# Naalya Food Bulletin

1st September, 2026

Rotary Kampala - Naalya

Issue 6 | RY 2026-27




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,*

**What does Rotary teach us about living well?**

This week's bulletin gives us several reasons to reflect on that question. Our fellowship conversation with Rtn Sam Bagenda (Dr Bossa) reminded us that Rotary rides more on friendships we build, the experiences we share, the networks we create, and the life lessons we pick up along the way.

**We also carried that spirit beyond fellowship into the Rotary Cancer Run, where thousands of people came together in a remarkable demonstration of service, wellness and solidarity.**

From the early-morning workout and aerobics to the different race categories, the energy was unmistakable. Yet behind the excitement was a serious purpose: mobilising communities in the fight against cancer.

We bring you the highlights of the run, the aerobics, the road races. The Rotary Club of Kampala Naalya was represented in all races.

Stephen Kakonge led the 21 km cohort; Keno Lillian got lost in the 10 km race but still completed it; the walkers were led by Dr John Mugisa, and Joachim Buwembo, whose body refused to cooperate on the day of the run, writes about his experience from within the airstrip.

But even before that, we join the country in mourning the passing of the King of Tooro, Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV. The lovely King succumbed to Cancer at a hospital in Texas. His death was one of the most shocking that we have had in years, much more than Sankara and Mayombo combined. We pray that King Oyo rests eternally.

> "King Oyo's death was one of the most shocking that we have had in years, much more than Sankara and Mayombo combined."

This edition also invites us to reflect on another dimension of our well-being, our finances.

**In "Are Investment Clubs Ruining Your Life?" Denis Jjuuko raises an important question about the pressure to belong to multiple savings and investment groups.**

Saving and investing are important, but not when meeting those obligations leaves us unable to meet everyday needs or constantly stressed.

Perhaps that is one of this week's biggest lessons: a meaningful life requires balance. We need healthy bodies, sound financial decisions, supportive relationships, purposeful service and spaces where we can belong.

**We have so much from our usual columnists, like Godfrey Okello Omoding, who is saying something about education as we start a new theme: Basic Education and Literacy.**

So, as you turn the pages, I hope you find something that makes you reflect, smile, reconsider a decision or appreciate your Rotary journey a little more.

*Warm Regards,*

# 1.25 million is More Than A Number

## MESSAGE FROM RI

**President Olayinka Hakeem Babalola**



SEPTEMBER 2026

Rotary has always been about people. Not projects. Not numbers. People.

**Our goal of reaching 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors by our 125th anniversary in 2030 is also about people.**

I bring up this goal again not because I expect the number itself to move you. Numbers rarely do. I bring it up because I worry that a goal this large can begin to feel abstract, distant from the everyday work of our clubs. I do not want that to happen. So let us talk, once more, about what is truly behind it.

I want to offer your club a simple exercise. Look back over the last five to seven years and find your best year. Maybe it was a year new members arrived and, more meaningfully, stayed. Maybe it was a year your meetings became something members looked forward to, rather than another obligation on a crowded calendar. Find that year. Then I ask you to do better than your best.

> "Let us come together, not only this month but every month of every year, to make Rotary stronger..."

This is not a call to outpace the club across town or the district next door. It is never meant to be a competition between Rotary members. It is, instead, an invitation to hold ourselves to our own highest standard, and to rise to meet it again.

Why does this 2030 membership goal matter enough to me that I keep returning to it? Because behind every one of those numbers is a person whose life could be changed by this organisation, just as mine and yours have been changed by it.

Rotary has given me friendships that have lasted decades, a sense of purpose I did not know I was searching for, and something that, in time, came to feel like an extension of my family. I suspect many of you understand this in your own lives, in your own way.

That life-changing experience is what we offer when we invite someone to join us.

There are people in your communities right now who would find real meaning here if only someone thought to ask them.

So, tell them your story. Tell them honestly how Rotary changed you, not just about the projects you led or the funds you raised, but about the person you became along the way. Those stories have a way of reaching people when little else does.

**If we hope to Create Lasting Impact, the kind that resounds for generations, we will need more people standing beside us to help carry our work forward.**

Let us come together, not only this month but every month of every year, to make Rotary stronger, more joyful, and more like the family it has always been to me.

Find your best year. Then let us be better than our best, together.

# Growing Our Family, Educating our Future

## Message from DG Gerald Obai



***My dear Rotarians, Rotaractors and Friends,***

The Rotary year moves swiftly. July and August are now well behind us. Although we still have ten months to go, the speed at which the first two months have flown by is a reminder of how short a year is.

This calls upon us to make every day count if we are to realise our goals. Whether it is giving to The Rotary Foundation, implementing a community service project, or growing our membership, let us not miss any opportunity. Being intentional is key.

**August and September offer us two powerful opportunities to reflect on who we are and why we exist.**

August reminded us that Rotary is first and foremost about people. Reflecting on our theme, ***"Create Lasting Impact,"*** it is clear that to create impact, we must first grow. It was delightful to see many clubs grow their numbers and, more importantly, actively engage their members.

A happy membership creates a feed-forward effect — positive energy that makes a club attractive not only to prospective members but also to partners.

I personally welcome all who have joined our Rotary family since the start of this Rotary year.

To those who invited and mentored guests, congratulations. To the clubs that have grown, please make it a habit. To those yet to grow, increasing our numbers is the right thing to do.

> "To the clubs that have grown, please make it a habit. To those yet to grow, increasing our numbers is the right thing to do."



**The District Membership Soiree & Laurels Gala was a true celebration of our Rotary spirit and our number one internal priority.**

My sincere thanks to the Membership Committee led by the indefatigable Rtn. Dorothy Kyeyune and the Thursday Clubs that spearheaded the event.

On that day, we welcomed our 152nd club — the Rotary Club of Kampala Islanders. Congratulations to Charter President Bernard Ochan and the entire membership. Your energy was palpable, and I look forward to fully harnessing it.

**But membership is not just about numbers; it is about meaning. Every new member is a new pair of hands for service, a new mind for ideas, and a new heart for compassion.**

My challenge to every Rotarian and Rotaractor is simple: Have you asked someone to join Rotary this month? Growth is every Rotarian's responsibility.

Let us not just invite people to our meetings; let us invite them to our mission. Let us make our clubs warm, welcoming, and engaging — where people come for service and stay for fellowship. Let us pay special attention to retaining our members and nurturing our Rotaractors, who are the now and tomorrow of this District.

**September: Basic Education and Literacy Month**

As we step into September, we do not shift away from growing our family; we ride on that strength to drive the activities of this new month.

Basic Education and Literacy is one of Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus, and it is the foundation upon which all other development rests. A child who cannot read cannot thrive. A community that cannot learn cannot develop.

In Uganda, many children still go to school without basic scholastic materials, and many schools lack libraries and trained teachers. This is our call to action.

Across D9213, I have already seen inspiring action — clubs donating books and setting up reading corners, paying school fees for vulnerable children, mentoring girls to stay in school, and supporting adult literacy classes.

This September, I call upon every club to undertake at least ONE impactful literacy project: equip a school library, conduct a career guidance and mentorship session, donate reading materials to a rural school, or support teacher training. The possibilities are endless.

Remember, when we teach someone to read, we give them a key that unlocks a lifetime of opportunity. That is one of the greatest gifts we can give as Rotarians.

On a sad note, the passing of His Majesty Omukama Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV was a tough one for all of us. I extend my sincere condolences to the Royal Family and the people of Tooro.

May you find comfort in the remarkable legacy he leaves behind. To all who have lost loved ones during this period, we stand in solidarity with you.

**Dear friends, August taught us to grow our family. September challenges us to educate our future. Both months perfectly embody what it means to *Create Lasting Impact*.**

Thank you to all clubs that continue to make District 9213 shine. Let us keep the momentum.



**Photo Credit:** Teach for Uganda


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DISTRICT
CONFERENCE
Creating Lasting impact
Rotary
District 9213
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ROAD TRIP.
ANY ONE?
GET YOUR
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# President's Message

**RTN CHRISTINE AMUCU**
***Club President***
***2026-2027***



*Dear Fellow Rotarians and Rotaractors,*

As we step into September, we begin a new chapter in our Rotary journey: the month of Basic Education and Literacy.

**We concluded August by reflecting on what Rotary means to us and, importantly, what we gain from being part of this great organisation.**

Rtn Sam Bagenda (Dr Bbosa), in his talk last week while reflecting on "that is Rotary Mwattu", challenged us to look beyond the name Rotarian and appreciate the relationships, opportunities to serve, personal growth and sense of purpose that Rotary gives each of us.

It also gives us the privilege to use our time, knowledge and resources to make a difference in the lives of others.

> "When we help a child develop confidence, curiosity and the ability to learn, we may be changing the direction of an entire life."

September now invites us to turn that value outward. Education is more than what happens within four walls, between a teacher and a learner. A child may sit in a classroom, but what makes that child truly learn? Is it the teacher, the home environment, Nutrition, Safety, Encouragement, Curiosity, or simply having someone believe in them?

This is why our topic this week, "Beyond the Classroom: What makes a Child Learn?" is so important.

It challenges us to look beyond school attendance and ask a deeper question: what does a child need to thrive? It reminds us that literacy is not simply the ability to read and write; it is the foundation upon which children build confidence, opportunity and the ability to participate fully in society.

**This year, we seek to Create Lasting Impact. I believe education gives us one of the greatest opportunities to do exactly that.**

As Rotarians, we have a role to play beyond donating books or supporting schools. We can help create environments where children are seen, encouraged, supported and allowed to discover their potential. When we help a child develop confidence, curiosity and the ability to learn, we may be changing the direction of an entire life.

**Let us make this a month of listening, learning and asking ourselves how, as individuals and as a club, we can contribute to creating better opportunities for our children.**

Because sometimes, lasting impact begins with helping a child believe that their future is worth investing in.

Together, let us continue to create hope in the world, one learner, one family and one community.

I warmly welcome the Kikomando buddy group and look forward to another exciting month under your leadership...

*Yours in Service,*

#CoverStory



# Rotary Cancer Run Surpasses Target, Raises Sh5.6bn for Cancer Centre

BY **RTN SYLVIA NANKYA**

The 15th edition of the annual Rotary Cancer Run has raised 5.6 billion Shillings, surpassing this year's 5 billion Shillings fundraising target and marking another major milestone in Rotary Uganda's long-running campaign to improve access to cancer treatment.

The run, held on Sunday, attracted thousands of participants at the main event at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds, as well as runners across Uganda and in other cities around the world.

**The funds raised bring the Rotary Cancer Programme closer to completing the infrastructure required for the Rotary-Centenary Bank Cancer Centre at Nsambya Hospital, whose superstructure is now fully funded at a cost of 15 billion Shillings.**

The cancer centre is being developed to expand access to specialised cancer services, including screening, chemotherapy, surgery and palliative care. Once construction is completed, the programme will turn its attention to acquiring medical equipment and training the personnel who will operate the facility.

> "The cancer centre is being developed to expand access to specialised cancer services, including screening, chemotherapy, surgery and palliative care."

Past District Governor Stephen Mwanje, the chair of the Uganda Rotary Cancer Programme, announced the fundraising achievement at Kololo, saying the programme had exceeded the target set for the current edition of the run.

Mwanje said the project had initially been expected to be completed by 2024 and opened in 2028, but continued public support had helped accelerate fundraising.

**He credited the achievement to the trust placed in the programme by the public and the transparency of the fundraising effort, while expressing gratitude to the thousands of Ugandans who have contributed to the campaign.**

Centenary Bank Managing Director Godfrey Byekwaso said Centenary Bank has contributed 3 billion Shillings over the years, in addition to 500 million Shillings this year, towards co-funding the



Cancer Centre. The bank has maintained its platinum sponsorship for 14 years.

**Byekwaso called for greater emphasis on prevention through healthy lifestyles, regular screening and early diagnosis, alongside support for affected families and investment in treatment facilities.**

Parliament of Uganda was also a major contributor to this year's campaign, fulfilling its 3 billion pledge towards the Rotary Cancer Programme.

The contribution formed a significant part of the Sh5.6 billion raised this year and demonstrated the growing collaboration between Rotary, government institutions, the private sector and the public in tackling cancer.

Health Minister Dr Chris Baryomunsi said combating cancer remains a priority for the Ministry of Health and welcomed Rotary's partnership in the fight against the disease.

He noted that cancer affects people across all age groups, with common cancers in Uganda including cervical cancer, prostate cancer, oesophageal and stomach cancers.

The minister urged Ugandans to take cancer screening and regular medical check-ups seriously, stressing that early detection improves the prospects for effective treatment and management.

With the Sh15 billion superstructure now fully funded, Rotary's next phase will focus on equipping and operationalising the cancer centre.

"Parliament of Uganda was also a major contributor to this year's campaign, fulfilling its 3 billion pledge towards the Rotary Cancer Programme."

**Mwanje said the next fundraising target will be 10 billion, with Rotary setting its sights on establishing a regional cancer centre in Arua.**

He said the programme would subsequently extend its reach to other parts of the country, including Kasese, as Rotary seeks to bring cancer services closer to communities outside Kampala.



# Cancer Run 2026 in pictures















# Cancer Run 2026 in pictures













# My Body Said No, But the Cancer Run Said Come Anyway

BY **RTN JOACHIM BUWEMBO**

As the week drew to a close, my health challenges intensified, and I thought I was going to give the Cancer Run a miss.

On Sunday morning, my body clock, as usual, woke me up at five. I still felt horrible. So, I picked up the phone and called my classificational boss, CMP Sylvia. Fortunately, she didn't pick up, and I dragged myself into the shower.

I had already given away my kit, but then I remembered I had another one, bought courtesy of Rtn Steve's persuasion and cajoling. After kicking my jalopy onto the main road, the heavy Kololo-bound traffic woke me up to a new annual reality for Kampala: the Rotary Cancer Run had joined the Kabaka's Birthday celebrations in taking away another Sunday morning from church attendance. Two down, 50 to go!

**But then, it was for a good cause. Didn't Christ Himself teach us to save our livestock when disaster strikes on the Sabbath? And today, there are millions of people facing the disaster of cancer.**

When I reached Kololo, another reality hit me. I had expected to be part of a small minority that couldn't, or, for some, wouldn't run. I was wrong.

There was a river of blue-and-white humanity, with several tributaries flowing along the main roads out of Kololo. And the blue-and-white sea of humanity that remained at the ceremonial grounds was another spectacle altogether.

> "What surprised me was the demographic of this temporary Kololo Sea: it was predominantly teenagers."

Of course, seas are supposed to be blue and white, so perhaps I shouldn't have been surprised. What surprised me was the demographic of this temporary Kololo Sea: it was predominantly teenagers. It was the old folk who had gone running!



**I did my own version of the run, walking twice around the outside perimeter of the ceremonial grounds. On the upper side, I walked among the runners.**

Several, I suspect, non-Rotarians were throwing barbs at armed policemen, calling them unfit and making other observations about their physiques.

Curiously, nobody teased the military personnel, who were about as numerous as the police.

Then, entering the second gate from the main entrance, I got my third and perhaps main awakening of the day.

A youngish lady was on the phone, directing someone on how to find her. "When you reach that point, look left, and you will see a beautiful girl!" She ended the call and waited to be spotted. If the person she was directing didn't know her, I prayed that his or her definition of beauty matched hers.

> "By then, however, my pains had started acting up again, and I began making my way towards the exit. That was when I ran into Rtn Herbert with the Oloka Rotakids."

And that brought me to my third awakening: people who come to the Cancer Run get to feel good about themselves. It must be the realisation that health is wealth.

Or perhaps it is the feeling that, in some small way, you are doing your part to fight one of the greatest health scourges of our time. Whatever the reason, joy and excitement were everywhere.

**I made my way through the human sea, trying to make my steps rhyme with the booming music, towards the pavilion, which was still sparsely populated.**

The music was frequently interrupted by announcements about children who had lost their parents.

There was surprisingly little anxiety in the announcer's voice, or in those of some of the children. You could even detect a tinge of joy in the voices of kids who, under normal circumstances, should have been in a panic after becoming separated from their parents.

I tried not to think that, for some, the quest for the limelight might have outweighed the distress of being lost. Everybody seemed to be partying, but for a purpose.

**At the pavilion, I found an isolated seat in the middle of an unoccupied area and settled down to send messages locating fellow Nalyakos who might have been around but, like me, were not running.**

Did I say isolated seat? Hardly had I sat down when a gang, sorry, a group, of chattering teenage girls came and sat nearby. More arrived. Soon, they had filled the seat next to me.

More came, apparently deciding that they didn't have to walk too far, and began pushing me towards the next seat. This continued until I reached the end of the row.

Then came the selfies.

**The girl nearest to me leaned back to strike more poses and emptied her long hair onto my shoulder.**

Fortunately, it smelled fresh. It must have been made yesterday. I suppose she intended to crop me out of the photograph. Or perhaps she planned to tell her friends she had spent the morning with her grandpa.

By then, however, my pains had started acting up again, and I began making my way towards the exit. That was when I ran into Rtn Herbert with the Oloka Rotakids.

They invited me to join them, but I was rushing to the clinic. I assured Brother Herbert that I couldn't even take a Guinness if he offered me ten times the usual amount.

But I am feeling better now.

So, Brother Herbert, I am ready for the eleventh one you offer!



Rotary

ROTARY CLUB CENTRAL

# TRUE OR FALSE



## ROTARY'S MOST SUCCESSFUL CLUBS SET GOALS — AND NOT JUST FOR THE UPCOMING YEAR.

**TRUE.** When club leaders think about the future and plan beyond their year, they set their club up for long-term success.

## ROTARACTORS CAN'T USE ROTARY CLUB CENTRAL.

**FALSE.** Rotaractors can access it and track goals, too! All you need is a My Rotary account to start planning your future.

## CLUB GOALS ARE ONLY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CLUB LEADERS.

**FALSE.** Every club member is responsible for their club's success. And as a Rotary member, you too can use Rotary Club Central to view your club's short- and long-term goals.

## MORE THAN HALF OF ROTARY CLUBS USE ROTARY CLUB CENTRAL TO TRACK THEIR GOALS.

**TRUE.** Club leaders use this free tool to set goals and record accomplishments, while tracking goals like membership growth, service activities, and Foundation giving.

## NEED HELP?

Head to the Rotary Learning Center and take the Rotary Club Central Resources course!

Start setting and tracking your club's goals now:



# Rotary District 9213 Mourns Tooro King Oyo, the World's Youngest Monarch

Rotary District 9213 has joined the people of Tooro Kingdom in mourning the death of His Majesty Omukama Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukidi IV, describing the late monarch as a symbol of unity, culture and hope whose legacy extended beyond the kingdom.



In a condolence message addressed to the Prime Minister of Tooro Kingdom, District Governor Gerald Obai, on behalf of the entire Rotary family in District 9213, extended heartfelt condolences to the Queen Mother, Best Kemigisa, the Royal Family and the people of Tooro.

"We have received the news of the untimely departure of His Majesty with profound sorrow," Obai said, and the Rotary district described the late King as a visionary leader who championed education, health, youth empowerment and environmental conservation during his reign.

According to the statement, King Oyo's leadership brought dignity to the Tooro Kingdom and inspired a generation, particularly through his commitment to initiatives aimed at improving the welfare of communities.

"His Majesty was a towering symbol of unity, culture, and hope, not only for the people of Tooro but for all Ugandans," Obai said.

**The Omukama, who became one of the world's youngest reigning monarchs after ascending the throne as a child, grew into a prominent cultural leader and figure in Uganda's public life.**

Rotary District 9213 also reflected on its longstanding relationship with Tooro Kingdom, noting that the district had enjoyed a "warm and cordial relationship" with the kingdom.

Obai said Rotary members would forever cherish King Oyo's support for their service initiatives in the Tooro sub-region.

As the kingdom comes to terms with the loss, Rotary District 9213 pledged solidarity with the Royal Family and the people of Tooro during the period of mourning and transition.

"In this moment of great grief, we stand in solidarity with the Queen Mother, Best Kemigisa, the Royal Family, and all the people of Tooro," the statement reads.

> "As the kingdom comes to terms with the loss, Rotary District 9213 pledged solidarity with the Royal Family and the people of Tooro during the period of mourning and transition."

The Rotary district further prayed for comfort for the bereaved family and the people of Tooro, saying the late monarch's remarkable legacy and the love of the people he served should provide strength during the difficult period.

It also called for divine strength and wisdom for the kingdom as it navigates the transition following the death of the monarch.

May His Majesty's soul rest in Eternal Peace.

Rotary District 9213

Rotaract District 9213

# Our Deepest Condolences

## OMUKAMA OYO NYIMBA KABAMBA IGURU RUKIIDI IV



Rotary District 9213 joins the entire Royal Family, the Kingdom of Tooro and all Ugandans to mourn the passing of Omukama Oyo Nyimba Kabamba Iguru Rukiidi IV.

May you find strength, comfort and hope in this time of Grief. As Rotarians, we stand in solidarity with you in the spirit of fellowship and service

Omukama Atulize. Enkuba Etutire.

**Safe Roads Save Lives**

#RotaryEyamba
#RotaryKonyo

https://rotaryd9213.org
Rotary District 9213



# That's Rotary Mwattu! Dr Bbosa Brings Laughter, Lessons to Kampala-Naalya



BY **RTN JACKLINE MUTIIMBA**

The Rotary Club of Kampala-Naalya's fellowship last Tuesday was anything but ordinary. Rtn Sam Bagenda, also known as Dr Bbosa, transformed the evening into a lively conversation about friendship, professional growth, passion and the experiences that make Rotary much more than a weekly meeting.

He set the mood by getting everyone, including the club president, onto their feet for "If You're Happy and You Know It." He joked that one advantage of being a guest speaker was being able to order the president to stand and clap her hands. But beneath the laughter was an important message.

Before becoming a Rotarian, Dr Bbosa admitted that he held a misconception shared by many that Rotary was for "tycoons."

**When he was first invited to speak at a Rotary fellowship, he prepared himself to address a room full of wealthy people.**

Then he saw people he knew and began questioning his assumptions. It was through learning about Service Above Self that his understanding changed.

> "Persistent symptoms should therefore not be ignored simply because someone appears "too young" to have cancer."

He realised that the small acts of kindness he had practised throughout his life, such as helping someone who appeared hungry or supporting a struggling mother, were expressions of the same spirit that drives Rotary.

**Joining Rotary meant becoming part of something bigger: organised service capable of reaching communities far beyond what one person could accomplish alone.**

That lesson came alive when he recalled a Rotary outreach to Omoro District. Rotarians travelled deep into a rural community carrying essential items for families in need. What stayed with him was not what they distributed, but what happened when people received it.

Their faces lit up.

"This is Rotary," he remembered thinking.

For Dr Bbosa, that is what service is about: putting smiles on people's faces and restoring hope. He reminded members that even paying Rotary dues can contribute to changing

the life of someone who may never know the Rotarian who made that contribution possible.

And Rotary gives back in other ways too.

Professional connections? That's Rotary Mwattu!

Business referrals? That's Rotary Mwattu!

Leadership and personal growth? Mentorship? International exposure? Hospitality and friendship? That's Rotary Mwattu!

**Dr Bbosa particularly challenged Rotaractors not to simply attend fellowships and leave.**

A Rotary fellowship puts them in the same room with experienced professionals, entrepreneurs and leaders who can mentor them in careers, business and life.

As he put it, "Rotarians get connections, skills, credibility and the chance to serve."
The conversation then turned to the man behind Dr Bbosa.

Long before becoming one of Uganda's recognisable performing artists, Sam Bagenda studied commerce and worked in accounting.

His artistic journey began unexpectedly in a church choir, where he suggested adding gestures and movement to what had traditionally been conservative performances.

The congregation loved it. Church leadership did not.

After taking responsibility for the innovation, he was asked to leave the choir.



Some members followed him; they continued performing, and that journey eventually connected him with Jimmy Katumba.

After university, he faced a defining choice: remain in accounting or pursue the arts full time. He chose the latter despite his parents' initial reservations.
More than four decades later, he doesn't regret having made that decision.

> "His artistic journey began unexpectedly in a church choir, where he suggested adding gestures and movement."

**His longevity, he explained, has been anchored in what he calls his Five Ps: Prayer, Persistence, Positivity, Patience and Passion. Prayer keeps one grounded.**

Persistence keeps one moving despite obstacles. Positivity allows one to believe before there is evidence.

**Patience recognises that worthwhile things take time. And passion sustains excellence.**

He recalled once declaring that he wanted to reach Hollywood when he had never even boarded a plane.

About a decade later, he found himself there. The circumstances had finally caught up with the dream.

Perhaps that explains why passion featured so strongly in his message. He cautioned against building careers solely around immediate financial rewards.

**Money matters, but work driven by purpose and passion has a better chance of creating a lasting legacy.**

# Last Week's Fellowship











# Last Week's Fellowship

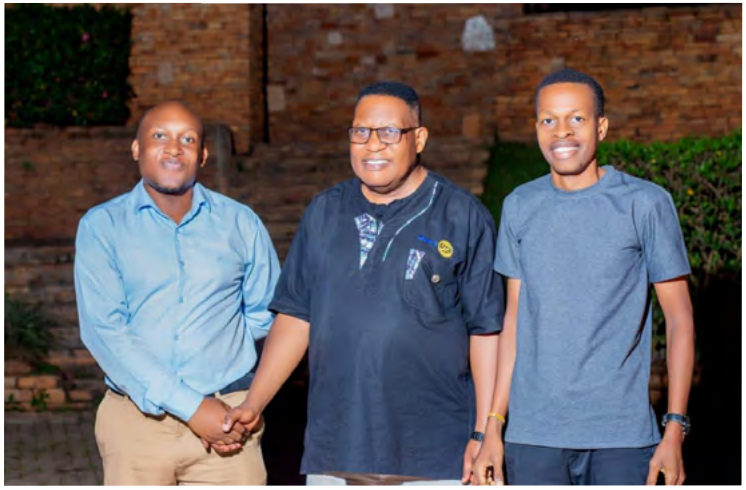










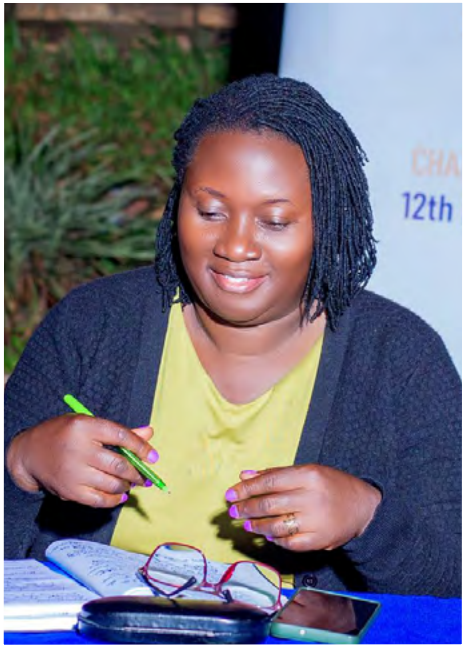


# Last Week's Fellowship














Rotary
Kampala-Naalya



TOPIC

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM:
## What Makes a child Learn?



GUEST SPEAKER

**Dr. Grace Kiiria**
*Regional Education Advisor for Africa & Colombia at War Child Alliance*

**TUESDAY 01ST SEPTEMBER 2026** | **7PM PROMPT** | **NDERE CULTURAL CENTRE**

▶ **Buddy group in charge:** ***Kikomando***

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RelaDental
Smile for Miles



# D9213 Secures US$25,000 Commitment for Community Economic Development

BY **RTN SYLVIA NANKYA**

Rotary District 9213 (D9213) has secured a US$25,000 commitment to support community economic development initiatives under The Rotary Foundation's Major Gifts Initiative for the Community Economic Development (CED) area of focus.



**The commitment was announced during a Major Donors meeting convened by the TRF Advisor for the Major Gifts Initiative for CED, PDG Rosetti Nabbumba Nayenga.**

The meeting was officiated by Rotary Foundation Past Trustee Geeta Manek, who reflected on her journey from a "village girl" to a global Rotary leader, and how her early experiences shaped her commitment to service and community development.

> "Manek called on Rotarians to work collectively to strengthen communities and invest in solutions..."

Past Trustee Manek highlighted several Rotary economic empowerment initiatives that have created lasting impact, citing the Nkondo Village project in Uganda as an example of how strategic investment can transform communities and improve livelihoods.

She also shared the story of the TIPA project in northern Kenya, which transformed semi-arid land into a productive community asset, creating new economic opportunities and improving livelihoods, particularly for women and children.

Manek called on Rotarians to work collectively to strengthen communities and invest in solutions that enable people to build more resilient, self-reliant and dignified lives.

In his keynote address, Rotary Foundation Trustee Francis Tusubira (Tusu) described The Rotary Foundation as one of the most trusted stewards of Rotary giving, urging Rotarians to channel their contributions towards meaningful and sustainable change.




**Drawing on the African philosophy of Ubuntu, Tusubira noted that giving is not only about transforming the lives of beneficiaries but also about enriching the lives of those who give.**




He further underscored the close relationship between peace and poverty, noting that economic vulnerability can undermine social stability, while investments that improve livelihoods can contribute to stronger, more resilient and peaceful communities.

Funds raised through the CED Major Gifts Initiative will support efforts to alleviate poverty and deliver measurable, lasting economic improvements in marginalised communities through three key interventions.

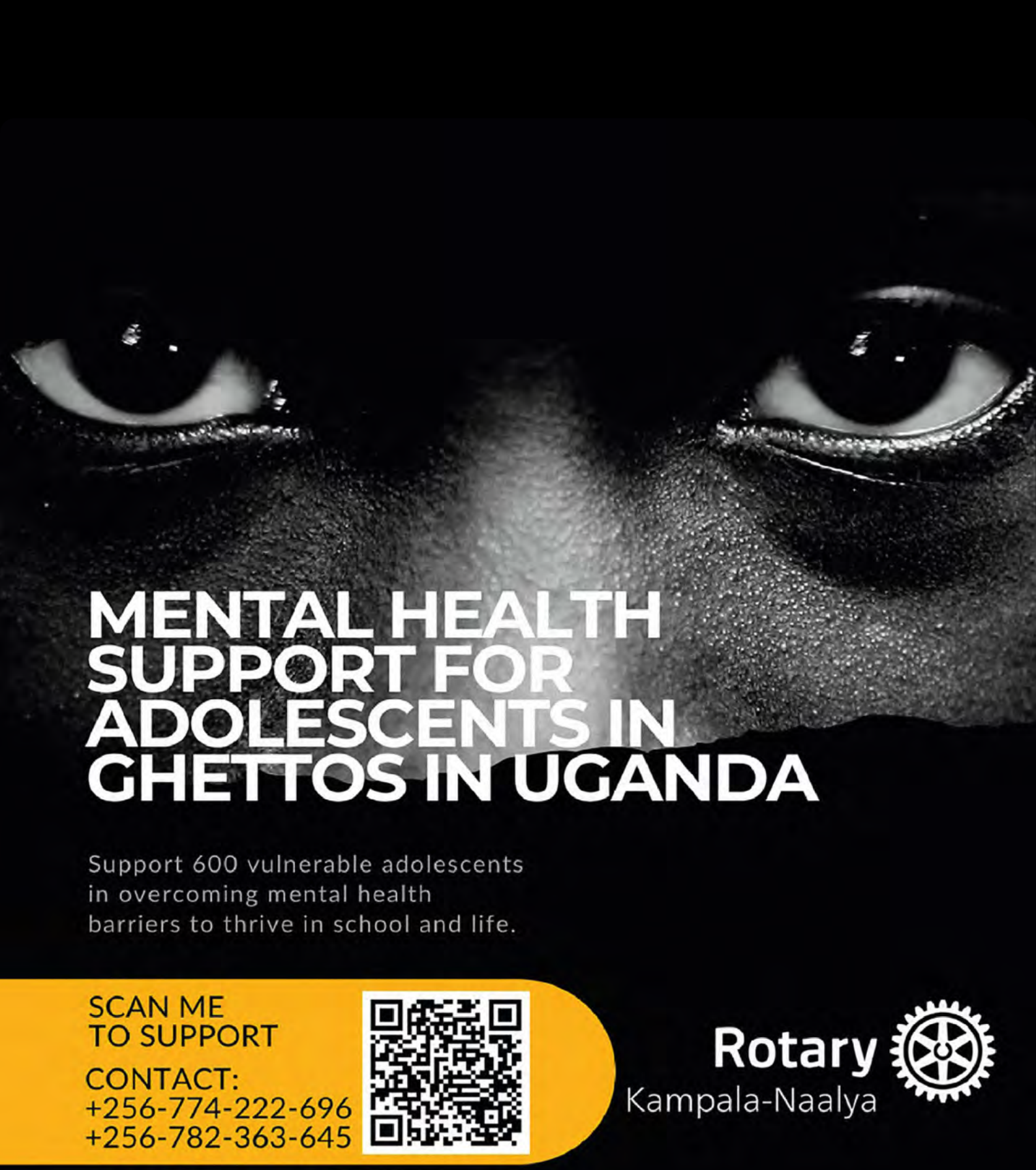
> “The US$25,000 commitment represents an investment not only in projects, but in people, livelihoods and the resilience of communities.”

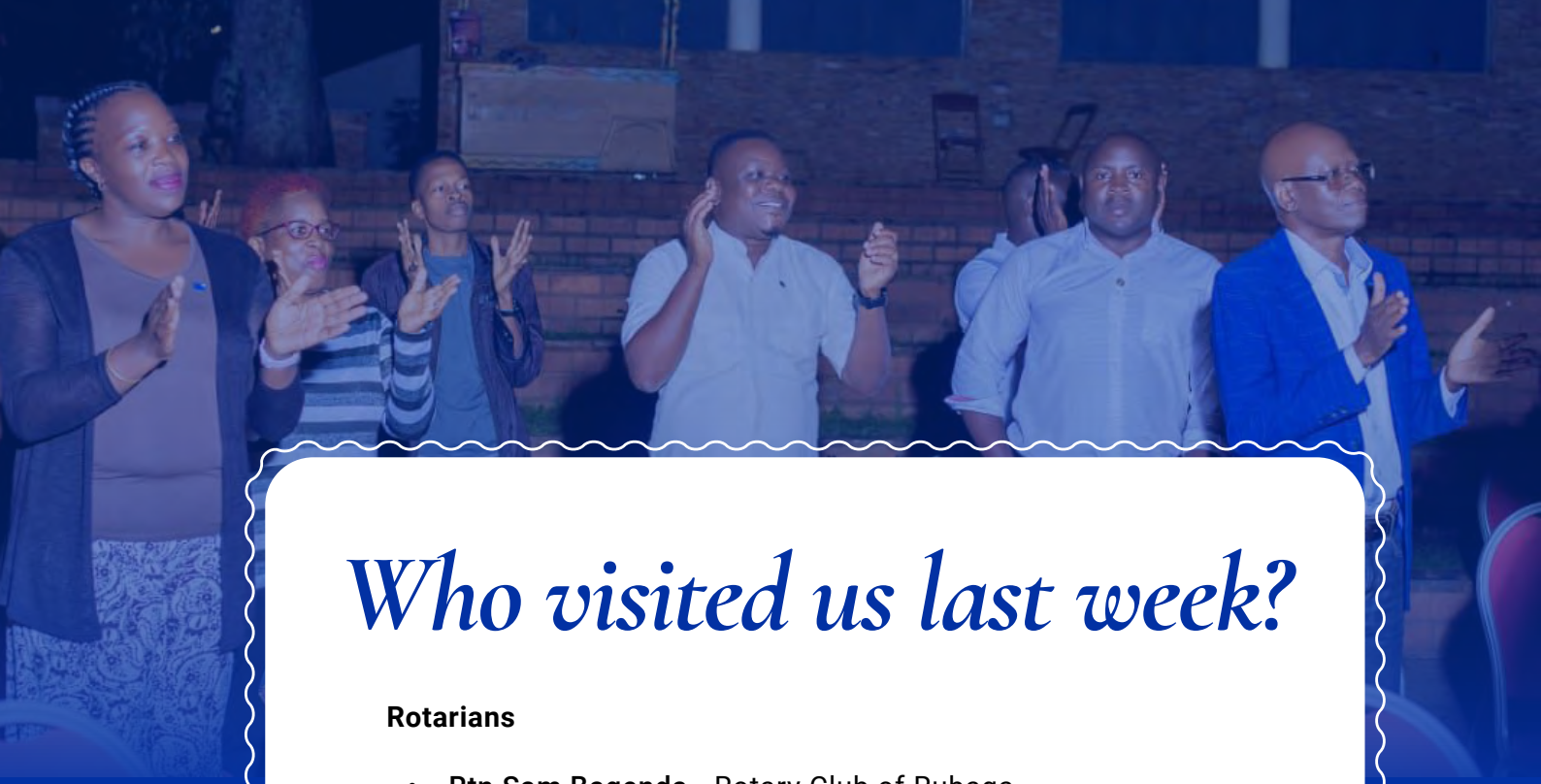
These include building the capacity of local entrepreneurs and social businesses to strengthen economic development in low-income communities; expanding access to economic opportunities and services for marginalised populations, enabling them to build resilience to natural disasters and other economic shocks; and funding graduate scholarships for career-minded professionals pursuing fields related to Community Economic Development.




***Geeta Manek** - Rotary Foundation Past Trustee*

The US$25,000 commitment represents an investment not only in projects, but in people, livelihoods and the resilience of communities.


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# Who visited us last week?

**Rotarians**

- **Rtn Sam Bagenda** - Rotary Club of Rubaga
- **Rtn Lillian Nkwenge** - Rotary Club of Makindye
- **Rtn Dorothy Namubiru Mwesigwa** - RC Kampala Central
- **Rtn Julius Katimbo** - RC Nateete Kampala
- **Rtn Robert-Benon Jurua** - RC Kyadondo Rugby
- **Rtn Michael Aparoku** - RC Kyadondo Rugby

**Rotaractors**

- **Amutwongire Bridget** - Rotaract Club of Kampala Naalya
- **Andrew Kiiza** - Rotaract Club of Kampala Naalya
- **Phillip Kiku** - Rotaract Club of Kampala Naalya

**Guests**

- **Rtn Ninsiima Harriet**
- **Rtn Isabella Yvonne Mugeni**

#RotaryLove

Thank You, Come Again!!



ELDER'S EYE

# *Rallying for Engagements in Basic Education and Literacy*

BY **PP GODFREY OKELLO-OMODING**

September is themed as Basic Education and Literacy Month. The month's reflection touches on the foundational part of human capital development. It particularly pivots on the root aspects of instilling skills, abilities and competencies in reading, writing, speaking, listening, interactions, etc. This is done through formal, non-formal and informal settings of learning.

**It is well known and documented that basic education is a starting point of learning in human life. It is where basic learning needs are handled, encompassing early childhood, primary, and lower-secondary schooling.**

How it is structured is a matter of priority for a particular society or a country. Formal setting structure tends to receive more emphasis.

More often because of the political mileage it bears and the benefits associated with it. It gets funding from national and local budgets, though not necessarily sufficient. Yet, in essence, it is an education that is needed to meet the minimum learning. Since the formal setting tends to receive favourable attention, a number of countries have universalised it. Doing so comes with its challenges, especially in economically struggling countries.



**Photo Credit:** Teach for Uganda

Issues of access, equity, infrastructure, human resources, and learning and teaching materials need to be attended to. Also important is the issue of the kind of curriculum and its ingredients at a particular basic education level. For instance, ensuring it addresses human resource needs of the community and an individual's needs after the cycle is complete or in case of a fall off the cycle. Can a person survive with what he/she has attained?

> "Attaining basic education must promote the capacity of a person to be productive through various skills, awareness of a person's environment."

Attaining basic education ought to have a lasting impact on the life of a person. It must promote the capacity of a person to be productive through various skills, awareness of a person's environment and interactions, civil contribution and improvement in living standards.

Various studies have documented economic and social benefits of investing

in primary and lower-secondary schooling. These are notably in contributing towards aspects of betterment of health, improvements in earnings, participation in civil matters, and national growth.

**With these excellently documented contributions, why does basic education and literacy still have enormous challenges? This is one question the theme of this month is reminding us about and calling for action.**

These challenges are known, and so are their solutions. There is no time to spare for being inactive, but for action. Take, for instance, Uganda: in the 2024 Census, 20 per cent of the population aged six years and over had never been to school. Why? Remember, we are aspiring to be a middle-income country.

Other troubling facts are that the majority of Ugandans in 2024 have either only some primary education or no formal education; about 30 per cent attained some primary-level education.

Nearly 8 in 10 males (76.6 per cent) and 7 in 10 (71.6 per cent) females were literate. Seventy four percent of persons aged 10 and above were able to read and write meaningfully in any language. How about the rest? Who is attending to them? These figures point out problems that need fixing. They beckon for action.

All of us need to get involved in supporting the country in its target of improving learning outcomes in basic competencies, especially in literacy, including new digital literacy and numeracy for all children.

Rotarians, indeed, you have been in these endeavours, but what is needed is not to get tired and resign to minimum actions.

Accelerate what you are doing and explore new areas and aspects, especially in the new digital literacy. There is a very wide gap in digital literacy- actual a technological divide in society. The era of divide between the "ancient" and modern is fact, widening. More is needed in physical infrastructure, textbooks, teaching and learning materials, computers, meals and teachers.



Your engagement and complementary support can definitely go a long way in the betterment of basic education and literacy. Besides, it allows you to light up some members of a community.

Do not worry about the volume and amount of your contribution; instead, worry about your inaction. A problem being addressed is better than a problem left unaddressed.

> "Do not worry about the volume and amount of your contribution; instead, worry about your inaction."

An unaddressed problem spreads like "diseased thoughts", and the resultant impact is a society with not fully processed products.

**The outcomes of such half-baked or unprocessed products are low levels of productivity, adherence to traditional, less yielding production methods, low adaptation, and sometimes slowing general development.**

Your engagement in basic education and literacy is better measured in the transformations attained.

Even if they are gradually realised, they have a higher social value than the monetary value you may be attaching to them and worrying.

Let us continue to play our part in bridging gaps in access, equity and quality of basic education and literacy.

Remember that your contribution today is the lasting impact of tomorrow.

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OUT TO LUNCH

# Are Investment Clubs Ruining Your Life?



BY **RTN DENIS JJUUKO**

The internet has led to connectivity we probably never imagined. Previously, you left a job, and that was it. Today, if you leave one, most likely somebody will add you to a WhatsApp group of former employees of Company Z.

**If you don't leave the job, you already belong to several WhatsApp groups. The schools you attended also have another WhatsApp group. And of course, another for the particular class, say Law Class of 2005. If you attended many schools, you are in several of these.**

The neighbours also have another group. Your ancestral village has another one for its Kampala diaspora. The religion you belong to has several others. The one where you live, and another from your ancestral district or diocese.

The gym colleagues have another one. The social clubs you belong to also have others.

The list of WhatsApp groups can be endless, and sometimes it can be hard to catch up.

Some people, perhaps afraid of annoying people if they left, resort to being silent or what Ugandans call *akamooli* (watching from the sidelines).

**However, most of these WhatsApp groups have one thing in common: investments or savings. There is perhaps no WhatsApp group where an investment or savings club hasn't been mooted.**

Because everyone wants to save and make some ka-money, the idea is usually supported by many members. And indeed, some of these investment or savings clubs have blossomed. Some old students or church associations now have billions in assets under management.

> "Meetings spend half the time devising means to ensure everyone is paying and how to discipline those falling short."

Many people feel that they shouldn't be left out and go ahead and sign up for many investment or savings clubs. Each of them expects one to pay a set amount of money every month.

Failure to pay can be psychologically torturous. Treasurers are cajoling each one of the members to meet their obligations.

Meetings spend half the time devising means to ensure everyone is paying

and how to discipline those falling short.

I know of somebody who was consistently broke. He was earning a decent monthly salary, but he was always stressed and pitiful.

**I found out that he belonged to several clubs in Kampala and his ancestral village. They took a significant part of his pay. He was living a miserable life as he tried to meet his obligations with the several investment clubs he belonged to.**

Saving and investing is a very good thing, but it should be a certain percentage of one's earnings. If you save and invest, for example, 70 per cent of your earnings, you must ensure that you can survive on the remaining 30per cent.

If you are saving 70 per cent of your earnings and then playing dodgeball with your landlord at home, failing to get basics for your family, then it makes no sense. Being super stressed because of saving probably isn't the right thing to do. The repercussions can be dire.

Many people struggle to meet their saving obligations in clubs largely as a result of subscribing to many clubs.

The best way is to identify a club or two which meet your aspirations and concentrate on those rather than being in so many clubs and failing to meet your obligations. It frustrates everyone, including yourself.

> "Those that lend money to the members charge very high rates, sometimes as much as 3 per cent per month. Annually, that is 36 per cent."

Investment and savings clubs, however good they are for people and economies, are very conservative.

In order to protect people's money, they usually invest in assets that are considered safe but sometimes without even regular returns.

People can have money in these clubs, but they aren't taking home anything regularly.

If a club invests in land or even unit trusts, they have to wait for a long time for either the land to gain value and be sold or for the unit trusts to compound significantly to provide a worthy return to the members. Are you willing to wait for that long?

Those that lend money to the members charge very high rates, sometimes as much as 3 per cent per month. Annually, that is 36 per cent.




Just because there isn't much paperwork or collateral and they are swifter than commercial lenders, the interest rates are simply prohibitive given that members are essentially borrowing their own money.

**Investment and savings clubs: if they want members to make money, they need to lend below the annual interest rates of banks.**

Since they do short-term lending, they could do 0.5 per cent a month. People who are borrowing this money could then be able to make money with what they have borrowed.

So, as your WhatsApp group proposes yet another investment or savings club, be careful before you sign up and see if it makes sense or if the ones you belong to are enough.





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