

August 2025.

Rotary
Club of Kololo-Kampala



THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO-KAMPALA NEWSLETTER



INSIDE

1

FROM THE EDITOR

This month, we celebrate Membership and New Club Development—growing Rotary through friendship, fresh energy, and lasting impact.



2

MESSAGE FROM THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

This month, RI President Francesco Arezzo reminds us that membership is a year-round commitment—opening doors, growing clubs, and strengthening Rotary's future.



3

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

District Governor Geoffrey Martin Kitakule calls us to grow Rotary—not for numbers, but for impact, relationships, and lasting change.



6

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This August, we champion Membership and New Club Development—growing Rotary through friendship, service, and lasting impact.



8

MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT: THE HEARTBEAT OF ROTARY

Every member brings energy, ideas, and dedication; every new club extends our reach—together, we turn vision into action.



15

IT'S A PITY SHE'S NOT A BOY – A REVIEW

Through humour, insight, and reflection, this memoir shows how determination and purpose can shape communities and lives.



18

MOMENTS THAT MATTERED! THE MONTH OF AUGUST IN PICTURES

A vibrant visual recap of our club's activities and fellowships throughout August 2025 – celebrating service, connection, and shared joy in every frame.



23

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Targeting Kinoni and Kihhi, our projects aim to strengthen healthcare, empower communities, and break cycles of poverty and vulnerability



26

ROTARY CANCER RUN 2025: A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE AND SOLIDARITY.

The Rotary Cancer Run 2025 brought together communities, Rotarians, and partners to raise awareness, mobilize resources, and support cancer patients.



ABOUT OUR CLUB

The Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala meets every Tuesday, 6-7 p.m at Hotel Africana.

Visit our socials to keep up to date with our activities and events:

 www.rotarykololokampala.org

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WORLD DAY OF CULTURAL DIVERSITY

FROM THE EDITOR

"IMAGINE ROTARY AS A TREE: THE MORE BRANCHES IT HAS, THE MORE SHADE IT GIVES, AND THE MORE BIRDS (PEOPLE) CAN NEST UNDER IT."

Dear Reader,

August in Rotary is dedicated to Membership and New Club Development, the month where we all put on our "chief recruiter" hats (no, not the type with flashing lights and a megaphone... unless that works for you).

Membership is more than just adding names to a list, it's about building a community of people who genuinely enjoy laughing together, learning together, and occasionally finding themselves carrying boxes of mosquito nets at 7 a.m. in the name of service. New members bring in new perspectives, fresh energy, and sometimes even skills we didn't know we needed (like amazing photography for project launches or TikTok dances to promote fundraisers!).

And let's not forget new clubs. They're not competition, they're partners in crime (the legal kind, of course), helping Rotary spread its wings to touch even more communities. Imagine Rotary as a tree: the more branches it has, the more shade it gives, and the more birds (people) can nest under it.

But here's the fun part, membership is not only about recruiting, it's about retaining. After all, it's no use inviting someone to dinner if you never offer them dessert! Let's make Rotary a place where members feel valued, appreciated, and yes, occasionally entertained by the jokes we pretend to laugh at during meetings and after the meetings.

So, this month, let's invite a friend, encourage a colleague, or inspire a neighbour. Because when Rotary grows, so does our impact, in service, in friendship, and in laughter. And honestly, who wouldn't want to be part of a family where the motto is Service Above Self, and the dress code is "bring your smile"?

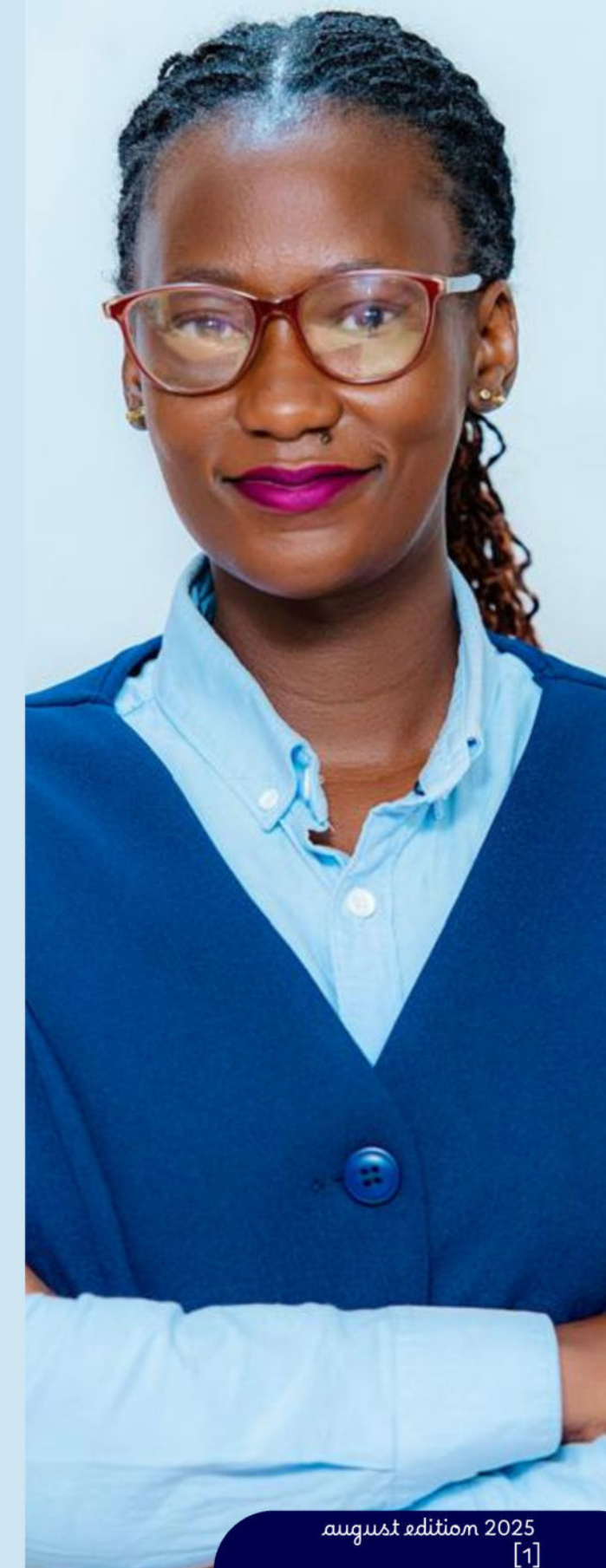
Cheers to a vibrant August, let's keep Rotary growing, glowing, and going!

Thank you for your unwavering support, partnership, and dedication to service.

Happy reading!

Shavone Kirabo Nakimera

Editor-in-Chief/ Public Image Director
ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO-KAMPALA



message from the rotary international president.



August is Membership Month, but our commitment to growth and connection is year-round. When we focus on growing Rotary, we grow our ability to serve, to lead, and to bring lasting change.

Membership growth isn't just about numbers. It's about opening doors. It's about inviting more people who are ready to give their time, talents, and hearts to a cause greater than themselves. When we welcome new members, we bring in fresh ideas and new energy. We expand our impact, strengthen our clubs, and ensure that Rotary continues to evolve with the world around us.

Remember, there is now great flexibility in fashioning nontraditional club models. I'm inspired when I see these innovative clubs thrive by offering new and prospective members more ways to connect and serve.

In Korea, the growth of satellite clubs has created opportunities for nearly 1,000 new members to find their place in Rotary. In Romania, the close collaboration between Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors has built a pipeline of future leaders. In India, some Rotarians gather around a shared interest — whether it's professional development or a passion for service — and those connections deepen their commitment and their joy in being part of Rotary. And we've seen cause-based clubs thrive in regions as diverse as Southeast Asia, Africa, and Europe.

There's a common thread: Where clubs are growing, membership is a priority and there is a willingness to try something new. Rotary is not limited to one structure or tradition. We are a global network of people of action, and that means there is room for many kinds of clubs, many ways to serve, and many paths into our organization.

This spirit of innovation is also guiding our efforts to reach new communities. In places where there has never been a Rotary club — or where a club once existed and faded — Rotarians are finding ways to grow Rotary. They are identifying areas of potential and building clubs that reflect the character and needs of their communities.

Every member plays a part in this journey. Whether you introduce a friend to your club, support a new meeting format, reconnect with program alumni, or simply share your Rotary story, you are helping our organization grow stronger and more vibrant.

No one owns a Rotary club. It is a gift we pass on to the next generation. When we nurture that gift, when we invite others to share in it, we ensure that Rotary continues to be a force for good. Let's prioritize membership growth — not just in August but every month of the year. Together, through friendship, creativity, and shared purpose, we will grow Rotary and Unite for Good.

Francesco Grezzo

President, Rotary International, 2025-26

message from the district governor.



GROWING TOGETHER - THERE IS ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE AT OUR TABLE

Dear Rotarians and Rotaractors, thank you for a wonderful start of the Rotary year. Your energy and determination in July has set a wonderful pace for the year. Thank you to the Public Image team for the excellent campaign of **#RotaryEyamba**. We continue to show case impact stories to show that indeed Rotary Cares and helps. I would like now to talk about something that is vital to the future of our clubs and our mission: **membership growth**.

Rotary began with just four individuals and an idea—to come together in friendship and service. From those humble beginnings, we've grown into a global force Uniting for good. But at every level—whether global or local—**Rotary's strength lies in its people**. And that's why we must be intentional and passionate about **inviting new people into this family**.

When we increase our membership:

- We gain **more hands to serve**, more ideas to innovate, and more voices to advocate for change. The task ahead of us is huge.
- We bring in **diverse experiences and talents** that enrich our projects and strengthen our community ties.
- We ensure that the spirit of Rotary continues—not just for this year, but for generations to come

Potential members are everywhere. They are:

- **Young professionals** looking for purpose.
- **Retirees** eager to give back
- **Teachers, doctors, entrepreneurs, lawyers, farmers, artisans**—people who care, people with heart and sometimes, they're simply waiting to be **asked**

Let's not just wait for people to come to us. Let's **go to them**. Let's share what Rotary means, what Rotary does, and most importantly—**what Rotary could become with them involved**.

Membership is not about filling seats—it's about building relationships. A personal invitation, a story shared, a life changed—these are what grow our clubs. **Let's each commit to bringing in just one new member this year. Imagine what we could accomplish if every Rotarian did that.**

We are not growing Rotary for numbers—we're growing it for **impact**. The more we grow, the more lives we touch, the more problems we solve, the more hope we spread. We need to create clubs that also fit within the work life and other social life. I am happy to say in addition to clubs like that of Emergency medicine, Rugby and Environment we are also creating corporate clubs. We have a corporate club in DFCU bank called Blue Hearts and we are starting a Rotary Club of Mapeera with Centenary Bank. Let's open our doors, open our hearts, and remind our communities that Rotary is not just an organization—it's a movement. And it's a movement worth joining.

Let's grow together, serve together, Unite for Good and build a Rotary that's stronger than ever.

#RotaryEyamba

Geoffrey Martin Kitakule

**District Governor, 2025 – 2026
Rotary International District 9213**

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Kampala's
Monthly
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Rotary   TAIPEI
2026

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message from the president.



Dear Rotarians, Partners, and Friends,

August marks Membership and New Club Development Month on the Rotary calendar, a theme that goes to the very heart of who we are. Membership is the lifeblood of Rotary; it is through committed members that ideas turn into action, and through new clubs that Rotary's reach is extended to communities far beyond our immediate circles. This month offers us an opportunity to reflect not only on the need to invite new members but also on how we nurture, mentor, and retain the ones we already have.

Our projects such as the Namutumba health intervention, our support to Kinoni Health Centre in Rwampara, and our community health outreach efforts represent our commitment to creating lasting change. We are not only investing in infrastructure and medical resources but also in education, awareness, and the empowerment of families.

At the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala, we are proud to see this spirit reflected in our activities so far. Our meetings have been graced by inspiring speakers, most notably District Governor Nominee Designate, Fabian Kasi, whose message emphasized leadership rooted in service and accountability. Such engagements are reminders that Rotary is not just a fellowship, but a space where thought leadership meets practical service, equipping us to better respond to the pressing needs of our communities.

Service remains our defining identity. In line with Rotary's strong stand against cancer, our Club has shown remarkable commitment to the **Rotary Cancer Run 2025**, contributing through the purchase of more than **600 kits**. This is not only financial support but also a statement of solidarity with the thousands of lives touched by cancer. Together, we reaffirm our pledge to champion health and wellness for all.

We also celebrated a significant moment in our journey when our Club was recognized with a **Club Excellence Award by Rotary International**. This recognition is not simply a medal on the shelf; it is a reflection of the tireless efforts of each member, our collective creativity, and our consistency in delivering meaningful service. We must continue to build on this momentum, ensuring that excellence remains our benchmark, not our exception.

Our fellowship, too, has been enriched with milestones worth celebrating. The **induction and pinning of Rtn. Winnie Nuwagaba as a Paul Harris Fellow** was a proud occasion, reminding us of the importance of recognizing dedication and commitment. It is through such recognition that we strengthen the bonds of fellowship and inspire others to embrace a spirit of generosity and service.

At the grassroots, we have been conducting needs assessments in Kinoni and Kihiihi, listening closely to community voices to shape interventions that are responsive and sustainable. These assessments remind us that Rotary's work must be guided not by assumptions, but by the lived realities of the people we serve. They lay the foundation for impactful projects in health, education, water, and livelihoods.

As we embrace Membership and New Club Development Month, let us not lose sight of the broader picture. Membership is not only about asking someone to join; it is about offering them a journey of purpose, friendship, and service. New clubs are not about expansion for its own sake; they are about ensuring that no community is left untouched by Rotary's vision of hope. The true test of our growth is in the legacy we build fellowships that inspire, projects that transform, and partnerships that endure.

I call on each one of us to continue being Rotary's ambassadors, mentors to new members, partners to fellow Rotarians, and servants to the communities that rely on us. Let us invite, nurture, and empower, for in doing so we strengthen not just Kololo-Kampala, but the entire Rotary family.

Together, we stand on a strong foundation of fellowship, service, and recognition. Let us build boldly upon it, with renewed energy, broader vision, and deeper commitment to "Service Above Self."

M.D. James Africa Byekwazo

President, Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala, 2025-26

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Membership and New Club Development: The Heartbeat of Rotary.

Every organization has a heartbeat, that one essential element without which it cannot thrive. For Rotary, that heartbeat is membership. Members are not simply names on a list or faces at a meeting. They are the energy, the creativity, and the compassion that transform Rotary from a noble idea into a global force for good.

As August shines a spotlight on Membership and New Club Development, we are reminded that the vitality of Rotary depends on the people who choose to serve under its banner and the clubs that provide platforms for service, fellowship, and leadership.

The importance of membership begins with the simple reality that service requires people. A community may have needs that are urgent and vast, but without individuals willing to dedicate their time, talent, and resources, no project can move from concept to completion. When we think about medical camps, water and sanitation initiatives, literacy programs, or peacebuilding dialogues, they all begin with a group of Rotarians who are present and committed. It is people who organize the logistics, people who fundraise, people who show up on a Saturday morning to plant trees or distribute mosquito nets. Membership is therefore the foundation upon which every other achievement rests.

At the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala, we have seen this truth play out in real time. Our recent support for the Rotary Cancer Run 2025 is a perfect example. As a club, we came together and purchased more than six hundred kits. This was not only a financial contribution but a powerful demonstration of what membership can achieve when individuals combine efforts for a shared cause. Cancer touches countless lives, and through our collective action, we stand in solidarity with patients, families, and the broader Rotary mission to strengthen health systems. That is the power of membership in motion.

However, Rotary does not grow simply by adding more chairs around the table. Membership is also about diversity and renewal. Each new member brings a different perspective, a unique skill set, and a network of influence that enriches the entire club. Imagine the difference when an engineer joins and helps design a cost-effective borehole system, or when a teacher brings fresh ideas for literacy interventions, or when a young professional contributes digital skills to improve communication and outreach. We celebrated this spirit of diversity and renewal recently through the induction and pinning of Rtn. Winnie Nuwagaba as a Paul Harris Fellow. Her journey reminds us that Rotary is strengthened by members who embody generosity and dedication, while inspiring others to follow the same path.

Membership development also speaks to sustainability. Just as a garden must be watered regularly to remain green, a club must continually attract and nurture new members to stay vibrant. Without renewal, a club risks fatigue, dwindling participation, and eventually decline. Bringing in new members is not about vanity numbers; it is about ensuring that Rotary remains relevant and strong for generations to come. It is about passing on the torch of service to younger leaders while honouring the wisdom and experience of those who have served faithfully over the years.

Retention is just as important as recruitment. Inviting a person to join Rotary is only the beginning. What truly matters is how that member feels once inside the fellowship. Do they feel welcomed, valued, and engaged? Are they given meaningful roles, not just to observe but to contribute? At Kololo-Kampala, we take pride in ensuring that new members are not only welcomed but also entrusted with responsibility, because true belonging comes from participation. Our recent recognition with a Club Excellence Award from Rotary International is evidence that our approach to nurturing membership is working. This award is not simply a medal on the shelf; it is proof that when members are inspired, the entire club flourishes.

Our activities also show how membership translates into real community impact. Recent needs assessments in Kinoni and Kihhi have given us valuable insights into the challenges faced by these communities. These assessments were not conducted by a distant organization, but by our very own members who volunteered their time to listen, observe, and learn. This process highlights the fact that Rotary's success is not driven by assumptions but by the direct involvement of Rotarians who live out the principle of listening first and acting with purpose. The projects that will grow from these assessments will be sustainable precisely because they are rooted in genuine engagement and collective service.

Membership also connects directly to leadership development. Rotary is a school of leadership where members are constantly challenged to grow. From serving on committees to leading projects to taking up executive roles, Rotary gives individuals a chance to discover strengths they did not know they had. The more members a club has, the greater the pool of potential leaders, and the more opportunities exist for mentorship and succession. Leadership in Rotary does not end within the club; it spills over into members' workplaces, families, and communities, creating a ripple effect of empowered individuals making positive change.

New Club Development is the natural extension of membership growth. Sometimes existing clubs cannot cover the vastness of the needs in a region. Communities evolve, demographics shift, and new opportunities for service emerge. Establishing new clubs ensures that Rotary is closer to the people it serves. A new club in a growing town means local challenges can be addressed with local solutions. A new club focusing on young professionals creates space for innovative approaches and fresh energy. Each new club is like a new branch of a great tree, expanding Rotary's reach and offering shade and support to more people.

It is also worth noting that new clubs bring flexibility. Not every member is drawn to the same meeting formats or schedules. Some prefer traditional weekly meetings, while others thrive in satellite clubs, e-clubs, or cause-based clubs. By encouraging new club development, Rotary allows members to find a style of engagement that works for them, ensuring greater inclusivity. This flexibility is essential in today's fast-changing world, where people balance demanding careers, family responsibilities, and community commitments.

The impact of strong membership and new club development extends far beyond Rotary itself. Communities benefit directly when Rotary is strong. A well-populated and active club is able to mobilize resources quickly, respond to emergencies effectively, and implement large-scale projects with confidence. When new clubs emerge in underserved areas, they bring hope and opportunities that might otherwise have taken years to arrive. Strong membership means strong service delivery, and strong service delivery translates into healthier, more educated, and more empowered communities.

As we reflect on Membership and New Club Development Month, it is important to remember that growth is not just about statistics. It is about storytelling. Every Rotarian has a story of why they joined and why they stayed. Sharing those stories is one of the most powerful ways to attract others. When people hear about friendships formed, communities transformed, and lives changed, they realize that Rotary is more than a club; it is a movement. By telling our stories with authenticity and passion, we inspire others to walk this journey with us.

Ultimately, membership is about belonging to something greater than ourselves. It is about finding a place where service is celebrated, where friendship is genuine, and where every effort contributes to a better world. New clubs are about ensuring that more people have the chance to experience that belonging. Together, they ensure that Rotary remains a force of hope and transformation, now and in the future.

As members of the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala, we have reason to be proud. We have been inspired by distinguished speakers such as District Governor Nominee Fabian Kasi, we have demonstrated our commitment through the cancer run, we have been honoured with international recognition, and we have laid the groundwork for future projects through needs assessments in rural communities. These achievements show what is possible when a club is alive with dedicated members. They also remind us that the journey is ongoing. Membership is not a destination but a continuous commitment to grow, to serve, and to lead.

Let us therefore recommit to being ambassadors of Rotary. Let us invite friends, colleagues, and neighbours to join us. Let us mentor those who are new, support those who lead, and appreciate those who serve quietly. Let us encourage the birth of new clubs where they are needed most. For in doing so, we safeguard the heartbeat of Rotary, ensuring that it continues to pulse strongly in Kololo-Kampala, across Uganda, and around the world.

By The Public Image Team.

August is Membership and New Club Development Month

Did you know?

Rotary grows stronger with every new member and every new club.

CLOSING REPORT – AUGUST 2025 NAMUTUMBA GG234927

PROJECT: **Namutumba Global Grant**

Global Grant No.: **GG/2349279**

Reporting Period: **1st May 2024 – 31st August 2025**

Implemented: **Namutumba District: Health Center III & Namalemba Ladies Association Mill**

Report compiled by: **Ruth Patricia Wanyana – Project Manager**

Date submitted: **28th August 2025**

major objectives

- Strengthen maternal healthcare service delivery at Namutumba Health Center III
- Empower Namalemba ladies association economically through rice milling & training
- Build capacity of both centers; through training, infrastructure & equipment support

key interventions (2024)

- Training of 22 health workers and the health center (vhts & nurses)
- Leadership & business training for 40 women (Namalemba)
- Installation of solar power & water tanks at Namutumba HC
- Delivery of medical equipment, assorted medicine, tents, laptop
- Donation of rice huller & training in usage

progress in 2025 – namutumba HCII

- 70% increase in deliveries (74 in June 2024 → 126 in June 2025)
- Improved hygiene & safety from solar + water systems
- More mothers seeking ANC & delivery care
- Boosted staff morale and community trust

progress in 2025 – namalemba mill

- Ladies have adopted 'lemba rice' as a brand
- Established group savings & cooperative fees where profits are now realized and the value of accounting and saving in banks appreciated.
- Local access to milling has reduced household costs for the ladies families.
- Empowerment through financial literacy & confidence

major positive changes

- Better and more accurate equipped maternity ward with updated delivery beds and state of the art baby care machinery.
- Stable power supply even when the country's grid is off. The solar system has allowed for 24-hour effective working conditions.
- Stronger women's leadership & financial management. The ladies are now exhibiting more confidence in their operations and have also learnt to appreciate profits and re-investments.
- Enhanced community confidence in healthcare & enterprises. The numbers at the HC have now increased majorly because of the availability of accurate and efficient equipment that –

- – supports all antenatal stages offering clarity and safe-care to the mothers.
- Community growth and involvement. The community in Namalemba has been instantly grown to a recognizable town center. Because of the huller, the town is not busier and attracting a lot of other traders visiting the area. This is a definite factor towards economic growth

major challenges

Namutumba HCII

- Staffing shortages now that the traffic is a lot
- Equipment maintenance especially the tents that are often destroyed due to harsh weather conditions
- Supply gaps especially with drugs where the designated rations take long to reach the facility.

Namalemba mill

- Seasonal rice shortages: lack of buffer storage
- Power outages that destruct work schedules
- Limited income during off-seasons

sustainability & future plans

- Strengthen rice sourcing agreements & diversify grains
- Maintenance fund for equipment at the HC as well as the Rice Huller
- Advocate for more training for health workers; VHTs and Nurses
- Officially join the rice growers association of Uganda
- Continue women's training in value-addition & entrepreneurship

conclusion & appreciation

This project has transformed healthcare delivery & women's empowerment in Namutumba district.

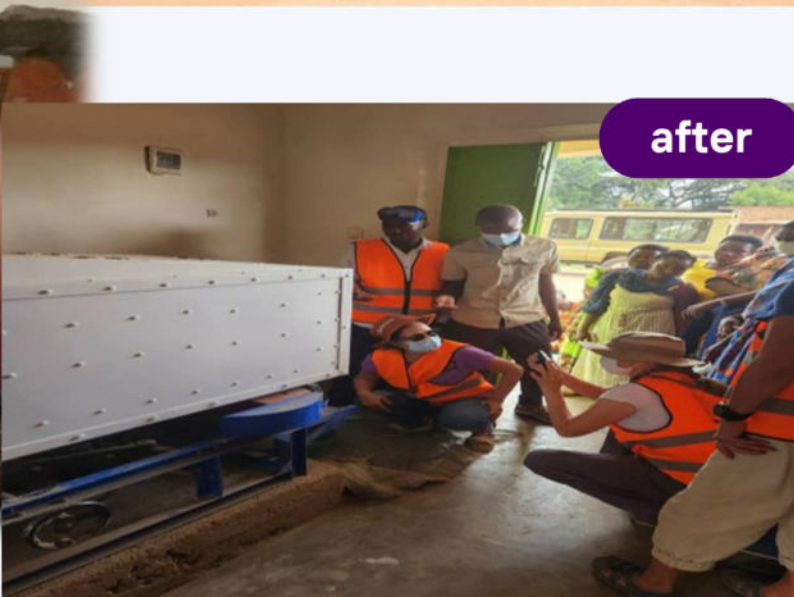


Key lesson: sustainability requires both infrastructure & ongoing capacity building Appreciation goes to the Rotary donors, Prime projects, and community leaders for making the project a success



Rtn. Sam Farouk Mukasa.
ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO-KAMPALA

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BOOK REVIEW

I first read **It's a Pity She's Not a Boy** by **Joyce Mpanga** back in 2021 when I was serving as Chairperson of the Rotaract Ladies Initiative, ROLI. At the time, our Book Club, The Page Turners, decided that this memoir was essential reading, and I have to say it turned out to be one of the most unforgettable books I have ever encountered. From the very beginning, the storytelling drew me in. Joyce Mpanga has a way of narrating that is both relaxed and commanding. You feel as though you are listening to her recount her life in person, and it is impossible not to be captivated. The book covers decades of Ugandan history, personal challenges, and incredible achievements, all told with a warmth and wit that make even complex or heavy moments accessible and engaging.

One of the most memorable parts of my experience reading this book was our book club discussion. Before we could even begin, every member of The Page Turners had to secure a copy of the book. We were not allowed to engage in the discussion without having read it, and this led to quite an adventure as we canvassed every bookstore in the city searching for a physical copy.

Some of us settled for online purchases, but there was a collective determination to hold that book in our hands. It was almost like a treasure hunt, and I think that made the reading experience even more special. Everyone was excited, and there was a real sense of shared purpose as we prepared to discuss the memoir together.

The story itself is extraordinary. From her childhood, when her grandfather famously remarked that it was a pity she was not a boy, to her pioneering roles in education and public service, Joyce Mpanga's life is a testament to resilience, determination, and the power of believing in oneself. That phrase, seemingly simple, recurs throughout the memoir as a motivator rather than a lament. It reflects the societal expectations she had to navigate and the limitations she had to overcome. Reading about how she turned those limitations into fuel for success is both inspiring and deeply satisfying.

The highlight of my experience with this book, however, was meeting Joyce Mpanga in person. Our book club had the privilege of visiting her home and interacting with her directly. May she rest peacefully. Meeting the author was a remarkable experience. She was approachable, knowledgeable, and had a wonderful sense of humour. Some of her answers to our questions were so unexpected and playful that we could not help but laugh. Yet at the same time, there was a quiet but undeniable –



BOOK REVIEW – IT’S A PITY SHE’S NOT A BOY

– empowerment in her words. She spoke about the importance of women and girls realizing their potential, about the value of education, and about service to community. She shared her experiences with honesty, insight, and warmth, making it clear that she had not only lived history but also shaped it in meaningful ways.

One of the things that makes this memoir stand out is the way it balances personal narrative with broader social and historical context. Mpanga’s experiences are not isolated anecdotes; they are intertwined with Uganda’s evolving political and social landscape. From colonial times to independence, from challenges in education to her groundbreaking work as a minister, the book captures a lifetime of learning, leadership, and service. Yet despite all of these achievements, the memoir never feels distant or intimidating. It is infused with a sense of humour, everyday wisdom, and a refreshing honesty that makes the reader feel included in the journey rather than merely observing it.

The memoir also serves as an empowering message to women and girls. Mpanga’s story demonstrates that gender should never be a limitation, and that perseverance, courage, and commitment can overcome deeply ingrained societal expectations. At the same time, she is relatable. She shares not only triumphs but moments of doubt, challenge, and even amusement at life’s absurdities. Her reflections are thoughtful, her insights profound, but she also invites the reader to smile at some of the quirks and surprises along the way.

Another aspect that made the reading and discussion so enjoyable was the communal experience of it. Our book club meetings became lively, engaging sessions where we debated ideas, laughed at witty anecdotes, and reflected on how Mpanga’s experiences related to our own lives. The fact that we had collectively hunted for the book only strengthened our connection to it and to each other. There is something special about reading a book as a shared experience, and even more so when the book itself is filled with humour, wisdom, and inspiration.

Reflecting on the experience now, it is clear why this is one of the books I can never forget. It entertains, enlightens, and empowers all at once. It encourages readers to consider how societal expectations shape ambitions and how individuals can overcome barriers through education, persistence, and a sense of purpose. Mpanga’s storytelling is epic in scope yet personal in touch. Her life becomes a lens through which readers can see the possibilities for courage, leadership, and service in their own lives.

It’s a Pity She’s Not a Boy is a book that I would recommend to anyone interested in history, personal growth, and the transformative power of women who dare to challenge norms. It is humorous, engaging, reflective, and ultimately empowering. My experience reading it with The Page Turners, meeting the author, and discussing her life in depth made it even more memorable. It is a book that stays with you, long after the last page is turned, reminding you of the potential that lies in determination, resilience, and the courage to live boldly.

Sharone Kirabo Nakimera

Editor-in-Chief/ Public Image Director
ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO-KAMPALA



August is Membership and New Club Development Month

Did you know?

New clubs expand Rotary’s reach, giving more communities a chance to thrive under Service Above Self.

Moments That Mattered! The Month of August in Pictures



Moments That Mattered! The Month of August in Pictures



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upcoming projects

Improving The Health And Economic Conditions In Kinoni (Mbarara) And Kihihi (Kanungu) In Western Uganda.

A comprehensive needs assessment was conducted in the rural sub-counties of Kinoni (Mbarara District) and Kihihi (Kanungu District) to identify the root causes of poor health and economic outcomes. The assessment moved beyond superficial symptoms to reveal a complex interplay of systemic failures, resource limitations, and socio-economic barriers that trap communities in a cycle of vulnerability

The assessment found a severely under-resourced healthcare infrastructure. Health facilities lacked the most essential medical equipment for safe maternal and child health (MCH) services, such as ultrasound machines, fetal dopplers, and oxygen therapy units. This equipment shortage was compounded by a fragmented and inefficient referral system, reliant on paper-based records and lacking reliable communication or transportation links. This systemic breakdown directly contributed to treatment delays and preventable adverse outcomes.

A significant paradox was identified: a pool of skilled but unemployed midwives existed alongside a community heavily dependent on traditional birth attendants. Simultaneously, existing Village Health Teams (VHTs) and Community Health Volunteers (CHVs) were found to be underutilized, lacking advanced training, modern tools, and formal integration into the healthcare system, limiting their potential impact as first-line responders.

The assessment highlighted deep-seated community practices, including low antenatal care attendance and a high rate of unsupervised home deliveries. These practices, often driven by distance, cost, and cultural norms, were directly linked to the high incidence of preventable birth-related disabilities, such as cerebral palsy and hydrocephalus.

Pervasive economic insecurity was identified as a fundamental barrier. Poverty limits the ability of families to pay for transport to facilities or sustain ongoing care for children with disabilities. This economic strain is cyclical, as caregivers of children with disabilities are often unable to work, further deepening household poverty.

A profound lack of rehabilitation services and assistive devices was documented. This gap leaves individuals with disabilities without means to improve their mobility or integration into society, placing a long-term emotional and economic burden on families and the community.

In summary, the needs assessment painted a picture of a region where well-intentioned but siloed efforts are insufficient. The problems are not merely a lack of supplies but are rooted in interconnected failures in systems, workforce deployment, and economic opportunity. The findings compellingly argue for an integrated, multi-sectoral approach that simultaneously strengthens healthcare delivery, empowers the local health workforce, creates economic pathways, and fosters community-led behavioural change to achieve sustainable improvement in health and economic conditions.

By The Public Image Team.



PICTORIAL





ROTARY CANCER RUN 2025: A CELEBRATION OF SERVICE AND SOLIDARITY.



The Rotary Cancer Run 2025, held on the 31st of August, 2025, was once again a remarkable display of community spirit, determination, and service above self. Rotarians, partners, and supporters from across Uganda and beyond came together for a single purpose, to raise awareness, mobilize resources, and support the fight against cancer. The event, now a cornerstone of Rotary's health initiatives, continues to inspire both participants and beneficiaries alike, demonstrating the power of collective action to make a tangible difference in people's lives.

This year's Cancer Run brought together hundreds of participants, including members of Rotary Clubs, Rotaract, Interact, health professionals, and members of the general public. The atmosphere was electric, filled with energy, laughter, and a shared sense of purpose. From the early morning warm-up sessions to the official start, participants were reminded that every step taken during the run is a step towards hope, early detection, treatment, and ultimately, better outcomes for cancer patients.

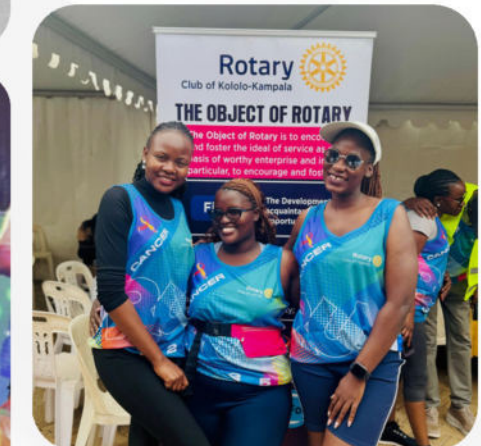
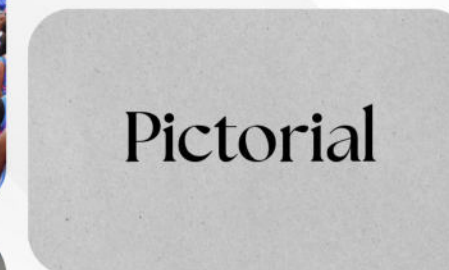
The Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala played a significant role this year, not only by helping to organize the run but also by supporting the initiative through the purchase of more than six hundred running kits. This practical contribution underscored the Club's ongoing commitment to supporting cancer patients and highlighted the tangible impact of Rotary's work beyond fundraising.

The 2025 run also served as a platform to strengthen partnerships and community engagement. Local businesses, healthcare providers, and civil society organizations participated, demonstrating that fighting cancer is a collective responsibility. Participants shared stories of loved ones affected by cancer, reinforcing the human dimension of the cause and fostering solidarity. Volunteers worked tirelessly to ensure the smooth running of the event, from route management to first aid and crowd support, reflecting Rotary's ethos of service in action.

Looking ahead, the organizers hope that this year's Cancer Run will achieve several key objectives. Primarily, the event aims to increase awareness about cancer prevention, early diagnosis, and treatment options, particularly in under-served communities. Additionally, the funds raised are intended to support hospitals, purchase medical equipment, and expand patient support programs, ensuring that more people receive the care they need. The event also seeks to inspire more Rotarians, partners, and community members to take up the cause, volunteer, and advocate for improved cancer care nationwide.

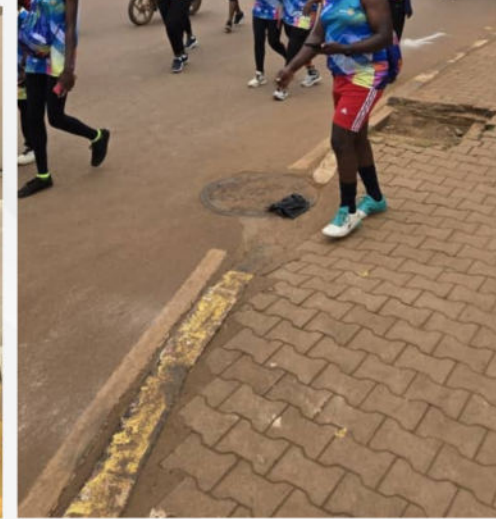
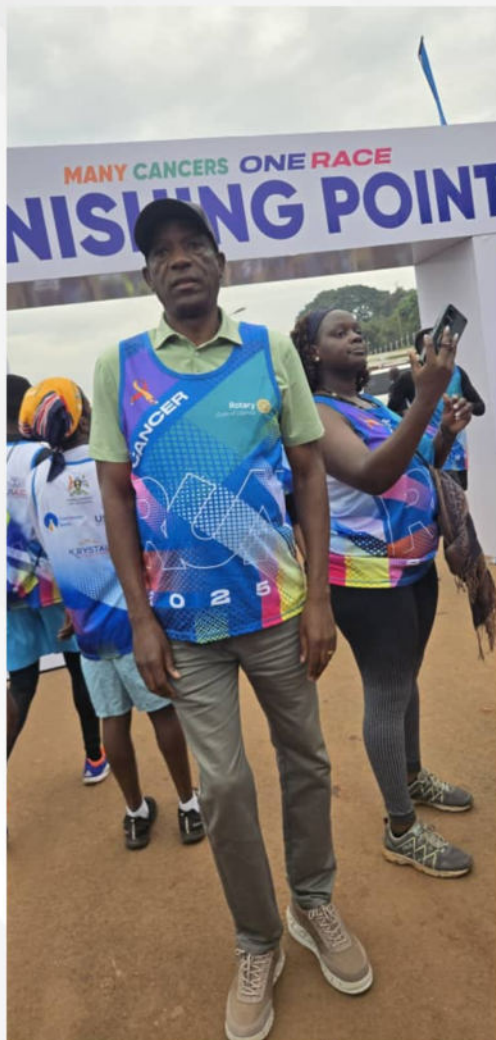
The Rotary Cancer Run 2025 was not just a race but a movement, a demonstration of what can be achieved when individuals and communities come together for a common cause. It reminded all participants that fighting cancer requires unity, commitment, and compassion. As the sun set on the 31st of August, the smiles, cheers, and stories of impact left an indelible mark, reaffirming Rotary's dedication to health, service, and the hope of a cancer-free future.

By The Public Image Team.





Pictorial





THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO-KAMPALA NEWSLETTER

This newsletter is a monthly publication by the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala.