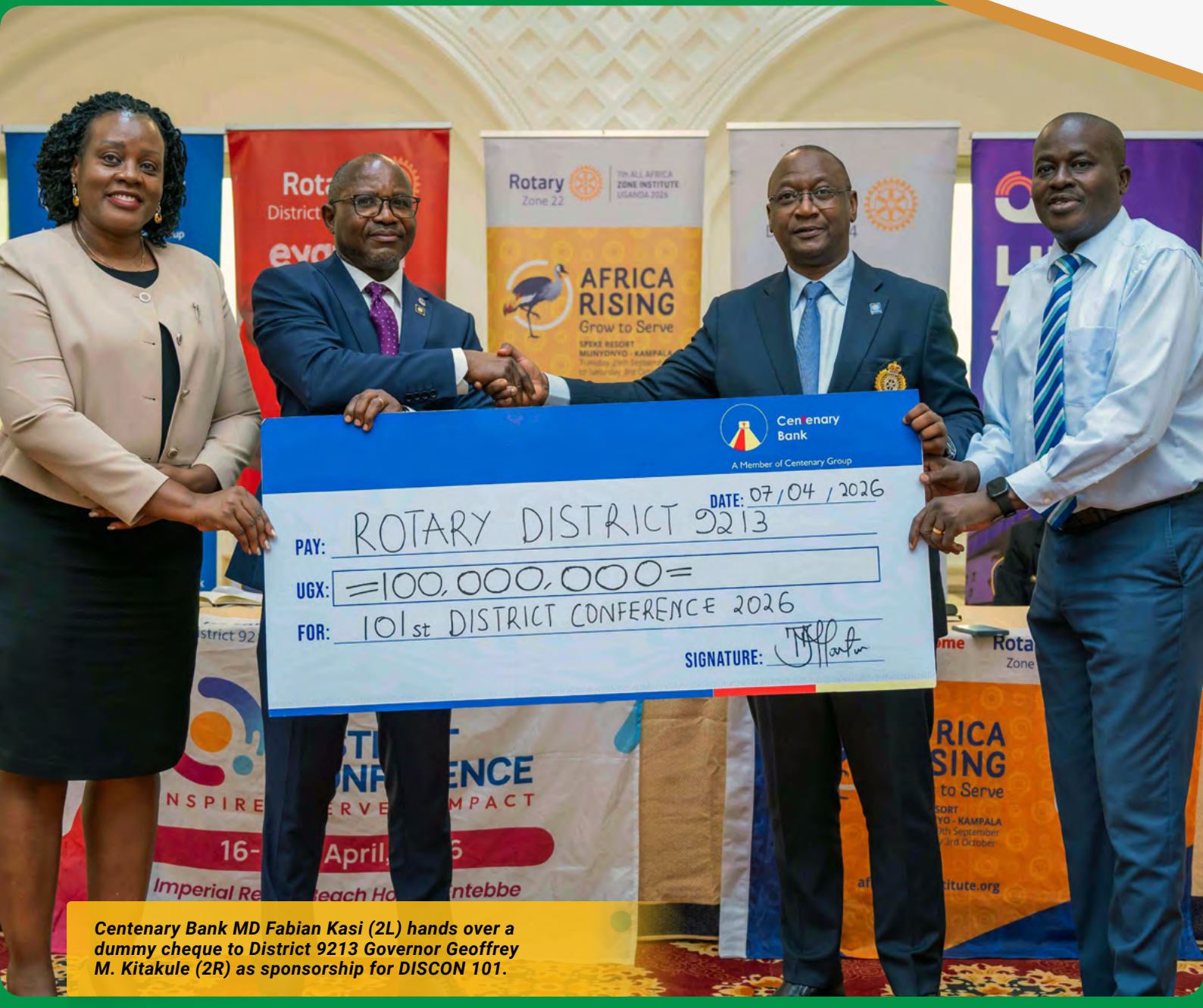
# Naalya Food Bulletin

14th April, 2026

Rotary Kampala - Naalya

UNITE FOR GOOD

Issue 38 | RY 2025-26




*Centenary Bank MD Fabian Kasi (2L) hands over a dummy cheque to District 9213 Governor Geoffrey M. Kitakule (2R) as sponsorship for DISCON 101.*

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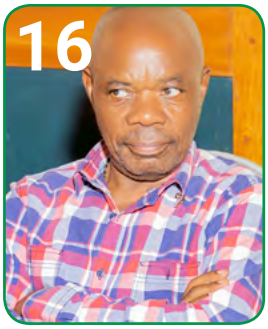
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# Chef's Note

***Dear Rotarians and Guests,***

There is a Luganda proverb that says, ***omwana takulira munju emu*** (a child is not raised by one homestead).

**The same can be said of the environment – it won't be protected by one hand, nor a degraded forest restored by one season of goodwill.**

The environmental crises encircling us - polluted air and water, rising temperatures, shrinking wetlands, skies clouded with the smoke of careless industry and desperate cookfires - are not the work of one actor. Neither will their reversal be. It will take a collective responsibility.

This month, as Rotary turns its collective gaze toward the environment, we are invited — compelled, really — to move beyond awareness into accountability.

That was the clarion call by Rtn Joachim Buwembo, our guest speaker last week.

We all know how water in our beloved Pearl of Africa water remains, for millions, a daily uncertainty rather than a given right.

Climate change does not merely threaten tomorrow; for the subsistence farmer watching a second failed harvest, it is already here, already costly, already cruel.

Rotarians are not bystanders. We are, by vocation and by oath, people of action. The question is not whether the environment deserves our attention - science, scripture, and simple conscience have long settled that. The question is whether our attention will be sufficient, strategic, and sustained.

And then this week we head to Entebbe for this week's District Conference - the gathering we have planned for with quite anticipation. Rotary desperately needs that event, history has settled that.

Now more than ever. Not simply to occupy hotel conference rooms, trade business cards, and applaud one another's banners.

**We need it because the challenges before us — environmental and otherwise — are larger than any single club, any single fellowship, any single district program can address alone.**

So dear Rotarians;
come to the conference ready to connect — not superficially, but with the deliberate intention of finding partners for the work that must be done.

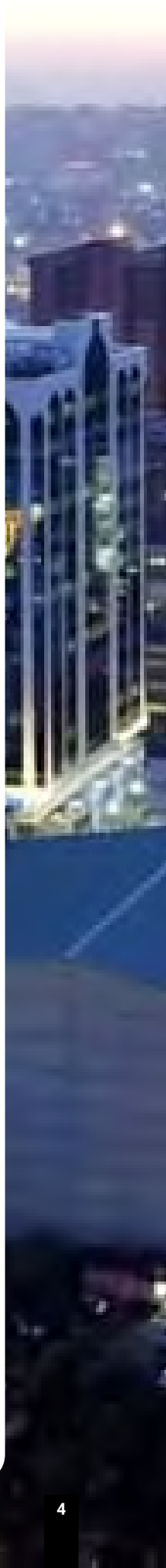
Come ready to learn — from fellow Rotarians whose projects have succeeded, from experts who carry knowledge our clubs need, from the honest failures that teach as much as any triumph. And come ready to be challenged — because excellence in service demands that we hold each other to account, that we raise the standard, that we refuse the comfortable mediocrity of "good enough."

**Plant a tree before you leave for the conference, as a memento. Pledge one environmental initiative your club will champion before the year ends.**

Commit to carrying, from the conference halls back to your communities, not just a certificate, a plaque and a photograph, but a sharper sense of purpose and a clearer plan of action.

As the Artemis II crew that went around the moon last week noted, our planet earth is asking. The conference is waiting. Let us arrive - fully present, fiercely committed, and ready, at last, to give our part of the answer.

**Rtn. Peter Nyanzi**
*Bulletin Officer*





# Count On Preparation, Not Luck

**RI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**
***By Rtn. Francesco Arezzo***



**APRIL 2026**

Not long ago, in a small health center in the village of Aaye in southwest Nigeria, a woman arrived in labor carrying twins. The facility was short-staffed, and the nurse midwife in charge was not present.

A community health worker stepped forward. She had participated in Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria, a Rotary Foundation Program of Scale initiative.

**Though she was not formally trained as a midwife, she was equipped with essential emergency obstetric skills.**

Hours later, both babies had been delivered - one at the health center and the other at a general hospital, where the mother had been referred after complications were quickly identified. The newborns and their mother were alive and safe.

Women around the world face similar circumstances every day - moments when the difference between life and loss depends on well-trained medical staff and reliable systems and procedures.

**Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria exists to increase the chances that those moments end in hope.**

By strengthening health systems and training frontline workers, the program helps communities protect mothers and children even when circumstances are difficult.

> "Rotary understands that service means investing in people and systems long before they are tested."

This work reflects the very heart of Rotary service. Service is not only what we do when conditions are ideal; it is what we do when systems are strained, resources are limited, and the need is urgent.

It is the commitment to prepare people before a crisis arrives and to stand with communities when it does.

Maternal and child health is not an abstract goal. It is deeply personal. It is a mother who survives childbirth, a newborn who takes a first breath, and a family that remains whole because someone was trained, ready, and cared enough to act.

Rotary understands that service means investing in people and systems long before they are tested. Programs like ***Together for Healthy Families in Nigeria*** show what is possible when Rotary brings together local knowledge, global partnerships, and sustainable solutions.

By working alongside health professionals and local leaders, Rotary helps ensure that lifesaving care does not depend on luck or location.

**The story of the mother and her twins is, at its core, a story of service. It is a reminder that Rotary's impact is measured in human moments - when people step forward to help others in their most vulnerable hours.**

When we unite for good, service becomes more than an ideal; it becomes a lifeline for families, a source of strength for communities, and a promise that Rotary will endure.

# Green Hope in Action:
## Restoring Uganda's Environment

## DG'S MESSAGE
**By Geoffrey Martin Kitakule**



APRIL 2026

Across Uganda, a quiet yet powerful movement is taking root—one tree, one community, and one project at a time. Led by dedicated Rotarians, environmental restoration is becoming a defining pillar of Rotary's impact, transforming landscapes while uplifting livelihoods.

**Rotarians are stepping forward with a shared vision: to protect the environment today while securing a sustainable future for generations to come.**

Rotary and Rotaract clubs have mobilized communities, schools, and partners to plant thousands, if not millions, of trees across the country.

These efforts go beyond numbers. Each tree planted represents a step toward restoring degraded forests, a natural defense against climate change, and a boost to soil fertility and agricultural productivity.

In many communities, tree planting has become a shared responsibility, bringing together young people, local leaders, and families in a collective act of environmental stewardship.

Uganda's wetlands and water sources remain vital lifelines for both people and ecosystems. Recognizing this, Rotarians have taken active steps to protect and restore these fragile environments.

Through community sensitization, campaigns, and conservation initiatives such as "Run for the Nile," Rotary is helping to reduce wetland degradation while safeguarding the Nile and Lake Victoria.

> "Uganda's wetlands and water sources remain vital lifelines for both people and ecosystems."

These efforts not only protect biodiversity but also strengthen resilience against climate-related challenges.




**At the same time, Rotary is influencing everyday practices within communities by promoting practical, sustainable solutions.**

Initiatives such as energy-efficient cookstoves in schools like Ivunamba by the Rotary Club of Kira,



and improved waste management programs led by the Rotary Club of Acacia Sunset, demonstrate that environmental conservation does not have to be complex. It begins with simple, deliberate choices that improve both lives and livelihoods.

**Education remains at the heart of these environmental efforts. By engaging schools, youth groups, and community members, Rotarians are building a culture of awareness and responsibility.**

Young people, especially through Rotaract, are playing a leading role by organizing clean-up drives, spearheading campaigns such as the "Rotaract Earth Initiative," and championing innovative ideas.

Their energy and creativity are ensuring that the message of sustainability reaches far and wide.

Rotary's environmental success in Uganda is further strengthened through collaboration. By working closely with local communities, government institutions, and international partners, Rotary clubs are able to scale their efforts and ensure long-term impact.

> "It is Rotary in action - hope taking root and growing steadily toward a sustainable future."

Partnerships with organizations such as Uganda Breweries Ltd and the National Forestry Authority have enabled the restoration of the Namananga Forest Reserve, while collaboration with EACOP is supporting the greening of schools across six districts along the oil pipeline.

These partnerships bring together resources, expertise, and shared commitment, turning ideas into sustainable solutions.

The environmental work undertaken by Rotary in Uganda goes beyond conservation; it is a commitment to life, health, and future prosperity. Healthy ecosystems contribute to improved food security, better public health, and stronger, more resilient communities.

**As these efforts continue to grow, they demonstrate that meaningful change is possible when people unite for good with purpose and passion.**

In every tree planted, every wetland restored, and every community empowered, there is a story of hope.

This work is not only about healing the land, but also about inspiring a nation to care, to act, and to build a greener tomorrow.

It is Rotary in action - hope taking root and growing steadily toward a sustainable future. And it is a powerful reminder that 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 sincerely appreciate all those who attended last week's meeting, where Rtn. Joachim Buwembo shared practical steps on how we can protect the environment from a layman's perspective.

His insights reminded us that small, everyday actions can make a big difference.

**I also extend my gratitude to the current and incoming club leaders who participated in the Board meeting on Friday, 10th April 2026.**

> "I am grateful to Rtn. Christine Amucu and Rtn. Sylvia Nankya for their contributions last week.

During this meeting, the Board approved key dates for our upcoming activities: the **Club Retreat on 30th May 2026 in Jinja** and the **Installation of President Christine Amucu on 30th June 2026.**

I encourage all members to mark these dates and prepare to participate fully in these important milestones.

This week, our focus shifts to DISCON 101 in Entebbe. As such, there will be no fellowship meeting this week. We wish all our members who have registered for the conference a rewarding and memorable experience.

Our weekly Rotary meetings will resume on Tuesday, 21st April 2026.

To those who celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, or personal milestones last week and this week, I extend heartfelt congratulations. May you continue to enjoy blessings, joy, and favor in the days ahead.

**I also continue to request your support towards our Mental Health Project by contributing to The Rotary Foundation tagged to this initiative.**

I am grateful to Rtn. Christine Amucu and Rtn. Sylvia Nankya for their contributions last week. Let us keep striving together to reach our goal.

Wishing you all a joyful and impactful Discon 101 week!

***YOURS IN SERVICE ABOVE SELF,***



TEAM TALK

# Staying the Course: An Easter Reflection

BY **AG FRANCIS LUBUULWA**

The Easter season invites the world into a story that is both deeply personal and universally resonant. At its centre is Jesus Christ: a Man whose journey through suffering, rejection, and ultimately death on the cross has been told for generations.

**For many including myself as a devout Roman Catholic, it is a sacred narrative of faith.**

But beyond religion, it is a very powerful human story about endurance, resilience, and the courage to keep going even when the path is difficult.

> "...it is an extraordinary example of staying committed to purpose despite overwhelming adversity.."

And perhaps this is where Easter quietly meets Rotary. Because every Rotarian, at some point in their journey of service, encounters challenge. For a club president, membership participation and engagement dwindles. Dues are not paid. Projects stall. Communities do not respond as expected. Partnerships fall through. Funding becomes uncertain. Energy dips. Motivation wavers.

The reality of service, especially meaningful service, is that it is rarely smooth. It demands patience, persistence, and at times, a level of resilience that stretches us.

**The story of Jesus, particularly in the final moments leading to the cross, is a profound reflection of this reality.**

It is a moment where everything appears to be falling apart. Efforts misunderstood. Intentions questioned. Support systems shaken.

It is, in many ways, the picture of what it feels like when the work we believe in becomes heavy and uncertain.

Yet, what stands out in that story is not just the suffering, but the refusal to give up. For those of us who believe, it is a divine act of love.

For those who view it from a broader human lens, it is an extraordinary example of staying committed to purpose despite overwhelming adversity. It is the choice to continue, even when stopping would be easier.

**It is the quiet strength of pressing on, even when the outcome is not immediately visible.**



And that is a lesson every Rotarian can relate to. Because service, especially in our communities, is not always met with applause.

Sometimes it is slow. Sometimes it is frustrating. Sometimes it feels like progress is invisible. But impact! The kind of impact Rotary stands for often lies on the other side of persistence.

**Easter, then, is more than a moment of reflection. It is rather a gentle reminder.A reminder that the most meaningful journeys are rarely easy.**

A reminder that challenges do not signal failure. They often signal significance. A reminder that the work we do, especially when it uplifts others, will demand more from us than we initially expected.

In many of our Rotary clubs, we see this play out. A project that takes longer than planned. A health initiative that requires more education before adoption.

A youth program that needs consistent mentorship before transformation becomes visible. These are not signs to step back. If anything, they are invitations to lean in more intentionally. Because just like the Easter story does not end at the cross, the work of Rotary does not end at difficulty.

There is always a "third day" in service: a moment where persistence begins to bear fruit. It may not come quickly, and it may not come in the form we expected, but it comes.

Communities begin to change. Individuals begin to grow. Systems begin to improve. And suddenly, what once felt heavy becomes meaningful.

**This is not just a message for Christian Rotarians. It is a message for anyone who believes in doing good.**

Because resilience, commitment, and purpose are not confined to one belief system. They are shared human values. They are what drive individuals, organizations, and movements forward, even in the face of challenge.

**So perhaps this Easter Season, the reflection for Rotarians is not only about what we believe, but about how we respond when the work becomes difficult.**

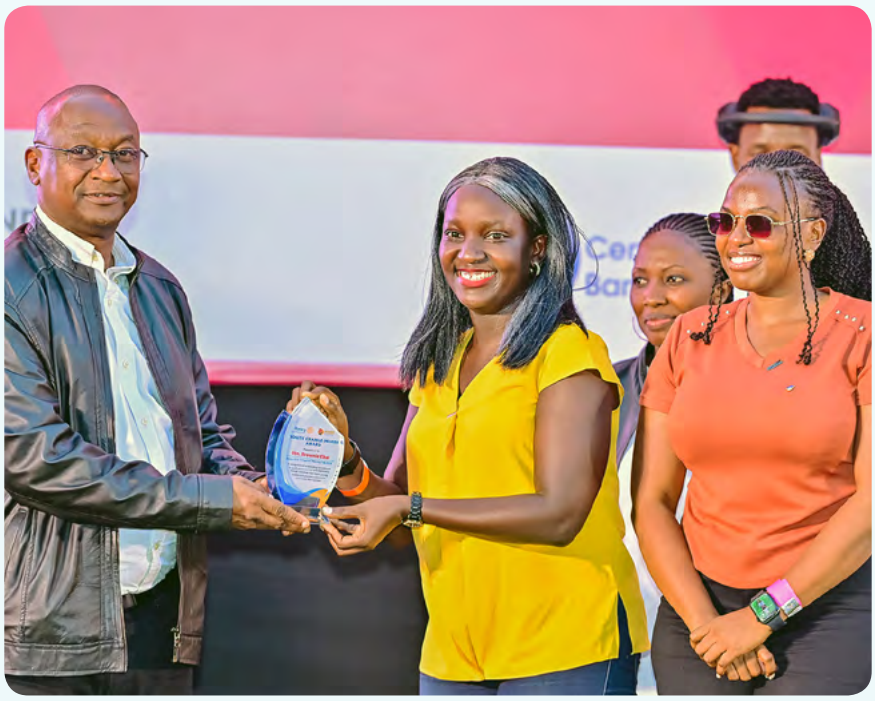
Do we step back, or do we step forward? Do we wait for perfect conditions, or do we act despite imperfect ones? Do we measure success by ease, or by impact?

> "As we continue serving in our clubs and communities, may this season renew not just our compassion, but our endurance.."

The story of Jesus reminds us whether viewed through faith or through the lens of human perseverance that giving up is not the path to transformation. Staying the course is. And in Rotary, staying the course is what changes lives.

As we continue serving in our clubs and communities, may this season renew not just our compassion, but our endurance. May it remind us that the challenges we face are not barriers, but part of the journey.

And may it strengthen in us the quiet resolve to keep showing up, keep giving, and keep believing in the work we are doing even when it is not easy. Because in the end, it is not the absence of struggle that defines meaningful service. It is the decision to continue despite it.



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


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#CoverStory



# All Set For DISCON As New Partners Get On Board

EXCITEMENT AS DISCON 101 GUESTS START ARRIVING FOR ANNUAL EVENT SET FOR IMPERIAL RESORT HOTEL IN ENTEBBE, FROM APRIL 16 TO 18, 2026.

BY **THE EDITORIAL DESK**




There is something quietly historic happening in Rotary Uganda right now. Two districts - District 9213 and District 9214 - have chosen to stop competing for the same corporate shilling and start standing together for the same cause.

That decision alone says a great deal about where Rotary in this country is headed.

**Last week, the two districts unveiled a joint sponsorship framework that brings both districts and the 7th All Africa Zone Institute under one coordinated partnership platform.**

Held under the theme, 'Inspire. Serve. Impact,' DISCON 101 conference brings together Rotarians, Rotaractors, partners, and friends of Rotary for a shared experience of learning, connection, and celebration, according to Charles Odaga, Chair of DISCON 101 for District 9213. It is set for Imperial Resort Hotel in Entebbe, from April 16 to 18, 2026.

> "Over UGX 600 million in cash and more than UGX 300 million in kind has been committed by sponsors."

The thinking is simple: why should a sponsor receive three separate requests from the same Rotary family, in the same country, in the same calendar period? The new model eliminates that duplication, presenting one coherent entry point for any corporate or development partner that wants to engage with Rotary's work.

It is a mature and strategic move, and the results are already speaking for themselves. Over UGX 600 million in cash and more than UGX 300 million in kind has been committed by sponsors. That is not small money, and it did not come by accident. It came because Rotary's leadership chose to make partnership both easier and more rewarding.

Centenary Bank has stepped in as platinum sponsor, committing UGX 280 million across all three events.

**Fabian Kasi, the bank's managing director, captured the spirit of the moment well when he said they come to strengthen what they stand for.**

That is exactly the kind of alignment Rotary should be building - not transactional giving, but shared values translated into shared investment.




*D9213 Governor Geoffrey M Kitakule (L) receives Rotary International Representative Trichur Narayan Subramanian at Entebbe Airport, ahead of the DISCON 101.*

VAAL Real Estate, the gold sponsor, has committed USD 15,000 and described the partnership as deliberate and grounded in company values.

**CEO Islam Mohamed put it plainly: Rotary's understanding of grassroots community needs made it a natural partner, and businesses must play an active role in supporting societies that governments alone cannot fully serve.**

That is not sponsor-speak. That is a business leadership philosophy that Rotary should hold its partners to, and celebrate when it finds them.

Alongside these anchor sponsors, names like Stanbic Bank,CAA, Sumz, Prudential, NSSF, Uganda Tourism Board, Nile Breweries, Old Mutual, Cavendish University and Serena Kigo are part of an ecosystem of 30 sponsors who have chosen to associate their brands with Rotary's work.

Each of them is, in some measure, vouching for what Rotary does — in health, education, youth empowerment, environmental conservation, peacebuilding and economic development.

District 9213 Governor Geoffrey Martin Kitakule notes that Rotary in Uganda has already implemented projects worth over UGX 8 billion in the current Rotary year alone. That is the track record that makes sponsors want to come.

District 9214 Governor Christine Kyeyune Kawooya gave the clearest articulation of what these partnerships really mean: "What we are witnessing today is more than sponsorship - it is shared investment, community leadership and a better future for all of us."

**That framing matters. Rotary is not selling advertising space. It is inviting institutions to co-own a vision.**

And now, preparations have moved from planning into reality.

The arrival of Rotary International Representative Trichur Narayan Subramanian - known warmly as Raju - marks the moment DISCON 101 shifted from aspiration to event.

He was received by DG Kitakule and DRR Naboth Abesage, and his presence signals that the wider Rotary world is watching and invested in what Uganda's Rotary family is building.

**"I look forward to experiencing Uganda, witnessing impact, and seeing how we Unite for Good," Raju said on arrival.**

It is the right thing to say, but beyond courtesy, it reflects genuine curiosity about a Rotary community that has earned the right to be seen.

The energy is rising. The leaders are on the ground. The partnerships are in place.

DISCON 101 is not merely a conference. It is a demonstration of what Rotary looks like when it stops working in silos and starts working as one.

For the thousands of Rotarians, business leaders, policymakers and guests who will attend, it will be an opportunity to witness - and carry forward - a model of collaboration that could define Rotary in Uganda for years to come.

***The moment is here. Be part of it.***

# *District 9213 and District 9214 get 30 Partners to support DISCONS, 7th All Africa Rotary Zone Institute*











# *District 9213 and District 9214 get 30 Partners to support DISCONS, 7th All Africa Rotary Zone Institute*














# *Air Pollution: Why Clean Fuel Must Drive Our Environmental Future*

**BY EDITORIAL DESK**

Take a deep breath. Go on — breathe in. Now consider what just entered your lungs.

In Uganda, that breath may carry more than oxygen. It carries particulate matter from over a million petrol-powered boda bodas, exhaust from ageing vehicles barely fit for the road, and — if you are one of millions of households cooking with charcoal or firewood, a daily dose of indoor smoke that doctors ave long classified as dangerous.

**The result is not a distant environmental statistic. It is 60,000 Ugandan lives lost every year to the direct effects of poor air quality. We rank among the most polluted nations on earth. And almost all of it is preventable.**

This is not a story about carbon credits or the grand negotiations between industrial giants.

It is a story about the air inside our homes and above our streets. It is a story about the respiratory wards filling up in our hospitals, about asthmatic children in poorly ventilated classrooms, about boda riders inhaling fumes for twelve hours a day just to earn their living.

Air pollution is not a side issue for the environment month agenda. It is the main event.

The sources are painfully familiar. Our roads are dominated by fuel-burning motorcycles and imported vehicles that would have been decommissioned years ago in the countries that sold them to us.

At home, millions of families cook over open flames because electricity is expensive and the grid is unreliable.

> "..we cannot discuss air quality without addressing the reality of the Ugandan household."

I mean we cannot discuss air quality without addressing the reality of the Ugandan household. With a median pay of roughly UGX 200,000, many families are trapped in a cycle of "energy poverty".

**While we want to graduate people from wood fuel and charcoal to clean electricity, the high cost and unreliability of the grid remain significant barriers.**

Climate change is often framed as a global narrative driven by industrial giants like China and the USA. While we may contribute the






least to global emissions, we suffer the most from its local effects - from unpredictable rains affecting food security to the respiratory crises in our hospitals. We must address these "small-scale" effects at a local level by ensuring our transition to clean energy is affordable and reliable.

**Poverty and pollution have the same address in Uganda, and they reinforce each other in a cycle that neither a tree-planting campaign nor a hospital clinic can fully break.**

Yet, the solution is already on our streets. Electric motorcycles are not a prototype. They are available, affordable to run, and ready to scale. A charge costing UGX 6,000 takes a rider five times further than a litre of petrol at the same price.

Over a working month, that difference pays school fees. Companies from Germany, China, and local partners are already offering these bikes on credit. Uganda's Transport Sector Master Plan in the Vision 2040 enshrines e-mobility as national policy. The government has committed close to UGX 400 billion toward domestic electric vehicle manufacturing by Kira Motors in Jinja. So, the roadmap exists. What is missing is the momentum to make it normal, not exceptional.

That momentum is precisely what Rotarians are built to generate.

We are not engineers or regulators. But we are connectors, advocates, and community leaders. Every club in Uganda can invite an e-mobility provider to a meeting and organise a demonstration ride.

We can link these companies with financial institutions willing to de-risk loans for boda riders ready to switch. We can work with savings groups and boda associations - the real decision-making units - to show that going electric is not a sacrifice but an upgrade.

Where carbon-credit mechanisms exist to reward genuine emission reductions, we should champion them so that entrepreneurs who take the leap receive the recognition they deserve.

On the domestic side, the push toward clean cooking technologies - improved cookstoves, biogas, induction units where grid access allows - is equally urgent. Indoor air pollution from biomass fuels kills silently and disproportionately hits women and young children.

Rotary clubs can partner with public health offices and NGOs already working in this space, ensuring that clean cooking reaches the households that need it most, not merely as a donation but as a sustainable transition supported by knowledge, supply chains, and financing.

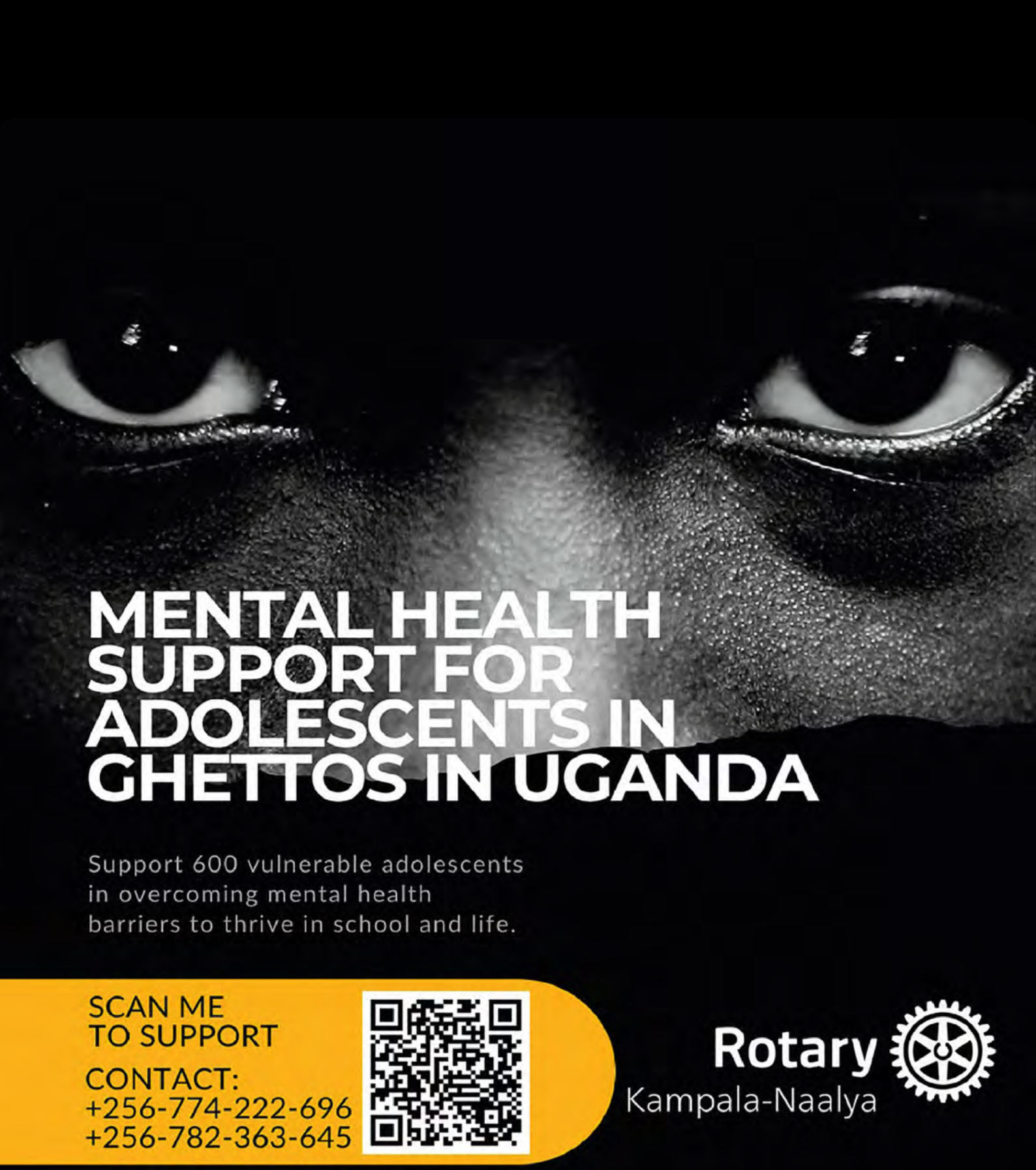
The 60,000 people we lose each year are not abstractions. They are the boda rider who carried us home last Tuesday. The mother cooking the evening meal. The teacher at our children's school. Every one of them breathes the same air we do.

**Rotary's call this month is not to debate global climate responsibility. It is to act locally, with the tools and networks we already have.**

Deliberately choose the electric boda boda over the fueled one. Champion the clean cookstove. Push the policy. Connect the entrepreneur with the financier.

Purer air is not a luxury for a wealthier future Uganda. It is a decision we can make and lead others to make right now.

***Service Above Self begins with clean air in our lungs.***


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Rotary
Kampala-Naalya

# 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



ELDER'S EYE

# Six Pillars of Effective Environmental Management

**BY RTN GODFREY OKELLO-OMODING**

Environment management options have grown in number and types in recent years. Many choices are available and being suggested, and more are being researched.

This is understandable because environment effects are diverse, manifest differently, and apparently limitless. They occur and affect us in different ways depending on various aspects, surroundings and sectors.

Today, it is becoming natural to start consideration of environment management right at the individual level or at project level.

Organisations too are increasingly moving to producing "green reports and accounts." They sometimes come wrapped as social corporate responsibility - trying to been seen as responsible citizens.

It is natural too to join the chorus as good citizens. Afterall, every one strives to be good or be seen from the good side. Society has its way of shifting strides. This comes with how to manage the strides.




**Environmental strides are no exception when it comes to its management. Citizenry must arise together.**

> "Every level of interface or interaction with environment ought to have its systematic processes."

Since environment management is diverse, ranging from protection to sustainability.

In between protection and sustainability is where many individuals and entities fall, though ideally sustainability is the ultimate goal for all.

Striving to attain environmental sustainability requires consistent and sustained management processes, systems and interventions.

It comes from having systematic processes at various levels. Every level of interface or interaction with environment ought to have its systematic processes.

**Household must have its environment management systematic processes. Communities must have their environment management systematic processes.**

Organisations must have their environment management systematic processes.

Every nation must have her systematic environment management processes.




Together contributing to better management of the environment.

For these systematic processes to make sense, they entail: (i) recognition of environmental problems in all activities; (ii) awareness and commitment to address the problems; (iii) formulation of environmental actions; (iv) putting in place implementation plans, actions and implementation instruments; (v) expression of how to regulate and ensure adherence; and (vi) determination to iimplement and enforce.

**Many may argue that environmental management is complex and requires professions to lead it.**

To the contrary, environment is a common good that needs involvement of all and collectively be managed at different levels.

Formal or informal, when it comes to managing environment, behaviours are very paramount.

Society's preferences and goals must be to translate into actions environmental interventions. Definitely, this goes a very long way in influencing the quality of environment. It does not come merely by pronouncements but by actions.

True, while basic operative norms of environmental management systems are necessary and must be provided by legislation, formal rules need to be always supplemented by informal ones that influence attitudes, customs, and moral traditions.

Note that some environment aspects, be it in conservation and protection, in some communities are interlinked with beliefs.

> "Formal or informal, when it comes to managing environment, behaviours are very paramount."

Rotarians, it is important to know that the extent to which environmental issues are addressed in a society depends on the values assigned to environment. How society perceived environment matters in determining the extent to which it translates it into decisions and actions.

Similarly at political level, the values assigned to environment determines how it get translated into political decisions. Being aware of this helps in drawing efficacy of whatever interventions to undertake or the system to drive it.

Causing management of environment for sustainability requires receptive communities or society.

Directing whatever support in terms of human, financial, technical, and materials to non-receptive communities can also be an irresponsible act on the side of a partner or a donor. Very often a receiving community, when things don't go well, carries a blame.

In a spirit of unity and partnership, Rotarians when dealing with environment issues need to collect right information.

**Get right information about the community you want to support or partner, analyse it, and prepare appropriate environment interventions.**

Matters of environment reflect the soul of a particular community.

Since a soul is invisible, digging out what is the right cause of action matters a lot. Therefore, rising up to meet environment management challenges is our call this month.



OUT TO LUNCH

# Ugandan musicians should think beyond karaoke at weddings

BY **RTN DENIS JJUUKO**

Musicians in Uganda have been in celebratory mood after the country's Parliament passed the Copyright and Neighbouring Rights (Amendment) Bill, 2025.

**They argue that once the Bill is assented to by the President as expected, they will earn lots more money than they are right now. That they will be rewarded for their efforts.**

Ugandan music has come from a long way. In the 1990s, very few Ugandans considered music as their professional career. There were professional music groups that still exist such as Afrigo and some other bands/musicians, but many didn't earn that much. If the amended bill is to make them earn more, that is even better.

The Bill seems to be important to Uganda's music industry as there seem to be a resurgence of the foreign content like it was in the 1990s. Congolese musicians ruled the airwaves and the stages at Ggaba Beach, Nakivubo Stadium and the beaches of Entebbe.

Singers like Jose Chameleone, Bebe Cool and Bobi Wine broke that dominance and Ugandan musicians started filling stadiums on their own. Congolese musicians stopped owning the concert stages in Kampala.

The Kingdom of Buganda had in 1996 launched the popular CBS radio, which further played local music on the airwaves and organised Ekitobeero music festivals that among which provided the platform for Ugandan music to thrive.

Music entrepreneurs like Hope Mukasa at his Sabrinas Pub provided another platform, karaoke, that saw many wannabe musicians practice their craft. Sabrinas would lead to the emergence of the famous I-Jay duo of Irene Namubiru and Juliana Kanyamoozi. Ugandan music was on cloud nine.

Musicians stopped singing for beer and now were being paid professional fees. Kasiwukira and company would buy the records, make cassettes and sell. Telecoms, looking for ways to reach the masses signed them up.

Nightclubs held musicians like the celebrities they were becoming. Video mixing became the norm at nightclubs and every little bar.

> "Musicians stopped singing for beer and now were being paid professional fees."

**You could actually spend a whole night in a bar with only Ugandan music being played. Many young people dreamed of becoming musicians. Many lived the dream.**



Today, the industry is pivoting a bit. Foreign shows are back in Uganda including of Congolese like Awilo Longomba, Ya Levis and Fally Ipupa. Kofi Olomidde turns up once in a while including at a recent Afrigo 50th anniversary.

**Nigerian music is dominating the airwaves. There is perhaps no bar or nightclub today that only plays Ugandan music for the entire night.**

The changes in the industry may perhaps explain the gusto with which some of the most known Ugandan musicians invested in the amended copyright bill.

They see it as a saviour even though royalties have been corrected on their behalf by organisations like the Uganda Performance Rights Society for years.

As the musicians were celebrating the passing of the amended bill in parliament, their counterparts in Nigeria were being ranked as the top earners in Africa on music streaming platform Spotify. It was revealed, that Nigerian musicians earned more than US$43m in 2025 from Spotify by pulling in a combined 30.3billion streams, which is about 1.6 billion hours of listening time.

Nigerian music has been globally embraced featuring in more than 320 million user-generated playlists according to reports.

> "Cozying up to politicians won't sustainably make them earn better even when copyright bills as assented to."

Barack Obama, the former US President, releases his annual playlist around December every year. For years now, a Nigerian musician appears on his list, which he posts on his X account of nearly 120 million followers.

**The Nigerians are developing music that cuts across borders and appeals to worldwide audiences.**

You have seen them perform at even the World Cup and being regularly nominated in Grammys among other international awards.

In Uganda, some of the leading musicians instead of thinking global, they concentrate on Gulu City, where they book rooms for weeks doing whatever they can so that they can meet Gen. Salim Saleh. He has publicly rebuked them before to their embarrassment. But do they listen? They see politics as the only means to scale.

Those who become famous because of their ability to dance and sing forget about what made them famous once they make it. They appear at shows to mime, walk about the stage while spending some considerable time talking about their imaginary haters or reminding others how beautiful they look.

Less time is devoted to practicing before performing. Tshaka Mayanja, a legendary music promoter and musician has always talked about this.

The audience in Uganda is small and the economy is even smaller yet music transcends borders.

**Ugandan musicians should therefore think beyond miming at *kwanjula* and weddings and create music that has a global appeal so that they can earn from a global audience.**

Cozying up to politicians won't sustainably make them earn better even when copyright bills as assented to.



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

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09.04.2026

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# Fun Facts

## Lunch

Few words in the English language feel as unremarkable as lunch. It is short, blunt, almost percussive. Yet behind this modest syllable lies a trail of linguistic borrowing, social upheaval, and centuries of culinary improvisation that most speakers never pause to consider.

The story begins not with a meal, but with a lump. In the sixteenth century, the ancestor of our word - luncheon - carried no association with any scheduled eating occasion.

**It referred simply to a thick piece, a hunk, a slab of something solid, most often bread or cheese.**

Before lunch arrived to claim the midday hour, English speakers were not without vocabulary. The Old English compound nunchion had long served for a small snack taken around noon, combining non (noon, from the Latin nona hora) with schenche, an Old English word for a draught or drink.

A nunchion was, in essence, a noon-drink: a sip and a bite to carry one through the working



hours. The word eventually fell out of fashion, leaving only faint traces in English dialect and certain place names.

The more decisive transformation came not from linguistics but from social history. For most of England's past, dinner - the primary meal - was eaten at midday.

As the Industrial Revolution imposed rigid working schedules and the upper classes began fashionably delaying their dinner well into the evening, a gap opened in the middle of the day. The humble luncheon, a lump of food and a quick refuelling, stepped forward to fill it.

By the early nineteenth century, the clipped form lunch had appeared — a characteristic piece of English word-economy, trimming luncheon to its opening syllable in the same spirit that compressed omnibus into bus.

Initially, the abbreviated form was considered rough speech, carrying the smell of commerce and haste. By the mid-Victorian era, however, lunch had won the argument, and luncheon had retreated to formal invitations and hotel menus.

**What the history of lunch quietly illuminates is how thoroughly the words we use for eating are shaped by the societies doing the eating.**

A word born from the physical reality of a hunk of bread became, over three centuries, a fully institutionalised meal. Language, like appetite, adapts to circumstance — and the word we reach for at midday carries, in a single syllable, the sediment of centuries.

### Jokes of the week

1. A buffet is the only place where you can see a person carrying a plate with beef, chicken, fish, greens, a slice of pizza, beans, peas, cassava, fried potatoes, matooke, rolex, and think,



"Yeah, that seems like all the Buddy Groups - united for good for a balanced diet.

2. The most dangerous person at a buffet isn't the guy with the mountain of balanced diet - it's the person who goes back for a second plate of just dessert. That's a person who has conquered the social anxiety disorder.

# KIKOMANDO BUDDY GROUP IN CHARGE



Peter Simon Nyanzi



Anne Nkutu



Christine Amucu



Denis Jjuko



Dorcas Karungi Mwanje



Elizabeth Wamalwa



Godfrey Okello Omoding



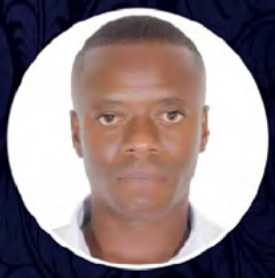
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