Naalya Food Bulletin

18th August, 2026

Rotary Kampala - Naalya

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RC KAMPALA - NAALYA

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Message from the Editor's Desk

By Rtn Jackline Mutimba
Club's Public Image Chair



Dear Rotarians and Friends,

This week brought together three powerful aspects of our Rotary journey: membership, good governance and investing in young people. Together, they remind us that strong clubs are built by creating spaces where everyone feels supported, valued and inspired to stay.

During our fellowship, Rtr Blessing Owomugisha challenged us through her presentation, *"Building Clubs People Want to Stay In: The Role of Good Governance."*

Using the relatable analogy of relationships and marriage, she reminded us that attracting members is only the beginning.

Membership must be intentionally nurtured through engagement, good leadership, communication and a genuine sense of belonging. Details are in this edition.

Meanwhile, as the world commemorated International Youth Day, our Youth Director, together with a team of club members, stood in support of our Rotaract Club of Kampala-Naalya (The Chefs) during the DRR's visit, and in this edition, we bring you a little bit of what transpired.

Did you miss DGN Dhamuzungu's homecoming in Jinja? Do you want to know how it went down? Do not miss this edition of the Naalya Food Bulletin. Kadaga wants Rotary in Kamuli; PDG Stephen Mwanje is also saying something extremely important!

This Tuesday, we are hosting the Lord Mayor of Kampala, Ronald Balimwezo Nsubuga, and I am sure all Kampalans have a picture or an idea of the kind of city they would like to see.

> "This Tuesday, we are hosting the Lord Mayor of Kampala, Ronald Balimwezo Nsubuga..."

Come, let's put our wishes on the table and build a city we are all proud of.

Do not miss our usual columnists: Dennis Juuko, Godfrey Okello Omoding, Pam took a French leave, but she will be back soon.

As we continue through Membership and New Club Development Month, perhaps this week leaves us with one important reflection: Are we building a Rotary family where people of every generation feel they belong?

May we continue to attract members, nurture relationships, support our young leaders, and build a club people are proud to call home.

Happy reading.

President's Message

RTN CHRISTINE AMUCU
Club President
2026-2027



Dear Fellow Rotarians and Rotaractors,

Last week, we reflected on "Building Clubs That People Want to Stay in". One thought stayed with me: people may join Rotary for different reasons, but they stay because of the experience they find, the friendships, the opportunity to serve, the sense of belonging and the difference they are able to make.

That thought has made me reflect on my own Rotary journey. When I joined Rotary, I did not fully appreciate how much the experience would shape me.

I came to serve, but I have also found friendship, learning, leadership and a deeper sense of purpose. Every fellowship, every project, every conversation and even every challenge has taught me something.

> "I hope that when we look back at this Rotary year, we will not only remember the projects we completed, but the relationships we built..."

My journey has reminded me that Rotary is not just about what we do for the community; it is also about what happens to us while we are serving.

As we continue our membership month, I would like each of us to reflect on our own journey. Why did you join Rotary? What has made you stay? And what would make you want to stay for many more years?

As members of Kampala Naalya, we have an opportunity to build the kind of club where the answers to those questions are positive; that is to say, where people feel welcomed, valued, heard and inspired to participate.

Next week's fellowship, we have an exclusive interview on my Rotary journey. We shall be able to appreciate each member's journey.

I hope that when we look back at this Rotary year, we will not only remember the projects we completed, but the relationships we built, the lives we touched and the members whose Rotary journey became richer because they belonged to Kampala Naalya.

I came into Rotary to serve. Along the way, Rotary has transformed me. I hope together, we can create that same experience and lasting impact for others.

Have a wonderful week, and I look forward to sharing our journeys.

Yours in Service,

#CoverStory



The Seed We Sow: PDG Stephen Mwanje Urges Rotarians to Grow Membership, Invest in Young Leaders



BY **RTN SYLVIA NANKYA**

At a time when Rotary is facing declining membership globally, Past District Governor Stephen Mwanje has challenged Rotarians in Uganda to see the challenge not as a weakness, but as an opportunity to grow the organisation and deepen its impact in communities.

Mwanje was delivering the keynote address at the homecoming of District Governor Nominee Peter Dhamuzungu at Crested Crane Hotel in Jinja on August 15, 2026.

Speaking on the theme **"The Seed We Sow,"** he called on Rotarians to be intentional about membership growth, leadership development, succession and Rotary's public image.

He noted that while the world's population has grown by about 12 per cent over the past 20 years, Rotary membership has declined over the last five years.

Africa, however, has continued to record growth, driven particularly by Uganda and Nigeria, resulting in the expansion of Rotary's presence on the continent to two zones.

Mwanje said the recent redistricting that will take effect next year should similarly be viewed as an opportunity rather than a setback.

"District 9217 is being viewed, rightly or wrongly, as the weaker district," he said.

"But it is an issue of looking at a glass as half empty or half full." He illustrated the point with a story about two salesmen sent to Africa to assess the market for shoes.

One returned saying there was no market because Africans did not wear shoes. The other saw the same situation differently: because people did not have shoes, he concluded, Africa presented a huge market.

> "Mwanje urged every Rotarian to become an active recruiter, using what he described as both "retail" and "wholesale" approaches."

He pointed out that about 80 per cent of the region has neither a Rotary Club, Rotaract Club nor Rotary Community Corps (RCC), presenting a significant opportunity for expansion.

Mwanje urged every Rotarian to become an active recruiter, using what he described as both **"retail"** and **"wholesale"** approaches.

"Retail" means every Rotarian inviting at least two people to join Rotary, while "wholesale" means



clubs taking responsibility for establishing new Rotary, Rotaract or Interact clubs.

For Mwanje, attracting young people must be at the heart of this effort because Rotary cannot have a sustainable future without succession. "If you love Rotary so much, what are you doing about it now?" he asked.

> "...the future of Rotary will be determined by the seeds its members choose to sow today; in membership, in young people..."

He recalled a training session for Governors-Elect where participants were asked how many intended to attend a Rotary International Convention. All raised their hands.

When asked how many expected to attend a convention 15 years later, the number dropped to about 30 per cent. At 50 years, nobody raised a hand. The lesson, he said, is clear: Rotary must deliberately invest in the next generation today.

"If you don't bring a young person to Rotary, then we will not grow," Mwanje said, calling on clubs to establish and strengthen Rotaract, Interact and RCCs.

He urged leaders to recognise that nobody is perfect and to concentrate on bringing out the best in people rather than constantly looking for their mistakes. Mwanje also challenged Rotarians to examine their own level of participation.

He referred to the different types of members that clubs sometimes describe informally, from "RINOs" and "submarines" to those who are constantly visible and actively involved.

The labels, he suggested, should prompt a more fundamental question: **What type of Rotarian are you?** More importantly, he asked: **Why are you in Rotary?**

In closing, Mwanje turned to one of Rotary's most important assets: its public image.

"What is Rotary?" he asked. "We are Rotary." He reminded Rotarians that the organisation's reputation is shaped not only by its projects and programmes, but also by the conduct of its members. "How we behave, how we talk, is Rotary," he said.

He warned that taking internal disagreements and wrangles into newspapers and public forums can damage the organisation's reputation and undermine the good work being done in communities.

His message was ultimately a call to action: the future of Rotary will be determined by the seeds its members choose to sow today; in membership, in young people, in leadership, in fellowship, in service and in the way they represent the organisation to the world.



Would You Join Your Own Rotary Club Today?

BY **JACKLINE MUTIIMBA**

GOOD GOVERNANCE MAY BE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RECRUITING MEMBERS AND BUILDING A CLUB THEY WANT TO STAY IN.

If your Rotary club were a person, would you date him or her?

Would you recommend it to your best friend? Would you trust it with your money and reputation? And perhaps the most challenging question: If you were not already a member, would you join your club today?

These were some of the thought-provoking questions posed by Owomugisha Blessing Immaculate, District Vice Chair, Governance and Ethics, during the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya fellowship on *"Building Clubs People Want to Stay In: The Role of Good Governance."*

Using the relatable analogy of dating, courtship and marriage, Blessing challenged members to look beyond recruitment and think about the entire membership journey.

Before prospective members join, they are already "dating" the club. They attend fellowships, observe how members interact and ask others what the club is like.



First impressions matter. A guest who is warmly welcomed, included in conversations and introduced to meaningful Rotary experiences is more likely to want a second "date."

As visitors continue attending, asking questions and getting involved, the relationship moves into "courtship." This is where clubs must do more than provide a membership form.

Prospective members need a welcome, a mentor, opportunities to participate, clear expectations and a reason to keep coming back.

> "As visitors continue attending, asking questions and getting involved, the relationship moves into "courtship."

As Blessing emphasised, membership is not a transaction. It is a relationship.

Before asking someone to join, however, clubs must examine themselves.

Is there a functioning board? Are roles clearly defined? Are financial controls in place? Is decision-making transparent? Is communication effective? Is there a culture of respect and a plan for new members?

In one memorable line, Blessing cautioned: "Don't propose marriage if you haven't cleaned the house."



Then comes induction, the "marriage." There is excitement, photographs, the badge and invitations to participate.

But eventually the honeymoon ends, and members begin to experience how the club actually works.

That is where governance becomes real.

A healthy club, like a healthy relationship, requires communication, trust, shared responsibilities, financial honesty, respect and accountability.

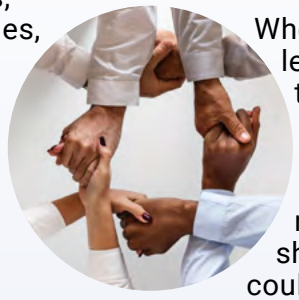
Good governance provides the structure that protects these relationships. It also reminds us that leadership is stewardship, not ownership. Presidents have terms, boards have responsibilities, committees have roles, and members have both rights and responsibilities. Nobody owns the club. We are its custodians.

> "...membership success should therefore not only be measured by how many people we induct, but by how many continue to stay, serve and belong."

Of course, disagreements will arise. Members may feel ignored, projects may go wrong, and difficult questions may emerge.

Healthy clubs do not avoid these conversations. They address them respectfully, guided by principles rather than personalities and politics.

And sometimes comes what PP Blessing called the "D word": divorce.



When members leave because they feel unheard, undervalued, excluded or unable to contribute meaningfully, clubs should ask: "What could we have done differently?" Every departing member tells us something about our club culture.

Perhaps membership success should therefore not only be measured by how many people we induct, but by how many continue to stay, serve and belong.

So, ask yourself: If you were not already a member of your Rotary club, would you join today?

Date well. Court well. Marry well. And build a club people want to stay in.

Last Week's Fellowship















Last Week's Fellowship















Last Week's Fellowship













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The
KAMPALA
WE WANT:
BUILDING A CITY THAT
WORKS FOR EVERYONE
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7PM PROMPT
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Nsubuga
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A Night to Remember: When DRR Alex Muwanguzi Visited the Chefs

On the evening of 11th August 2026, the Rotaract Club of Kampala Naalya rolled out the red carpet as we welcomed our **District Rotaract Representative (DRR) Alex Muwanguzi** to Arches Gardens for an evening that combined governance, guidance, and good old-fashioned fellowship- one that those who missed it will wish they hadn't.

The evening began with a board meeting at 6:00 pm, giving the DRR a chance to sit down with each board member and dig into the heartbeat of our club.

Every board role had its moment in the spotlight, specifically, what has been achieved so far and what each office-bearer hopes to deliver before the year closes.

It was refreshing to have an external, experienced eye affirm our progress while also asking the hard questions that push us to be better.

The DRR's Charge: Eight Pillars for the Year Ahead

The fellowship session that followed was the heart of the evening. The DRR used the moment to challenge us to rally around a clear set of priorities for the 2026/2027 impact year, in step with Rotary International President's theme of "**Create Lasting Impact.**" He urged the club to concentrate on:

1. **Membership engagement;** keeping members active, valued, and involved.
2. **Leadership development;** growing Rotaractors into capable leaders.
3. **Club systems and structures;** an honest admission that Naalya still has gaps.
4. **Future leaders of the club;** deliberately grooming the presidents and boards.
5. **A five-year strategic plan;** thinking beyond the current year to build something lasting.
6. **Strengthened accountability systems;** so that every role and every shilling is answerable.
7. **Sustainability and impact in our projects;** ensuring our service work outlives the moment.
8. **Active participation** in both club activities and district activities.

> "As a club, we renewed our pledge to stay the course and remain committed to creating lasting impact, not just as a theme but as a daily practice..."

It was a sobering yet inspiring charge, and one that struck a chord with everyone in the room. As a club, we renewed our pledge to stay the course and remain committed to creating lasting impact, not just as a theme but as a daily practice.

The Takeaway

For those who couldn't make it: you were missed, and you missed a lot. But the good news is the charge our DRR left us with belongs to every single member of this club, present or absent that night.

Membership engagement, structure, accountability, sustainability, and a five-year vision aren't the job of the board alone, but they're a call to all of us.

Here's to a club that listens, learns, bonds, and builds. Here's to Creating Lasting Impact.

See you at the next fellowship!




Rotaract
Club of Kampala Naalya
CREATE LASTING IMPACT
CANCER RUN 2026
ACTIVATION AND
GYM FELLOWSHIP
TUE, 18TH AUG
06:30PM
ARCHES GARDENS
KISOTA ROAD
COACH:
MICHEAL P. MUGISA
Sumz
@Rotaract club of Kampala Naalya


CANCER RUN 2026
GGWANGA MUJJE!
Rotary Clubs of Uganda
WHAT ARE YOU MOST LOOKING FORWARD TO? AT THIS YEAR'S ROTARY CANCER RUN?
FINISH
Conquering your chosen distance.
Running to restore hope.
Capturing unforgettable moments.
Experiencing the incredible Run Day atmosphere.
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
AfroMobile
MAD McCANN
NN 40
ecare
Nsambya
vents
60



Different Lives, Same Hope: Let's Talk About Young People's Mental Health

BY **RTN JACKLINE MUTIIMBA**

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY 2026 | DIFFERENT CONTEXTS, COMMON ASPIRATIONS

So, what are you doing with your life now?" It sounds like an innocent question.

But imagine hearing it after sending out application after application without receiving a response. Or after graduating but struggling to find work. Or while trying to stay in school when your family is making enormous sacrifices to keep you there.

Then you open your phone. Someone your age has graduated. Another has landed a new job.

Someone has launched a business, travelled abroad or gotten married.

You look at your own life and quietly wonder: "Am I falling behind?"

As we commemorate International Youth Day 2026 under the theme "Different Contexts, Common Aspirations," perhaps we need to ask another question:

> "...perhaps we need to ask another question: How are our young people really doing?."

How are our young people really doing?

Different Lives, Different Pressures
There is no single youth experience.

One young person is worried about school fees. Another is desperately searching for their first job.

Someone is working but struggling financially. One is growing up in a supportive home while another dreads going home.

Some are navigating heartbreak, family conflict, unemployment, academic pressure, loneliness, substance use or uncertainty about the future.

And sometimes, the young person who seems to have everything together is struggling too.

The student getting excellent grades may be overwhelmed by expectations. The young professional posting achievements online



may privately be battling anxiety. The friend who keeps everyone laughing may go home feeling completely alone.

Mental health struggles do not always look like crying.

Sometimes they look like silence, irritability, withdrawal, or simply saying, "I'm tired," when what someone really means is, "I am struggling."

Sometimes, Listening Is the Support

When young people share their struggles, we often rush to respond:
"At your age, we had it harder."
"You just need to work harder."
"Stop overthinking."
"Be grateful."

These responses may be well-intentioned, but sometimes support begins with simply listening.

Young people need spaces where they can say, "I am not okay," without being labelled weak, lazy, dramatic or ungrateful.

They need parents who listen, teachers who notice changes, friends who check in, workplaces that take mental wellbeing seriously and health services where seeking help does not attract shame.

Resilience Is Not Enough

We often tell young people to be resilient. Resilience matters, but it cannot become our response to every challenge. You cannot motivational-speech someone out of unemployment.

You cannot tell someone experiencing violence to simply think positively. And we cannot respond to every mental health struggle with, "Stay strong."

> "So, as we celebrate International Youth Day, let us celebrate their potential while also caring for the person behind that potential.."

Supporting youth mental health means looking at the environments surrounding young people: education, employment, family relationships, safety, economic opportunities, belonging and access to appropriate care.

It also means involving young people in creating solutions.

Ask what keeps them awake at night.

Ask where they seek help.
Ask what prevents them from reaching out.
Then listen.

Different Contexts. Common Aspirations.

Despite their different circumstances, young people often want similar things: to be heard, to belong, to have opportunities, to earn a living, to build meaningful lives and to have hope for tomorrow.

So, as we celebrate International Youth Day, let us celebrate their potential while also caring for the person behind that potential.

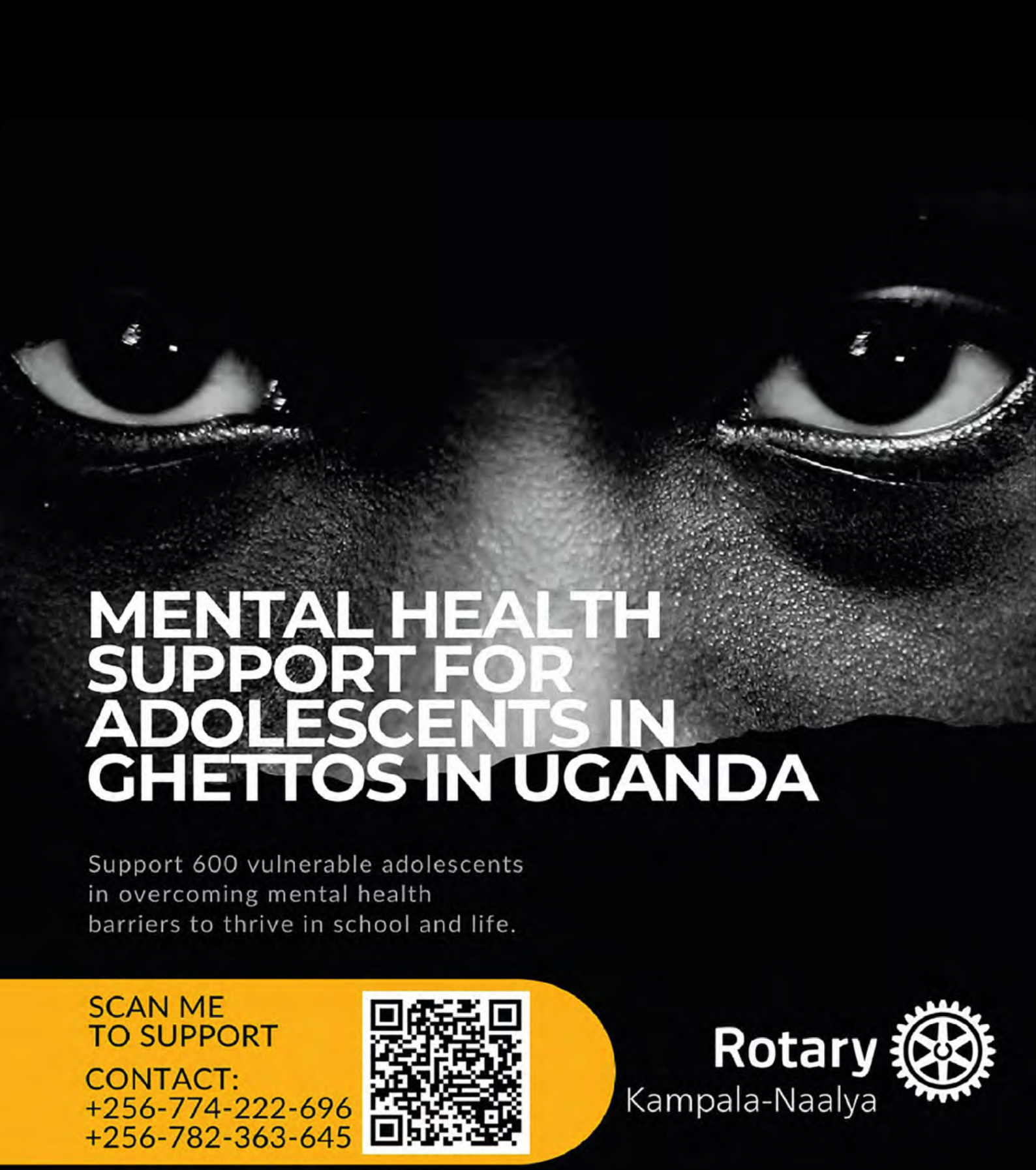
Perhaps we should ask less often:
"What are you doing with your life?"
And a little more often:
"How are you doing with life?"

Sometimes, that may be the conversation a young person has been waiting for.

Different Contexts. Common Aspirations. Every Young Mind Matters.

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




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Who visited us last week?

Rotarians

- **Rtn. Grace Nanyonga** - Rotary Club of Mukono Central
- **Rtn James Serugo** - Rotary Club of Kampala
- **Rtn Hellen Abodu** - Rotary Club of Naalya States
- **Rtn Babatunde Oyeyemi** - Rotary Club of Najjeera

Guests

- **Eliachi Minja**
- **Nakiwala Sanyu**
- **Nalukwago Lindah**

#RotaryLove

Thank You, Come Again!!



Bring Rotary to Kamuli, Kadaga Appeals

BY **RTN SYLVIA NANKYA**

The Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of East African Affairs, Rebecca Kadaga, has appealed to Rotary to establish a club in Kamuli, saying the district could achieve significant community transformation through the organisation's service programmes.

Kadaga made the appeal while speaking at the homecoming and Thanksgiving ceremony of Rotary District Governor Nominee Peter Dhamuzungu at Crested Crane Hotel in Jinja on Saturday, August 15, where she commended Rotary for its contribution to improving lives and transforming communities across Uganda.



Speaking mainly in Lusoga to an audience comprising predominantly Rotarians from across the country, Kadaga said efforts to establish a Rotary club in Kamuli had been made over the years but had not yet yielded results.

> "Kamuli would do wonders with a Rotary club," Kadaga said, urging Rotarians to consider expanding their presence to the district."

She said this was despite the strong Rotary presence in other parts of the Busoga sub-region, including Jinja, which is home to several clubs.

The clubs include the Rotary Club of Jinja, one of the oldest Rotary clubs in Uganda, as well as the Rotary Clubs of Source of the Nile, Jinja City and Jinja Metro. Rotary also has clubs in Iganga, Bugiri and other parts of eastern Uganda. Kadaga, who is the Woman Member of Parliament for Kamuli, said the district had enormous potential to benefit from Rotary's community-based interventions.

"Kamuli would do wonders with a Rotary club," Kadaga said, urging Rotarians to consider expanding their presence to the district.

She noted that the establishment of a local Rotary club would provide an organised platform through which communities could mobilise resources and implement projects addressing education, livelihoods, health and other pressing social needs.

Although Kamuli does not yet have a Rotary club, Rotary's presence in the district is already being felt through projects implemented by the Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya.

The club is supporting teenage mothers in Kamuli through skills development initiatives aimed at equipping them with practical skills for self-reliance.

It is also supporting a back-to-school programme to help teenage mothers and their children return to education and rebuild their prospects.

Kadaga's appeal comes as Rotary continues to expand its community service work across Uganda, with clubs increasingly using local partnerships to identify and address community needs.

Her call for a Rotary club in Kamuli therefore seeks to build on work already taking place in the district and give the area a stronger, permanent Rotary presence.



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ELDER'S EYE

Attaining Lasting Impact Through Sustained Membership

BY **PP GODFREY OKELLO-OMODING**

Communities continue to face and experience severe calamities and situations: rising poverty, increasing refugee populations, significant health challenges and emerging epidemics, degradation of the environment, scarcity of clean and safe water and poor sanitation, effects of climate change, challenges in access to basic education, and maternal and neonatal mortalities.



Fortunately, what drives and hinders progress in these areas is known. Among them is the shortage of people willing to act.

Improving outcomes in these different areas requires, among others, investments in hearts- having people willing to go the extra mile to act for others.

> "Through increasing numbers constantly, Rotary can ensure the building and enhancement of resilience and sustainability."

People who are willing to give their time, to give their resources for those in need, and to see that all people live in a better world with hope.

The world today needs people who build holistic communities. People who build community-based systems to drive local engagement for progress.

People who contribute to bringing about enhanced sustainable progress. People who create avenues and venues for engaging communities, families, frontline workers, and local leaders, including governments (national and local), and local and global institutions.

Today, more than before, emphasis is on building resilience and ensuring sustainability. This is where lasting impacts are anchored and hosted.

The theme of this month draws membership and new club development into the centre of this.

Through increasing numbers constantly, Rotary can ensure the building and enhancement of resilience and sustainability.

Membership improvement and new club development are a renewal of Rotary life.

The spirit of retention and building of membership upholds, uplifts and moves



into action. It ensures hope and enables us to create a start where there is none.

Increasing the numbers is central to sustaining the progress of Rotary itself and its mission in a world of increasing shocks.

Rotarians, the theme of the month is a reminder of the importance of maintaining a strong presence. Increasing the numbers matters in this regard. It increases the spread.

Strong and wide service coverage and expansions are closely correlated with increased numbers.

Acceleration of actions is better achieved through an increase in active numbers. There is always a possibility to attain this when the number of persons recruited, retained and attracted is increasing.

Impactful services are realised when piecemeal interventions alike are avoided. Very often, human challenges are not necessarily singular in nature. They are multiple, though they may manifest as singular or be triggered by one issue.

True life is intertwined, so should the interventions. It calls for an encounter of various skills, knowledge, experience and resources. Only possible with increasing numbers to enable diversity.

> “Membership ought to be able to envisage and envision the long term to result in lasting impact.”

Talking about lasting impact, it comes with deliberately taking actions that enhance membership. The survival of Rotary is in its membership.

Make no mistake in imagining that Rotary can survive without its membership.

Care must be taken to grow it, nurture it, nourish it, and flower it to attract people who uphold its values and cause lasting impact.

Interventions to grow membership must be designed. They come with asking questions such as: where can membership be drawn from? What kind of membership should a club have? What resource composition should be looked out for, or should a club have?

These questions are some of the key ones that ought to guide, as the eventual aim is to have a lasting impact in whatever undertaking.

Often, sustaining interventions begins with well-defined conception, which is a function of the kind of membership.

Membership ought to be able to envisage and envision the long term to result in lasting impact.

Clearly, there is an agreeable expectation: lasting impact, lasting impact. But it must come with continuous improvement of the routes of getting it, among them membership.

It requires “investments” not only in the visible but also in the invisible. The challenge with retaining memberships is meeting various invisible expectations.

Defining how deep this is, it is quite difficult. The choice is in choosing the modality of recruiting, holding and satisfying members. So, equally, is the choice of lasting impact.

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OUT TO LUNCH

Watoto's Kabaka Anniversary Do And Why Ability Transcends DNA

BY **RTN DENIS JJUUKO**

On the last day of July 1993, a mammoth crowd gathered at Naggalabi Hill in Buddo to witness the historical occasion of coronating Prince Ronald Muwenda Mutebi as the 36th Kabaka of Buganda.

For many people in Buganda that day, it was something they had not witnessed in their lifetime. The last coronation had taken place in November 1942, and then the kingdom was abolished in 1966; the Kabaka was exiled, and an opportunity to coronate his heir was temporarily lost.

I remember my guardian giving us a rare day off to watch the live telecast all day. This is the only day I remember when we didn't have to be bothered with house chores.

You could pick up a cup of tea and just sit in front of the tiny television set in the living room, as long as you didn't make noise to distract the elders. And being a Saturday, it helped. There was no school to attend.

Given Uganda's demographics, many watching the 33rd coronation anniversary last Friday at Watoto Church in Bweyogerere were either too young or not yet born in July 1993.

It was therefore refreshing when Katikkiro Charles Peter Mayiga opened his speech with a memory lane of the events of that day in 1993. He perfectly understood the audience for his message.

Many young, urbane, educated people sometimes look the other way when it comes to cultural issues. Some see culture as a roadblock to their Christian values and aspirations. Holding the coronation anniversary at an urbane church for a young, largely educated audience sent a message that culture and religion can and should co-exist.

> "Some young, urbane, educated people see culture as a roadblock to their Christian values and aspirations."

The Watoto leadership embraced the occasion like no other and left no stone unturned in organising a befitting ceremony.

I think this was the first time that a major kingdom



Photo Credit: UG Bulletin

event, coronation or birthday, had been held outside the usual hills: Namirembe, Lubaga, Namungoona, Namasuba and Kibuli, where Anglicans, Catholics, Orthodox, Adventists and Muslims are headquartered or largely based, respectively.

You rarely see religious leaders from all denominations gathered in a Pentecostal church, some dancing, waving or in deep prayer during the praise and worship sessions that are common with Pentecostals.

The religious leaders were also joined by politicians of all colours. Another example of how culture can be a uniting force.

Even though the Kabaka wasn't personally in attendance in adherence to the advice of his medical team, the people turned up in huge numbers, prayed for him and commemorated the day like no other.

Many others spent the day listening to live broadcasts on the radio or watching on television and online.

Perhaps watching from his Kireka Palace, a stone's throw from Watoto's vast Bweyogerere campus, the Kabaka might have smiled or even nodded at some of the energetic performances Watoto put together in his honour.

The more I watched the charismatic young leader of Watoto Church, Pastor Julius Rwotlonyo, preside over perhaps the biggest event of his pastoral journey, the more I thought about Ugandan businesses.

> "They saw somebody who could further advance their mission and decided to retire and give him the executive suite at their famous building in downtown Kampala."

Watoto, previously Kampala Pentecostal Church or simply KPC, was founded in 1984 by Canadian missionaries Garry Skinner and his wife.

Rwotlonyo was either a toddler or not even born yet. He has no known blood relations with the Watoto founders, but today, he is the leader of the church.

Pastor Skinner and his wife are alive and are known to have children.

But they chose a successor who isn't their relative. They saw somebody who could further advance their mission and decided to retire and give him the executive suite at their famous building in downtown Kampala.

Because of the occasion, Skinner sent in a recorded message. Otherwise, he is not known to be involved in every little thing that happens at the church he founded.

This teaches us that we can start businesses, set systems in place, and identify teams that can continue leading when our time to go comes. The successors may or may not be our children. That DNA should not be the only requirement for somebody to lead the businesses we start. Ability to deliver should transcend DNA.

It should be in the interests of founders to identify and nurture young people who can take over the business.

Since the Skinners handed over Watoto to Rwotlonyo, we haven't heard any fights, as is common for Ugandan businesses when the founders leave.

And had they been involved in any scandals, certainly the Kingdom of Buganda wouldn't have honoured them with an opportunity to host a coronation anniversary. It is something founders must ponder.

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Photo Credit: *UG Bulletin*



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Rotary Sets 17 September for Barcelona 2027 Convention Registration

BY **RTN SYLVIA NANKYA**

Rotary members around the world will, on **September 17, 2026,** get their first chance to secure a place at the 2027 Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, Spain, as preparations gather pace for one of the organisation's biggest annual global gatherings.

The convention, scheduled for **26 to 30 June 2027** at Fira Barcelona Gran Via, is expected to bring together thousands of Rotary members and participants from across the world for networking, learning, fellowship and discussions on service and global challenges.

> "For Rotarians planning to make the trip, September 17 is therefore a date worth marking on the calendar."

The opening of registration is particularly significant because it marks the formal start of the journey to Barcelona after an unusual transition between convention hosts.

Registration for the following year's convention traditionally opens around the time Rotary members are gathered for the current convention. However, that did not happen in Taipei during the 2026 convention, following the change in the hosting schedule that saw Barcelona take over from Dubai.

Once registration opens, participants will be able to use Rotary's online registration system to register, modify an existing registration and receive immediate confirmation. Registration will also be available through fax or email.

Those travelling from countries whose citizens require visas to enter Spain will have an additional reason to register early. Rotary will provide a letter of invitation with the email confirmation for eligible participants, which can also be retrieved through the existing-registration section of the online system.

Early registration could also prove important for participants who need time to navigate the visa process. Rotary is encouraging travellers to contact the relevant Spanish embassy or consulate early and recommends submitting visa applications no later than December 1, 2026, although processing times and requirements may vary between countries.

And for members looking to save on registration costs, the clock starts ticking almost immediately after registration opens.

The special promotional discount ends on 21 September 2026, just four days after registration begins.

The next major deadline is March 31, 2027, when the preregistration discount ends. Participants will still be able to register onsite until June 30, 2027, the final day of the convention.

For Rotarians planning to make the trip, September 17 is therefore a date worth marking on the calendar.

It will not only open registration for Barcelona 2027 but also launch the countdown to a convention that promises to bring Rotary's worldwide community together in one of Europe's most vibrant cities.



Rotary | BARCELONA 2027

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rotarybarcelona2027.org

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