several times and work through the requirements. The largest number of laptops they have ever supplied is about 30, and never in a single procurement.

Will the bank issue the guarantee? What about the resources required to assemble the bid? After considering all of this, they conclude that the contract is beyond their reach. They set it aside and refocus on selling flash discs, power banks, and accessories to the community.



They know they will never supply government again. Next time, the order may be for 5,000 units. The SME will remain permanently small, without a credible path to growth.

This is the likely outcome of the new government procurement policy when consolidated and centralised procurement begins. It will

favour only the large players who have the experience and resources to execute contracts of that scale.

Uganda's SMEs, which are the backbone of the economy, will be unable to compete.

We are already seeing this pattern in other sectors. Look at the road sector.

Many Ugandan construction and engineering companies cannot compete with Chinese firms.

If they are fortunate, they secure supervision work or utility-relocation subcontracts. Others have retreated to gravel road projects that foreign firms are not interested in.

Will consolidated procurement actually be cheaper, as the government claims? Probably not. It will require additional staff or, more likely, an "authority" with a board, a CEO, and a full complement of employees.

It will also require functioning as a logistics business to coordinate nationwide delivery.

> "How are businesses outside the capital supposed to grow if they cannot even win contracts for stationery and consumables?."

Procurement cycles will almost certainly take longer to complete, and delivery timelines will stretch further still.

If a district in Karamoja needs five laptops or a set of car tyres, it will cost more to deliver them from a central supplier than if the district had procured locally.

An SME based in Moroto or Kotido would have the goods in stock; a Kampala-based supplier will charge a premium for remote delivery and may face significant delays in fulfilling warranty support.

Given the scale of centralised contracts, the successful bidder will almost certainly be headquartered in Kampala.

How are businesses outside the capital supposed to grow if they cannot even win contracts for stationery and consumables?

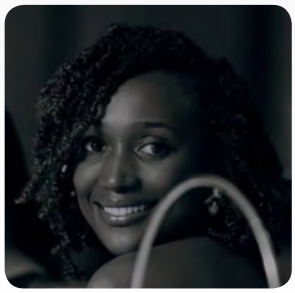
A more sensible approach would allow agencies to procure locally up to a defined threshold, with centralised consolidated procurement reserved for contracts above a set value.

If the goods or services required exceed one billion shillings, for instance, centralised procurement could apply. Below that threshold, agencies should retain the freedom to source locally.

That way, SMEs across the country are not locked out of government contracting entirely.

The writer is a communication and visibility consultant.
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PK's CORNER

To The Ones Who Stayed

This Father's Day,
we celebrate the fathers.

And we celebrate the women who became fathers too.
The women who woke before dawn,
carried the weight of two parents on weary shoulders,
and learned to be both shelter and storm,
both comfort and correction,
both gentle embrace and steady hand.

To the mothers raising sons alone, You teach them how to stand tall,
how to keep their word,
how to honor women,
how to become good men.



You do this while quietly carrying the ache of knowing there should have been another voice beside yours, another hand guiding theirs.
Yet somehow, you fill the silence with courage.

And to the mothers raising daughters;
You teach them that abandonment is not their identity.
That a father's absence is not a measure of their worth.
You show them that love should never have to be begged for.

That respect is not earned through suffering.
That they are worthy of kindness, protection, and honor.
You teach them to respect men, not because every man has earned it, but because bitterness is too heavy an inheritance to pass on.
You teach grace without pretending the wounds never happened.

Today, we honor the women working long hours to pay school fees, to keep the lights on, to put food on the table, to make impossible budgets stretch one more month.
The women carrying responsibilities that were meant to be shared.

The women who became providers, protectors, problem-solvers, and pillars for the families resting upon them.

Happy Father's Day.

Not because you stopped being mothers, but because love asked more of you, and you answered.

And to the good men—
The men who stayed.
The men who showed up when it was difficult.
The men who chose responsibility over convenience, presence over excuses, sacrifice over selfishness.

The men who tuck children into bed, wipe away tears, attend school meetings, provide security, guidance, and love. Above all the men who tell their children that they love them. Hug their children tightly with no reservations, and the few who comb their daughters hair and above all cut their little nails!!! Arent you just God sent?

The men who understand that fatherhood is not merely a title, but a daily decision.
We see you.
We honor you.
Because in a world where many walk away, you remained.

So today, we celebrate every heart that chose responsibility.
The mothers who carried two roles.
The fathers who faithfully carried one.
The women who became the strength their children needed.
And the men who became the example their children deserved.

Happy Father's Day to everyone who chose to stay, to love, to provide, to protect, and to raise the next generation with courage.

The world is better because you did.

To those who fell short and are falling short, it's never too late. Wear your big boys pants, show up and show off for your kids! You are their first love! Live upto it..

Till again,

~pkwy

Object of Rotary

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

FIRST

The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND

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

THIRD

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

FOURTH

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

Fun Facts

Supper



There is something gloriously indecisive about the word "supper." It has spent roughly eight centuries wandering through the English language - sometimes formal, sometimes casual, occasionally biblical, and in Scotland, inexplicably wrapped in newspaper.

The word arrived in Middle English around the 13th century as soper, borrowed wholesale from the Old French *souper*. Its humbler ancestor was the 'sop,' a modest hunk of bread dunked into broth or wine, the medieval equivalent of stress-eating crackers over the sink.

From this soggy origin, 'to sup' meant simply to take in liquid food, which is also why 'supper' and 'soup' are etymological cousins. They share a grandmother, essentially. A wet, bread-dunking grandmother.

For centuries, supper played second fiddle to dinner — the grand, midday main event. Dinner derived from the French *disner*, meaning to break one's fast, which makes it, technically, a very late breakfast. Supper was the afterthought: lighter, later, and considerably less theatrical. Then the Industrial Revolution happened, and everything went sideways.

As workers poured into factories and midday meals became logistically inconvenient, dinner migrated to the evening like an awkward houseguest who simply never left. In many cultures, 'supper' and 'dinner' became synonymous. Language, as always, shrugged and adapted.

But in pockets of stubborn linguistic resistance - the American South, rural Canada, and swathes of the British Isles - supper has held its ground. Here it remains deliciously distinct: the informal meal, the family table, the kitchen-table intimacy that 'dinner' with its pressed napkins cannot quite replicate.

To invite someone to 'dinner' is to send a calendar invitation. To invite them for 'supper' is to say, *come as you are, there's enough for everyone.*

This intimate character makes 'supper' the word of community.

And then, of course, there is '*the* Last Supper.' Whatever else this word has done in its long, carb-heavy career, it earned a certain gravitas at that table - a weight that 'dinner' will, quite frankly never achieve in its lifetime.

Not bad for a mere piece of bread dipped in broth. So, next time you're asked what's for 'supper,' think home hospitality - the one asking has the entire Rotary Club in mind.

Jokes of the week

1. There is always one dish at a family dinner that nobody likes, but everyone is forced to eat because "Jajja made it." It's usually something gelatinous and lime-green. And the worst part is the performative eating.

You have to take a bite, smile through the horror, and say, "Wow, this is absolutely lovely."

You aren't eating a salad; you're eating a hostage situation.

2. I asked my dad what he wanted for dinner. He said, "Something that doesn't cost an arm and a leg, but isn't something that comes with an instruction manual." We ended up eating toast in silence while watching a documentary about extreme engineering.



3. "All the time I have worked in hospital and seen burn patients, for all of them it's either beans, boiling water meant for posho, black tea...Rarely will you find that they were cooking meat or chicken and got burnt. There's some kind of respect I think that people put to chicken." – Dr. E. Sserunjogi

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