

**MD DOMINIC
TUMWESIGYE**

President
Rotary Club of
Kololo-Kampala
2026/2027

**VIANNEY
MPIIMA**

President
Rotaract Club
of Kololo
2026/2027

INSTALLATION MAGAZINE

2026/2027

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ABOUT US

THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO-KAMPALA MEETS EVERY TUESDAY, 6-7 P.M AT HOTEL AFRICANA.

THE ROTARACT CLUB OF KOLOLO MEETS EVERY FRIDAY, 6-7 P.M AT BMK HOUSE.

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ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO



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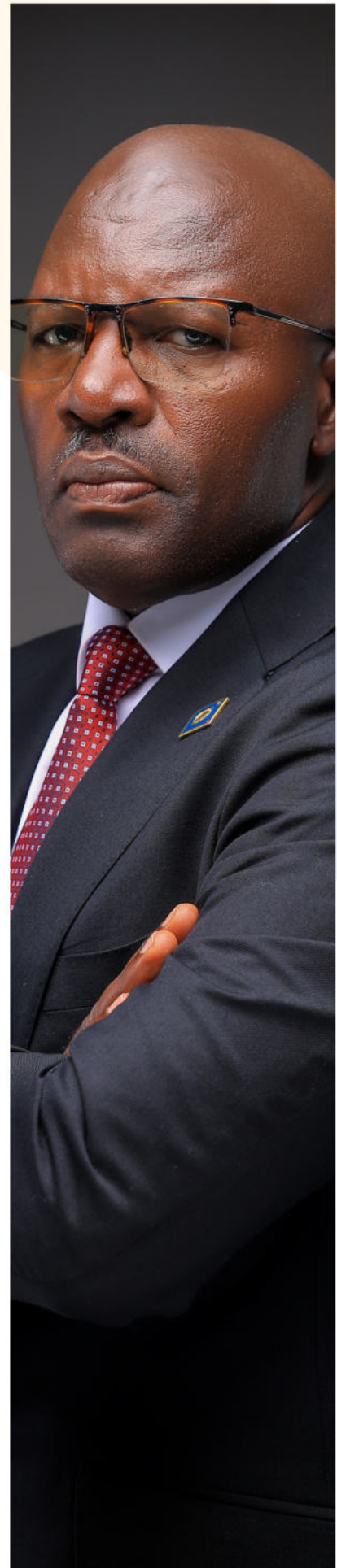


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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

WELCOME TO OUR INSTALLATION MAGAZINE

A NEW PAGE, A BOLD NEW BEAT!

Dear reader,

If you're reading this, whether with coffee in hand, mid-lunch break, during today's installation festivities, or sneakily during a meeting you promise you're fully present in, welcome. You've made it. Another Rotary year is here, and it comes wrapped in possibility, handshakes, and just a little bit of harmless mischief.

This past year was a ride. We laughed, we hustled, we Zoomed when we didn't want to, and we showed up when it mattered. But as one chapter closes, we don't just turn the page, we rip it open with a grin. Because endings? For Rotarians, they're just dress rehearsals for something bolder.

And bold is exactly what's coming. So, again, thank you for dressing up.

This Rotary year, we are thrilled to welcome President Dominic Tumwesigye to the helm of the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala, a leader whose vision is as steady as his heart is generous. Alongside him, the unstoppable Vianney Mpiima steps in as President of the Rotaract Club of Kololo, ready to ignite the next generation of service with fresh energy and fearless ideas. Together, they represent the beautiful bridge between wisdom and wildfire, and we couldn't be more excited.



Inside this magazine, you'll find stories that inspire, reflections that linger, and maybe a laugh or two you didn't see coming. From leadership messages to poetry, party photos to book reviews, there's a seat at this table for every kind of dreamer and doer.

To our outgoing leaders: thank you for the miles you've walked with grace. To our incoming ones: the stage is yours. And to you, dear reader, thank you for being the heartbeat of this family.

So dream louder. Serve smarter. Laugh often. And never underestimate the power of cake at any event, especially this one.

Happy New Rotary Year!

Sharone Kirabo Nakimera
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT-ELECT



Olayinka Hakeem Babalola holds a degree in engineering and spent more than 30 years in the oil and gas sector, including senior leadership roles at Shell PLC. He founded the Riviera Technical Services Ltd., an oil and gas infrastructure delivery firm, as well as Lead and Change Consulting, an executive coaching and organizational performance consultancy.

Babalola is a member of the Nigerian Society of Engineers, the Institute of Safety Professionals, and the Association of Change Management Practitioners. He also belongs to the Jericho Business Club, a civic organization in Ibadan that contributes to national policy dialogue.

Babalola became involved with Rotary in 1984 through Rotaract — Rotary's program for young professionals and students — and joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi in 1994. He has since held a number of leadership roles within the organization and currently serves as a trustee of

– ShelterBox UK, Rotary's official project partner for disaster relief.

He and his wife, Preba, support The Rotary Foundation through a named endowment and are members of the Arch Klumph Society, which recognizes Rotary's highest level of philanthropic giving. His Rotary honors include the Africa Centennial Heroes Award, the Service Above Self Award, the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service.

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT-ELECT, 2026-27**

**ROTARY CLUB OF TRANS
AMADI, NIGERIA**



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**



GERALD OBAI

DISTRICT GOVERNOR 2026-2027



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECT

Dear President-Elect Dominic Tumwesigye
The Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala

I congratulate you and your club on yet another important milestone in its commitment to service. Your installation not only signals a change of leadership but also celebrates service to the community and a renewal of our unwavering commitment to Service Above Self.

It is always an honour to be entrusted with the highest leadership position in a Rotary Club, a recognition of your abilities as a Rotarian. Grasp the opportunity and bring all those wonderful qualities to the fore. I invite you to fully embrace and enjoy your year as club president. The position offers you the opportunity to lead your team of dedicated members to Create Lasting Impact. 'Crazy Ideas and the Little Things' shall be our driving force for bold, innovative and creative ideas, while never losing sight of the little things that matter.

"YOU WILL NEVER WALK ALONE."

Whereas the expectations may sometimes seem immense, remember that you have a wonderful team in your club to work with. Rally all your club members to create an irresistible club experience. When our clubs are vibrant, our members are engaged, laughing together, and supporting one another, then service becomes natural. Each club member has a role in creating an unforgettable club experience. Let a positive club experience lay the foundation for attracting new members, building partnerships, serving the community, and giving to the Foundation.

Although I may not be in daily personal contact, I have assistant governors, who are my eyes, ears, and presence in clubs. Additionally, I have put together a wonderful and dedicated team to support the clubs. Through regionalisation, you have strong support from district officers at your beck and call. A system designed to take our district forward.

After five very successful years, District 9213 now enters its last and final year. What a great opportunity to sign off on a historical high! District 9213 has built a legacy of leadership, innovation, and impact, from service projects to powerful partnerships and global recognition. As we transition into D9217 and D9218, let us not only build on that legacy, but carry it forward - stronger, wiser, and more ambitious. One such ambition is becoming an all-giving district. Every dollar counts. Let us create history together.

Let us embrace this transition with confidence, knowing that the future we are building will expand our reach and deepen our impact.

I once again sincerely congratulate you and wish you and the club the very best as you serve to Create Lasting Impact.



District Governor 2026-27

Rotary International District 9213

"LET US CREATE HISTORY TOGETHER."

District Rotaract Representative 2026/2027, District 9213



ALEX MUWANGUZI



DISTRICT ROTARACT REPRESENTATIVE'S MESSAGE

TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE CLUB

I congratulate the President Elect and the Board for being entrusted with leadership at a time when we purpose to create lasting impact. I also appreciate the outgoing President and Board for the exemplary leadership that has guided the club thus far.

Leadership in Rotaract is not an employment or a destination; it is a privilege and an experience that shapes us into responsible citizens. We must use this opportunity to grow ourselves, change lives in our communities, and transition into Rotary at the right time.

I urge every member of this club to rise above the ordinary. Do something meaningful within your club or beyond that distinguishes you as an Extra-Ordinary Rotaractor, someone whose actions inspire both your club and the district at large.

I also encourage the club to take road safety and conservation of the environment highly in their Rotary year activities, as these are critical areas where Rotaractors can create lasting and sustainable impact within communities.

"RISE ABOVE THE ORDINARY."

I call upon all of us to embrace this challenge and lead with purpose:

- Collaborate and closely work together as club and board members.
- Learn and seek knowledge to act with confidence.
- Be a united and disciplined force of Rotaractors that inspires other youth.
- Align club goals with district goals for a shared impact.

With the above as a guide, I call upon us to:

- Support this club and the district to tell its story correctly and consistently.
- Grow not just in numbers, but in purpose and impact.
- Generously give to the Rotary Foundation with a minimum of \$25 per member.
- Actively participate in club, cluster and district events.

Above all, I am so proud of the President, the Board, and Members of this club, with whom he expects, through thick and thin, to create Impact Beyond Moments come 1st July 2026. I am counting on each and every Rotaractor of this club to lead a year of shared achievements, a united Rotaract Family, and very committed Rotaractors creating impact.



District Rotaract Representative Elect

District 9213

**PRESIDENT, ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO-KAMPALA
2026/2027.**



**DOMINIC
TUMWESIGYE**

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT

Dear Rotarians and Friends of Rotary,

I warmly welcome you to the 39th Presidential Installation, where Rotaractor Viannie and I assume leadership roles for the Rotaract Club of Kololo and the Rotary Club of Kololo Kampala, respectively. I'm honored to have been nominated as president of this esteemed club for the Rotary year 2026/27.

I'm excited and anxious about the year ahead, and I'd like to express my gratitude to the club for this opportunity to lead our team. Our focus will be on strengthening partnerships with our baby clubs and other Rotary clubs in Uganda, as well as collaborating with our partners to amplify our impact.

I urge all members to actively participate in club activities, projects, meetings, and learning opportunities. This year, we invite each member to sponsor a friend to join us in service delivery – the more hands we have, the lighter the load.

"THE MORE HANDS WE HAVE, THE LIGHTER THE LOAD."

As we celebrate 38 years since the Rotary Club of Kololo Kampala was chartered, I'd like to acknowledge our charter members who are still in the club: **PP Sam Zaramba, PP Simon Sagala Mulindwa, PP Charles Turyamureba, and PP Jackson Karyarugokwe**, whose dedication has brought us this far. Your continued active participation is a source of inspiration. I'm also grateful for the legacy of our past presidents, on whose foundation we will continue to build our blocks.

I'd like to thank **AGE Turyatamba Moses**, who introduced me to Rotary, and **PAG Charles Kabunga (RC Makindye)**, for their guidance and service. You made me a Rotarian that I am today, and I am proud of you.

To my family and all Rotary families, thank you for your unwavering support and sacrifice. Your contributions to our fund and TRF, have enabled us to make a meaningful impact in our community, from providing water in Ntara-Kamwenge, providing a rice hauler to the women in Namutumba, to equipping a maternity ward at Rushooka Health Center in Ntungamo. We continue to count on you, family.

To the board, let's work together with the membership to drive our club(s) forward, serving our community and upholding Rotary's values. I pledge my commitment to service, and I invite you to join me in supporting our **District Governor Gerald Obai** and **Rotary International President Olayinka Hakeem Babalola** in "creating lasting impact" in our communities and in ourselves.

"I PLEDGE MY COMMITMENT TO SERVICE."



President, Rotary Year 2026/2027

Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala

**PRESIDENT, ROTARACT CLUB OF KOLOLO
2026/2027.**



VIANNEY MPIMA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ELECT

ROTARACT CLUB OF KOLOLO

Fellow Warriors,

I congratulate each one of you on a remarkable year well done. It is with great honour that I now assume stewardship of our mighty club. This moment is more than a leadership transition; it is a shared opportunity for all of us to renew our commitment to purpose, service, and excellence in everything we do.

This year, we are guided by the Rotary theme, "Service Above Self." It is a call to lead with selflessness, act with compassion, and remain intentional about the impact we create. Together, let this principle shape our decisions, define our priorities, and inspire our journey in the months ahead.

Central to our focus will be Professional Leadership Development (PLD). We are committed to creating a culture where each of us feels empowered to grow personally and professionally. By investing in our development, we strengthen not only individual potential but also the collective strength of our club.

"TOGETHER, WE HAVE EVERYTHING IT TAKES TO CREATE A LASTING IMPACT."

Equally important is how we show up for one another. Membership engagement and retention will remain at the heart of our efforts. Through strengthening our Family of Rotaract, we will deepen fellowship, build meaningful connections, and foster a vibrant, inclusive space where we all belong and can thrive.

We firmly believe that meaningful impact is achieved through strong partnerships. In this regard, we shall continue to foster a close working relationship with our sponsoring club, the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala, as we collaborate in service, leadership, and fellowship. Through their guidance and support, we hope to strengthen our capacity as a club while advancing the shared values and vision of Rotary.

Our service to the community remains our defining purpose. We will continue to build on the impact of the Elimu Yetu Project while exploring new, sustainable ways to respond to real community needs. Each initiative we undertake will be intentional, impactful, and aligned with our values.

We also recognize the importance of Youth Service. By strengthening our collaboration with Interact clubs and institution-based clubs, we will mentor and support the next generation of leaders who will carry forward the spirit of service with integrity and passion.

Finally, we must tell our story and celebrate whichever milestones we have achieved without compromising on how small they might appear. The work we do matters, and it deserves to be seen and celebrated. By sharing our impact, we inspire others, strengthen our identity, and reinforce the relevance of Rotary in today's world.

As we begin this journey together, I invite each of you to take ownership of this year, show up, get involved, lead where you are, and support one another.

May the Lord be with you always!



President, Rotary Year 2026/2027

Rotaract Club of Kololo



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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON INSTALLATION COMMITTEE

Ladies and gentlemen,

You are all welcome to the Presidential Installations of the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala and Rotaract Club of Kololo District 9213! As the Rotary Club of Kololo – Kampala, we also celebrate our charter 38 years ago today, and I am delighted to have you all join us in these celebrations!

This gathering is a celebration of the achievements of our community and the bonds that have united us for good this Rotary year, while paving the way for another exciting opportunity to create a lasting impact in the next Rotary year!

I take this opportunity to salute the charter members of the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala! Because of you, we are here today. Thank you to the outgoing presidents, James and Sylvia, for services rendered, and welcome Presidents-elect Dominic and Vianney to the fore. You are reminded that everyone here is expectant but confident in your abilities to preserve the standards of excellence that have steered this club for 38 years!

Organizing an event like this takes a village, and we have been incredibly fortunate to have the unwavering support of our club members, our corporate and individual partners, and service providers whose combined resources, sacrifice, and commitment have lubricated the affairs of this day to my satisfaction, and I have no doubt we shall be having a great time!

So, let us all eat, drink, and make merry!

Viva la Rotary!

Enock Kiyemba Mukasa

Team Lead – Organizing Committee

Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala



OUTGOING *PRESIDENT*

JAMES AFRICA BYEKWASO

As President of the Rotary Club of Kololo Kampala, I am deeply humbled by the privilege of serving alongside such dedicated men and women of action. Serving as President has been a deeply rewarding experience. I leave this role with gratitude, pride, and optimism for the future of the Rotary Club of Kololo Kampala. This year has been more than a journey of leadership; it has been a journey of friendship, unity, growth, and impact.

Together, we have championed projects that uplifted communities, empowered young people, and brought hope where it was needed most. The Rotary Club of Kololo Kampala achieved significant milestones in service and fellowship. Our community projects in health, education, and economic empowerment touched many lives, while youth empowerment initiatives provided sponsorship through RYLA and mentorship opportunities. We strengthened partnerships locally and internationally, built the public image, strongly supported the foundation with \$42,000, and welcomed 5 new members who brought fresh energy to our mission.

Despite some operational challenges like less member engagement in weekly fellowships, public image initiatives, a lack of digital systems to support hybrid engagements, and balancing multiple projects, the resilience and teamwork of our members ensured success. Each effort reminded me of the incredible difference Rotary makes when hearts and hands unite for good in service.

"LEADERSHIP IN ROTARY IS A RELAY, NOT A FINISH LINE."



I am profoundly grateful to my board, fellow Rotarians, partners, and friends whose unwavering support made every milestone possible. Your commitment has been the true engine of our success. To me, leadership has never been about titles—it has been about teamwork, continuity, and the shared vision of Service Above Self.

As I hand over the mantle, I pledge my full support to the incoming President and leadership team. Leadership in Rotary is a relay, not a finish line, and I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition and continued success. I will remain actively engaged, offering guidance, encouragement, and collaboration as the new team builds on our foundation and leads the club to greater heights.

Thank you for the trust, encouragement, and fellowship you have given me. Serving as President has been a deeply rewarding experience. I leave this role with gratitude, pride, and optimism for the future of the Rotary Club of Kololo Kampala.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Africa Byekwaso". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Outgoing President, RY 2025/2026
Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala

OUTGOING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NTONGO SYLVIA

Legacy in Motion: Accountability, Partnership, and Impact at 35 Years



The Rotary year is often measured through milestones, projects delivered, partnerships formed, and goals achieved. Yet to lead and serve in such a year is to stand at the intersection of history and possibility, honouring what has been built while actively shaping what comes next.

For our club, this year carried special significance as we marked 35 years of existence. More than a celebration, it was a reminder that legacy is sustained through intentional action, shared ownership, and a commitment to remain relevant across generations.

This has been a year defined by growth in partnerships, in visibility, and in the responsibility of a club largely composed of young professionals balancing service, careers, and personal growth. In this context, impact has not only been measured by activity, but by sustainability, continuity, and transformation.

A major highlight of the year was the Elimu Yetu project, which directly supported approximately 1,400 learners and educators. The modern kitchen and Water tank project was successfully handed over for continuity and received recognition and an award, affirming both its relevance and impact within the community. More importantly, it reflected a deliberate shift from implementation to sustainability, demonstrating that meaningful service is not only about what is delivered, but what continues beyond us.

In parallel, the club implemented a malaria global grant project, reaching approximately 1,000 people in the Masaka district in partnership with Masaka School for children with special needs by carrying out preventive interventions and engaging communities through sensitisation and awareness. The project strengthened the club's contribution to public health while also receiving recognition for effective execution and impact.

Together, these initiatives reflected a stronger emphasis on accountability, ensuring that projects are not only implemented but also measurable, sustainable, and impactful. A defining strength of this year has been the club's intentional focus on partnerships as a mechanism for impact delivery.

The financial literacy programme implemented in partnership with NSSF became one of the most transformative engagements of the year. Designed for young professionals, the sessions run for 6 months.

The true impact of this programme is best reflected in lived experience. One club member documented how the sessions reshaped his mindset and inspired him to establish Mystic Bridge IT Consultancy, now a growing IT and cybersecurity enterprise. His story reinforced an important truth: when partnerships are intentional, they not only transfer knowledge but also unlock action and possibility.

Beyond NSSF, the year reinforced the value of building partnerships that the club can continuously return to relationships grounded not only in events, but in shared vision, trust, and long-term collaboration.

The club also maintained a strong presence in district activities and engagements, ensuring visibility and active participation within the wider Rotary ecosystem. Members consistently represented the club in various forums, strengthening both contribution and identity.

Internally, the growth of buddy groups strengthened accountability, participation, and member connection. These smaller support structures created a more engaging and supportive environment for members, balancing professional and personal commitments. At the same time, alumni engagement grew significantly, with former members offering support, guidance, and continuity to ongoing initiatives.

This year also required honest reflection. While delivery across projects and partnerships remained strong and projects received awards and formal recognition, areas such as structured mentorship and leadership development remain growth opportunities. These reflections are not shortcomings, but indicators of where stronger systems and intentional continuity are needed.

As a club celebrating 35 years, this understanding matters deeply. Sustainability is not only about achieving impact, but about ensuring that impact can be carried forward and strengthened by future generations.

On a personal level, this journey has been one of learning through responsibility. Leadership has been less about control and more about alignment, bringing people, ideas, and partnerships together so that impact can happen. It has reinforced discipline, humility, adaptability, and the importance of consistency in service.

As the club moves beyond this milestone year, the path ahead remains clear: strengthen systems, deepen partnerships, and intentionally invest in leadership continuity and member growth. The foundation is strong. The engagement is growing. The opportunities are present. What remains is the commitment to build deliberately so that impact is not only delivered, but sustained. Because ultimately, this year has not only been about service. It has been about legacy in motion where accountability, partnership, and purpose meet.

Ntongo Sylvia
Outgoing President,
Rotaract Club of Kololo



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A YEAR OF SERVICE IN PICTURES

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COMMUNITY HEALTH PROJECT

FROM HUMBLE BEGINNINGS TO A LIFESAVING IMPACT

THE JOURNEY OF RUSHOOKA HEALTH CENTRE IV

In the rolling hills of Ntungamo District, a quiet but powerful transformation has been unfolding over the past two decades. What began in 2001 as Rushooka Health Unit II has grown into Rushooka Health Centre IV, officially upgraded in 2020.

The journey from a basic Health Unit to a fully operational Health Centre IV has not been an easy one. It required not only infrastructure development, but also the strengthening of human resources, the acquisition of modern medical equipment, and the establishment of critical services such as emergency obstetrics and surgery. This progress has been made possible through the unwavering support of numerous donors and well-wishers who believed in the mission of providing accessible and quality healthcare to the community.

Among these partners, the Rotary Club of Kololo – Uganda has played a particularly significant role. Their commitment has gone beyond words, translating into impactful, tangible contributions that have directly improved patient care. Notably, they supported the Maternity Unit with a standby generator, ensuring uninterrupted services even during power outages—a crucial factor in saving lives during emergencies.



More recently, their generosity extended to the provision of an X-Ray Machine, a vital diagnostic tool that has enhanced the Facility's capacity to deliver accurate and timely medical care. With this addition, Rushooka Health Centre IV is steadily moving toward offering a comprehensive range of diagnostic services under one roof.

"They contributed approximately \$55,000 to equip the operating theatre, making it fully functional."



The impact of these developments is evident in the service delivery outcomes recorded since the upgrade in 2020 up to March 2026. The Maternity Department has registered 2,172 admissions, with 306 referrals received from other Facilities. A total of 898 vaginal deliveries and 822 caesarean sections have been conducted, resulting in 1,711 live births.

As the Facility continues to grow, so too does its vision. The next goal is to upgrade Rushooka Health Centre IV to a General Hospital. This ambition comes with its share of challenges, including increased demand for specialized staff, expanded infrastructure, equipment, and sustainable financing. Yet, there is strong determination to press forward.

The guiding inspiration remains deeply rooted in a timeless truth: "The future depends on what we do in the present." This wisdom continues to motivate all those involved—staff, partners, and supporters alike—to keep building, improving and serving the Community.

Rushooka's story is one of collaboration and hope. It is a shining example of what can be achieved when communities and partners like Rotary come together with a shared purpose. As the journey continues, there is confidence that even greater milestones lie ahead and that together, they will be reached.

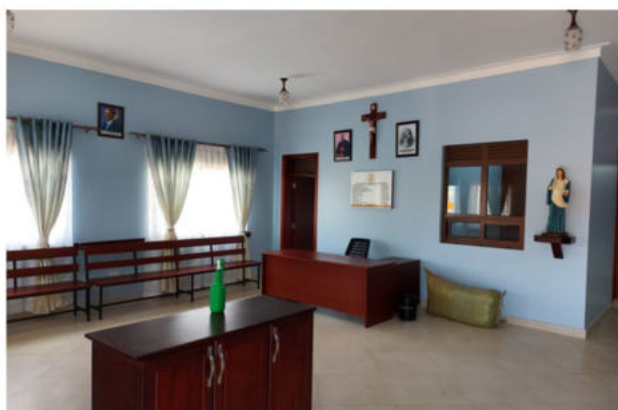


By S. Marlene Weber

Health Centre In Charge
Rushooka Health Centre IV,
Ntungamo District



“The future depends on what we do in the present.”



BY SR. MARLENE WEBLER - HEALTH CENTRE IN CHARGE



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PARTNERSHIP IN TRANSFORMING HEARING HEALTH SERVICE IN UGANDA



HEAR HIS VOICE

For many children and adults living with hearing loss in Uganda, access to hearing healthcare remains limited due to shortages in specialised services, low awareness, and financial barriers. Yet through strong partnerships, committed volunteers, and a shared vision for inclusion, remarkable progress is being made to restore hope and opportunity for thousands of families.

Through the collaboration between Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala, Hear His Voice Uganda, healthcare professionals, and community stakeholders, significant strides have been made in strengthening hearing healthcare, rehabilitation, training, and community outreach across the country.



“We are not only improving hearing healthcare — we are restoring connection, communication, education, hope, and creating lasting impact.”

One of the landmark achievements of this partnership has been the establishment and strengthening of the hearing healthcare infrastructure at Makerere University Hospital. With support from the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala and international partners, the Rotary Club of Westminster Vancouver, and Rotary International, we have contributed toward the development of specialised audiology and ear care services, including the establishment of the first Temporal Bone Laboratory of its kind at Makerere University.

HEARING HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

This facility is helping build local surgical and clinical capacity by training future ear and hearing healthcare professionals within Uganda. Alongside this, investments in audiology services, rehabilitation support, and professional development continue to improve the quality and accessibility of hearing care for children and adults at Hear His Voice Uganda Rehabilitation Centre in Ntinda.



Beyond institutional strengthening, the partnership has focused heavily on reaching underserved communities through medical camps and hearing outreach programs. In 2025/2026, we carried out three outreaches in Mbarara, particularly within the Nyamitanga community. Outreach teams conducted hearing screenings, ear assessments, referrals, counselling, and awareness activities for children and adults who otherwise would not have had access to these services.



Many families were hearing about hearing loss intervention options for the first time, while others received critical referrals for advanced assessment and treatment.



The outreach momentum has continued to grow in the Kampala region as well as in other regions of Uganda. On 3rd March, during activities aligned with World Hearing Day, a major hearing health outreach was conducted in Kampala to raise awareness on the importance of early hearing detection, prevention, and intervention. The event brought together healthcare workers, educators, parents, volunteers, and community leaders to advocate for improved hearing healthcare access.

“We have screened over 568 children and adults, and fitted 35 people with hearing aids during these camps.”



This event was graced by the presence of the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Hon. Dr. Dianah Atwine, and many more ministry officials. More recently, another impactful medical outreach was conducted in Kamuli at Kamuli Parents Primary School, extending hearing health services closer to communities with limited access to specialised care.

HEARING HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

The outreach included hearing screening, ear examinations, rehabilitation guidance, referrals, and community sensitization on hearing health and fitting of hearing aids. These camps continue to demonstrate the importance of taking services directly to communities, especially in areas where specialized ear and hearing services are scarce.



The impact of these initiatives goes beyond medical intervention alone. Through every outreach, training, and partnership engagement, lives are being changed through restored communication, improved educational opportunities for children, increased awareness among families, and strengthened local healthcare systems. Importantly, these programs are helping reduce stigma associated with hearing loss while promoting inclusion and dignity for individuals with hearing challenges.

This work would not be possible without the continued generosity, partnership, and shared commitment of Rotary clubs, development partners, healthcare professionals, volunteers, and community leaders who believe in building a future where hearing healthcare is accessible to all. We have screened over 568 children and adults, and we have fitted 35 people with hearing aids so far during these camps.

As the partnership continues to grow, the vision remains clear: to strengthen sustainable hearing healthcare systems, expand early identification and intervention services, build local professional capacity, –

– ensure that no child or adult is left behind because of preventable or treatable hearing loss.

“We have screened over 568 children and adults, and fitted 35 people with hearing aids during these camps.”

Together, we are not only improving hearing healthcare — we are restoring connection, communication, education, and hope, creating lasting impact in ourselves and the community.



THEY BUILT THE WALLS. ROTARY WILL BRING THE CURE.

A BORDER COMMUNITY'S LAST STAND.

BY ROTARIAN PATRICK NASINYAMA PHF

What is a human life worth?

Not in the abstract. Not in the language of development goals or foundation impact reports. Specifically, what is the life of a mother in Lumino, Busia District, worth to you?



If the answer is less than the cost of a window, less than the price of a door that would keep the cold off a newborn's chest, then you may close this magazine now. No judgment. Philanthropy is not an obligation. It is a choice.

But if you are still reading, let me tell you about a community that has already answered that question for itself. They have decided that a mother's life is worth the price of a brick. A child's life is worth a bag of cement. They have mortgaged their futures to build a maternity ward on a border that neither Uganda nor Kenya claims as a priority.

They have paid their share. The question now turns back to you and me.

For over 45 years, the Lumino Health Center II has stood as a small but fierce sentinel against maternal despair. Founded in 1975 by a priest with a dream, this modest facility in Busia District has been the last line of defence for numerous souls. But for decades, it has been a sentinel fighting with a rusty sword.

Today, standing in the red dirt of this border community where Uganda brushes shoulders with Kenya, one can see something miraculous.

THE CALCULUS OF GRIEF

To understand why this shell matters, we must stare into the abyss of Ugandan maternal statistics. The National Housing and Population Census (2024) final report released by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics placed maternal mortality at 207 deaths per 100,000 live births. That is nearly two women dying for every 1,000 deliveries. For every woman who walks into a clinic, two do not walk out.

For children under five, the national mortality rate hovers at between 43 and 46 deaths per 1,000 live births. But in the catchment area of Lumino, that number spikes to a higher figure.

For the average reader in London, New York, or Nairobi, these are numbers. For the women of Buhehe, Busime, Masaba, and Majanji, these are names. They are the grandmothers lost to postpartum haemorrhage. They are the infants who never saw their first birthday because of a lack of neonatal warming equipment.

Lumino Health Center has been operating as a Level II facility, a classification the Ministry of Health is actively phasing out. It meant no operating theatre. No robust paediatric ward. No capacity to handle the "near-miss" obstetric emergencies that separate life from death in 90 seconds.

"A MOTHER'S LIFE IS WORTH THE PRICE OF A BRICK. A CHILD'S LIFE IS WORTH A BAG OF CEMENT."

THE ROTARY ALCHEMY

Enter the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala (District 9211). With a membership of 100% of whom are Paul Harris Fellows, this is not a club of passive check writers or armchair Rotarians. They are doers. And their Global Grant project, in partnership with the Archdiocese of Tororo, is a masterclass in leveraging local grit with global capital and local resources.

The initial proposal was straightforward: to procure USD 100,000 worth of state-of-the-art equipment to upgrade Lumino to a Health Center III. But something extraordinary happened on the way to the supply chain.

The community, those 20,225 households surviving on subsistence agriculture, refused to be passive beneficiaries. When Rotary signalled its intent, the village elders, the mothers, the boda-boda riders, and the catechists of Lumino Catholic Parish did not hold out their hands for a handout. They picked up hoes, carried bricks, and poured their meagre savings into a concrete foundation.

The current status is this; The community has mobilized, built, and roofed an entire maternity and paediatric structure. What stands today is a testament to local sacrifice, with the proud new iron sheet roof glinting in the Busia sun.

But a roof does not save a life. Finishing does. The gap between what exists and what is needed remains the most critical frontier; windows, doors, flooring, plastering, and the vital connection of plumbing and electricity to support the high-tech equipment Rotary intends to place inside.

It is noteworthy that the community has built the walls, as they too are tired of infant funerals, but they cannot install the machines. They cannot buy the sterilizers or the infant warmers. They need friends from outside to help them bring their dream of a worthwhile maternal and pediatric unit in their community.

This is the essence of modern philanthropy. It is not about charity. It is about partnership. The community of Lumino has donated the land, the labour, and the walls. They have walked the hardest mile.

Now, the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala is calling on the global Rotary network and the wider philanthropic community to walk the last mile. The ask is for finishing funds and the final installation of paediatric and maternity equipment.

AN INVITATION TO HOPE

As a Rotarian, past Rotaractor and Interactor who has been a part of numerous maternal and health projects in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, and Ethiopia — Lumino is unique as it has not become another area where Rotarians have been engaged in just a “brick-laying” ceremony. Lumino is different. The community has already taken the risk. They have built the cathedral of care; they just need the altar.

The Sustainable Development Goal 3.2, reducing under-five mortality to 25 per 1,000, is not a fantasy. It is a finish line. With the finishing of this ward and the installation of the Rotary-sourced equipment, Lumino will transform from a statistical liability into a beacon of survival.

“FOR EVERY WOMAN WHO WALKS INTO A CLINIC, TWO DO NOT WALK OUT.”

A BI-NATIONAL LIFELINE

One of the most compelling facets of this project is its geographic gravity. Lumino does not recognize the colonial border. The catchment area spills over into Kenya. When a mother goes into obstructed labour on the Kenyan side of the border, her family does not check her passport; they rush her to Lumino.

Thus, this single Health Center III will serve two sovereign nations. By finishing this structure, Rotary and the Archdiocese are not just impacting Ugandan statistics; they are stabilizing a cross-border health ecosystem. They are ensuring that a woman in Buhehe or a child in Masaba has the same shot at survival as someone living in the capital city.

THE FINAL 1%

During my visit last week, I walked through the unfinished maternity ward. The echo of bare concrete was loud. A young mother, Nasirumbi, 24, pregnant with her third child, was waiting under a tree outside. She told me she lost her second baby to a fever that a simple lab test could have caught.

The mothers of Lumino and the children of Busia have done their part. They have roofed their hope. Now, the question for the global philanthropy community is simple. Will you help them close the door and turn on the light?

FOR INQUIRIES ON SUPPORTING THE COMPLETION OF THE LUMINO MATERNITY AND PAEDIATRIC UNITS, PLEASE CONTACT THE ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO KAMPALA OR THE FOCAL POINT ROTARIAN PATRICK NASINYAMA.



*Rotarian
Patrick Nasinyama*

Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala

Improving the Lives of the Community of Kinoni in Rwampara District in Western Uganda



Introduction

Kinoni is located in Rwampara District, Western Uganda, on the Mbarara-Kabale highway. Like so many other rural areas in Uganda, poverty is rampant in this area. It is manifested by low levels of household productivity, poor income, food insecurity, and the community's susceptibility to diseases. Rwampara is one of the densely populated areas in Uganda and is faced with very limited land for agriculture, and its main staple food is bananas. Due to the exploding population, land availability is not enough, improvement in their crop yields by applying crop rotation is not sustainable, they cannot afford fertilizers, and their good soils are depleted.

In Uganda, the agriculture sector is the cornerstone of our economy; it therefore presents a great opportunity for poverty reduction because it employs over 75% of the total active labor force in the rural areas. On Average, 70% of the population is women and active in agriculture compared to 58% of men. In addition, children below the age of 5 years account for about 16% of the total community, posing a challenge to the health sector since they do not contribute to the sector. These children with their young mothers need assistance so that they can remain in their community, but with some useful contribution to their livelihood.

Malnutrition and food insecurity remain significant, with over 46% of deaths of children less than 5 years in 2020, which were attributed in part to malaria and malnutrition. In rural Uganda, only 51% of people have access to safe water, and unhygienic water is a major cause of ill health. As a result, this community is making attempts to bridge the gap through addressing maternal and child health, primary health care, HIV/AIDS prevention, and poverty alleviation.





Relevance

Like so many other rural areas in Uganda, poverty is rampant in this area. It is manifested by low levels of household productivity, poor income, food insecurity, and the community's susceptibility to diseases. Faced with very limited land, poor health service delivery, and a young population of childbearing age, exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic, where there was an increase in schoolgirl dropouts and single mothers who unfortunately do not continue with any form of training and are not qualified to attract any formal employment, Kinoni finds itself in a situation of desperation. They need a health unit to turn to for medical attention and care for the young ones. They need a degree of awareness in maternal to child health, so that they can improve their agriculture to earn a living and feed the growing population.

The project is designed to address three areas of focus:

- 1)** Disease prevention through equipping Kinoni Health Center IV with equipment and drugs, and training the health workers. VHTs will be co-opted for the health improvement campaigns in the community
- 2)** MCH will be through training health workers in managing early pregnancies, monitoring HIV mothers and their babies. An ambulance will be procured for the HIV outreach programs and treatment of patients who are unable to reach the hospital.
- 3)** ECD through the purchase of goats, Rabbits, Piglets, and other vocational work materials like baking and sewing for the Youth and women to create their own jobs by accessing Microcredit Loans. Those in Agriculture can be able to access and afford improved seeds and fertilizers. Priority will be given to the women and young girls.



Beneficiaries

A population of 250,000, comprising of 70% women, of these 425 young women of childbearing age will benefit from this project.

Objectives

- 1)** Increase access to health facilities of Kinoni by procurement of an ambulance, supply drugs for at least to last 6 months, and train 20 health workers in modern health management.
- 2)** Improve management of MCH through awareness to 10 schools in adolescent support, training 10 health workers in MCH, through procurement of PAS to be used in the community training and awareness.
- 3)** Improve the lives of the community, targeting 30 women through the supply of animals for farming.



What are the expected results/outcomes?.

- 1)** Improved community management of common diseases such as malaria.
- 2)** Reduced unwanted pregnancies and improved HIV management.
- 3)** Improved animal husbandry, better feeding, and reduced malnutrition of children below the age of 5.

Sustainability

The community will make some payment for drugs, and the MOH will be approached. Will it have multiplier effects? The general community improved in health, better output, and the possible return to school of some of the young mothers. More patients who did not come to the health center are doing so. Overall, a better life, better community welfare.

Conclusion

In implementing this project, the Rotary Club of Kololo, in joint Partnership with Rotary Clubs of Kiwatule, Kampala Sunday Sunset (in D#9214), Mbarara City(D#9214), and Rotaract Club of Kololo, with the support of an RCC in Kinoni-Rugando sub-county- Rwampara county constituency, and their leadership will collaborate on the project to its realization and sustainability.



M.D. William Kaguma
Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala.

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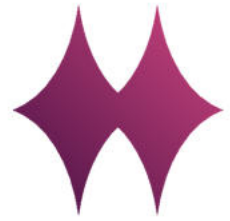
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HOW THE ELIMU YETU PROJECT IS TRANSFORMING LEARNING CONDITIONS AT NAGURU KATALI PRIMARY SCHOOL



Vianney Mpiima
Rotaract Club of Kololo

In the heart of Kampala's Naguru Go Down community, a quiet transformation is taking place at Naguru Katali Primary School. Through the Elimu Yetu Project, the Rotaract Club of Kololo continues to improve the school environment by investing in better sanitation, hygiene, and infrastructure for both learners and teachers.

Following the successful completion of a modern school kitchen and upgraded drainage systems in earlier phases, the club is now turning its attention to a critical challenge — inadequate sanitation facilities for teachers.

Currently, teachers at the school share overcrowded toilet facilities with pupils, creating hygiene concerns, reduced privacy, and difficult working conditions. The existing bathroom structures are poorly ventilated, worn out, and no longer suitable for safe and dignified use.

To address this, the next phase of the Elimu Yetu Project will focus on constructing a modern Teachers' WASH and Sanitation Block. The facility will include separate sanitation wings for male and female teachers, bathrooms, handwashing stations, urinals, and an accessible toilet for persons with disabilities.

"This project is about restoring dignity and creating an environment where teachers can work comfortably, and learners can thrive."

A new septic system will also be installed to improve waste management and hygiene standards across the school. The project goes beyond infrastructure. It represents a commitment to dignity, health, and creating a safer learning environment. Improved sanitation facilities help reduce the spread of hygiene-related diseases while also supporting the well-being and productivity of teachers.

The initiative is being supported through partnerships with Rotarians, corporate organizations, NGOs, and well-wishers who believe in sustainable community development. Through fundraising events, donations, and collaborative efforts, the project continues to gain momentum as a model for impactful community service.

With every brick laid, the Elimu Yetu Project is proving that meaningful change begins with simple but essential needs — clean water, safe sanitation, and healthy learning spaces.

As construction plans move forward, the Rotaract Club of Kololo remains committed to creating lasting impact in the Naguru community, one project at a time.

The Rotaract Club of Kololo believes that strong partnerships are essential in delivering impactful community projects. By bringing together institutions and individuals committed to service above self, the Elimu Yetu Project hopes to continue transforming learning environments and restoring dignity through improved sanitation infrastructure.



"With every brick laid, the Elimu Yetu Project is proving that meaningful change begins with simple but essential needs — clean water, safe sanitation, and healthy learning spaces."



BEFORE THEY ARE READY

WHEN YOUTH ACTION OUTPACES OUR
DEFINITIONS OF READINESS.



By Anne Gamurorwa

Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala



"The young people we thought were "on their way" did not wait."

We have long told ourselves that young people need time—time to grow, to learn, to prepare. Within Rotary, we have built thoughtful structures around this belief: pathways that invite young people in, support their development, and prepare them for future leadership. Rotaract stands as one of the most vibrant expressions of this intent—a space of energy, learning, and promise.

But something has been shifting—quietly, steadily, and now, unmistakably.

The young people we thought were “on their way” did not wait.

They are designing projects, writing proposals, mobilizing resources, and delivering results. They are not simply participating in service; they are leading it. Across communities, Rotaractors are driving initiatives with a level of scale and consistency that is difficult to ignore—mobilizing environmental action, organizing medical outreaches, and engaging local stakeholders in meaningful and sustained ways. These are not isolated efforts. They are coordinated, resilient, and impactful. They reflect not preparation, but practice.

And this shift is no longer anecdotal—it is visible, measurable, and increasingly recognised.

Consider the award-winning Elimu Yetu Project by the Rotaract Club of Kololo, recognised at the 2026 District Conference. Over three Rotary years, what began as an ambitious idea became a UGX 73 million model school kitchen at Naguru Katali Primary School in Kampala. Today, it stands as a benchmark facility, praised for its design, safety, and hygiene. More than the structure itself, the project reflects something deeper: young leaders mobilising partnerships, sustaining momentum across leadership transitions, and delivering tangible, lasting impact. They are not “before they are ready”—they are already doing the work.



Kitchen Before



Kitchen After

We hear it in conversations and see it reflected in reports—often expressed with pride, and sometimes with quiet surprise. “They are doing tremendous work,” we say. Yet, in the same breath, we still find ourselves insisting, “They need time,” as though we are holding onto a script that no longer quite fits the reality before us. This is where the tension lies.

The line between Rotaractor and Rotarian is no longer as clear as it once was. It is thinner now—blurred not by confusion, but by competence, by action, and by the simple reality that many young people are already doing the very things we once believed required years of preparation.

In Social and Behaviour Change practice, we are trained to listen carefully—not only to what people say, but to what their actions reveal about where they are in a journey of growth. There comes a point when the language of “not yet ready” no longer reflects what is being lived. This feels like that point.

Young people are leading, mobilising, navigating complexity, and—importantly—learning through doing. They are not waiting to be invited into service. They are already in it.

And so, we are faced with a quiet but important question:

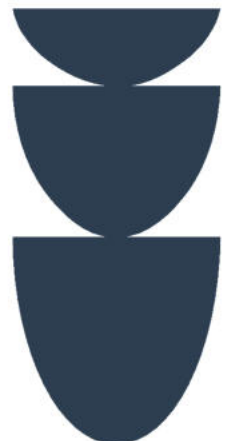
Do we continue to wait for them to become what they already are? Or do we begin to adjust our understanding of readiness itself?

This is not a call to dismantle structures or disregard tradition. Rather, it is an invitation to pay closer attention—to recognise that readiness does not always announce itself in expected ways, and that growth is not always linear.

Because young people are not only the future of Rotary.

In many meaningful ways, they are its present. They did not wait.

And perhaps the more important question now is—why are we still measuring readiness as though they have not already arrived?





FROM RYLA TO IMPACT - A JOURNEY OF GROWTH, LEADERSHIP, AND TRANSFORMATION

By Gerald Kazungu

People & Organizational Cultures Coach

Rotaract Club of Kololo | RYLA 2026 Beneficiary

Executive Director of Wananchi Youth Patriotic Forum Africa

Introduction

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) 2026 was more than just a training—it was a transformational experience that continues to shape lives, ignite purpose, and inspire action. As a proud beneficiary sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kololo, I extend my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to be part of such a life-changing program.

The Experience

From the very beginning, RYLA created an environment that challenged us to think beyond our limitations and reimagine our potential. The sessions were rich with insight, delivered by distinguished speakers whose experiences and wisdom left a lasting imprint on my leadership journey.

Each interaction, discussion, and activity was intentionally designed to stretch our thinking and equip us with practical leadership tools for real-world impact.

Key Lessons & Personal Growth

One of the most powerful takeaways from the program was the realization that leadership begins with self-awareness and intentional growth. Some of the key lessons that transformed my mindset include:

- Discovering and maximizing my potential
- Seeing myself as part of a bigger global picture
- Becoming a problem solver, not just an observer
- Taking full responsibility: "If it is to be, it is up to me."

- Avoiding "empty rooms" and seeking growth environments
- Embracing continuous learning—remaining an "empty cup."
- Building a sustainable career through deliberate action
- Developing resilience and financial discipline
- Positioning myself boldly—even inviting myself to "high tables"
- Building a strong, competitive, and sustainable personal brand

These lessons have not only shaped my thinking but have also influenced the actions I have taken since the program.

From Learning to Action: The Birth of Wananchi Soft Skills Academy

Inspired by the RYLA experience, I initiated the **Wananchi Soft Skills Academy**—an initiative dedicated to equipping young people with essential life and career skills.

The academy focuses on:

- Leadership development and teamwork
- Communication and public speaking
- Personal branding and Networking
- Emotional Intelligence
- Career and professional growth
- Strong workplace cultures

This initiative is a direct reflection of the impact of RYLA. It represents the ripple effect of Rotary's investment—transforming one individual who then goes on to impact many others.

Impact So Far

Through the Wananchi Soft Skills Academy, we are already reaching and empowering young people with

– the mindset and skills needed to thrive in today's world.

This initiative continues to:

- Build confidence among youth
- Equip them with practical, real-life skills
- Inspire leadership and community impact
- Promote mindset transformation
- Workplace preparedness

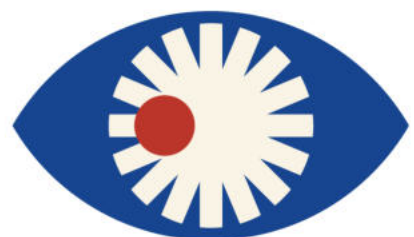
Appreciation to Rotary Club of Kololo

I would like to sincerely appreciate the Rotary Club of Kololo for sponsoring me to attend RYLA 2026. Your commitment to youth empowerment and leadership development is truly commendable.

Your investment goes far beyond the individual—it creates a multiplier effect that impacts communities and future generations.

Call to Action

As we continue to grow and expand the Wananchi Soft Skills Academy – the product of RYLA 2026 and Kololo's Sponsorship, we invite Rotarians, partners, and well-wishers to support this initiative.



RYLA 2026 | ROTARACT CLUB OF KOLOLO

You can support through:

- Mentorship
- Partnerships
- Resource facilitation
- Sponsorship opportunities

Together, we can build a generation of empowered, skilled, and purpose-driven leaders.

Closing Remark

RYLA was not just an event—it was a turning point. And through initiatives like the Wananchi Soft Skills Academy, its impact will continue to be felt for years to come. Thank you for making this journey possible.



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TOGETHER WE EMPOWER THE GROWTH OF OUR NATION



IMPACT FOR CHANGE

FROM FINANCIAL LITERACY TO ENTERPRISE

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION TO NSSF

Rotaractor Robert Mpumuriza

Director, MysticBridge IT Consultancy Limited



"FOR ME, THIS TRAINING BECAME A TURNING POINT."

Last year, 2025, the Rotaract Club of Kololo hosted a financial literacy training facilitated by a team from the National Social Security Fund (NSSF). At the time, it felt like just another learning opportunity, yes, but I could not have fully anticipated how profoundly it would influence my mindset, career path, and entrepreneurial journey.

The training covered practical and relatable topics such as turning passion into profit, financial goal setting, budgeting and debt management, long-term financial planning, and building sustainable income streams.

What stood out most was how grounded and applicable the discussions were. They went beyond theory and spoke directly to real-life decision-making, especially for young professionals navigating ambition, financial pressure, and opportunity all at once.

As someone with a strong passion and background in IT and Cybersecurity, I had long carried the idea of starting a company, but lacked the confidence and financial clarity to leap. The NSSF-led sessions helped me rethink how I viewed my skills; not just as technical expertise, but as viable, valuable products that could be structured, priced, and grown into a business.

Armed with insights from the training, I began translating that **passion into action**. Soon after, I founded an IT and Cybersecurity consultancy firm -

- **MysticBridge IT Consultancy**. Today, the firm is operating successfully, partnering with reputable organizations and delivering impactful services. What once felt like a distant idea is now a growing enterprise, and that journey can be traced back to the mindset shift sparked by that **financial literacy training**.

To NSSF, thank you for investing in young people, for sharing practical insights, and for going beyond theory to inspire action. Initiatives like these demonstrate a deep commitment to empowering individuals, especially young people, to think long-term, act strategically, and build meaningful economic value. Your work is not just about financial literacy, but extends to empowering the future of our country.

I strongly encourage other clubs, young professionals, and aspiring entrepreneurs to take advantage of such opportunities. Financial literacy is not just about money; it is about clarity, confidence, and the courage to execute ideas wisely. Programs like the one delivered by NSSF have the power to unlock potential, spark ideas, and contribute to broader economic growth.

"Financial literacy is not just about money; it is about clarity, confidence, and the courage to execute ideas wisely."

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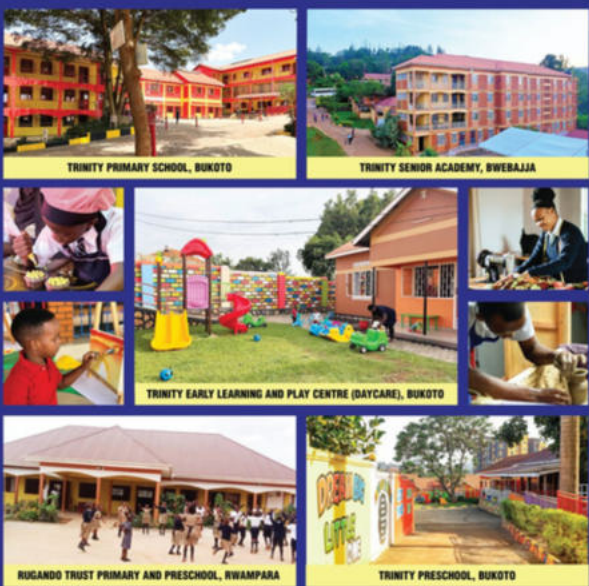


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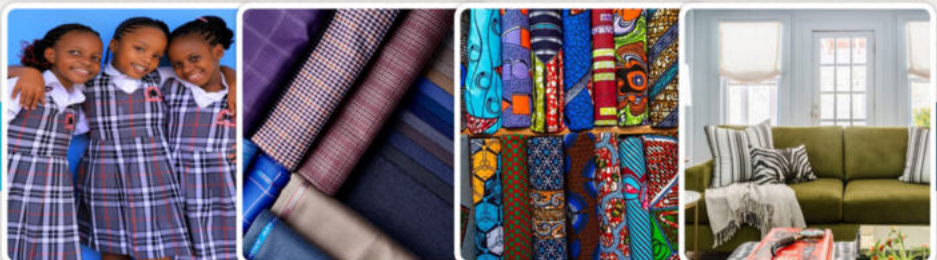
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REFLECTING ON 38 YEARS OF IMPACTIVE SERVICE TO HUMANITY



Rtn. Turyamureba Charles

Major Donor | Charter Member

"THANK YOU, ROTARY CLUB KOLOLO KAMPALA, FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SERVICE TO HUMANITY DURING THE JOURNEY OF 37 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG."

Towards the end of the year 1987, the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala was started as a provisional Club, being sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kampala.

Our initial fellowship venue was the present-day Kampala Club, but by then, it had been turned into a police mess by default. By the time the Club was chartered on 6th June, 1988, Fairway Hotel had graciously accepted to offer free venue for our weekly fellowships until the year 2001, thereafter shifting to Hotel Africana until the present date.

Worth noting is that by the time of our charter, the Club had a membership of 27 men, distinguished members of society drawn from different sectors of the working-class, including Diplomats. By this time, the Mother Club of Kampala had done a tremendous Job of guiding and shaping the Club towards the journey of Success.

Under the able leadership of Club Charter President, the late **Rtn. Ernest Kakwano (RIP)**, who was the Managing Director of the then Coffee Marketing Board, the Club embarked on expanding its membership.

By the time of our Charter, Uganda as a country belonged to RI District 920, which comprised **Ethiopia, Eritrea, Reunion, Madagascar, Mauritius, Uganda, and Kenya**. Due to continuous growing number of Rotarians in the Region, Rotary International created District 9200, comprising Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, and as of now, the Club belongs to District 9213, comprising only Ugandan Clubs, which started in the year 2023.

Membership Growth & Club Leadership

As mentioned above, the Club was Chartered with a membership of 27 men because, at the time, Rotary around the world was comprised of men only until the year 1989, when women were admitted.

The first woman Rotarian to be inducted in the Club was **Rtn Joan Rutaroh**, and now she is among the major Donors of the Club.

Of interest to note is that out of 27 charter Rotarians, only 4 members are still active and fulfilling Rotary obligations:

- PP Rtn. Dr. Sam Zaramba PHF
- PP Rtn. Jackson Karyarugookwe PHF
- PP Rtn Simon Sagala Mulindwa PHF
- PP Rtn. Turyamureba Charles - Major Donor

NB. PP Rtn. Flugence Mungereza, who would be an active member, has been quite sick for a number of years.

The growth of Club membership has remained progressive, especially noting that the Club has continued to have effective leadership since its inception. Furthermore, the admission of women Rotarians infused new blood into Rotary International, which was started in the year 1905 in the United States of America by its founder, **Paul Harris (RIP)**.

Whereas the majority of past Presidents of the Club have been Men, worth noting is that **PP Munila Ali** was the first woman Club president during the Rotary year 2014/15, followed by **PP Rtn. Dr. Rosemary Byanyima**, the year 2016/17, and finally, **PP Rtn. Dr. Christine Nalwadda** – Major Donor for the Rotary year 2020-21.

The calibre of Club membership has remained quite impressive, bearing in mind that a very good number of former Rotaractors from our baby Rotaract Club of Kololo have continuously joined the Club, bringing in new energy, and this is ongoing.

So far, several former Rotaractors have served as Club presidents:

CELEBRATING OUR CHARTER NIGHT

FORMER ROTARACTORS AS PRESIDENTS:

- PP Rtn. Fred Mubiru - Major Donor
- PP Rtn. Patrick Ssemwogerere - PHF
- PP Rtn. Paul Bogere (RIP)
- PP Rtn. Peter Alumbuya - PHF
- PP Rtn. Bonnie Nsambu - Major Donor
- PP Rtn. Dr. Christine Nalwadda - Major Donor

Therefore, with this type of young Rotarians in service, the future of Rotary is guaranteed.

- Supplying equipment to **Namutumba Health Centre III**.
- **Uganda Hearing Health Centre** in memory of Dr. Irwin Stewart is worth USD. 130,000.
- Rehabilitation of children with hearing impairment in Uganda is worth USD.59000.
- **Uganda Bio Medical Engineer Training Program** worth USD. 41400.

Lastly, the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala has been a very big pillar in giving and utilization of the Rotary Foundation. During this Rotary year, USD. 24804. has been contributed.

27 Charter Members • **95** Current Rotarians • **20+** Major Donors • **38** Years of Service

Membership Extension & Projects.

Over the years, the Club has been able to create and extend membership by sponsoring New Rotary and Rotaract Clubs across the country, and just to mention a few, these include;

- The Rotary Club of Masindi.
- The Rotary Club of Tororo.
- The Rotary Club of Kiwatule.
- The Rotary Club of Bwebajja.
- The Rotaract Club of Kololo.
- The Rotaract Club of Uganda Martyrs University, Nkozi.
- The Interact Club of Kitante High School.
- The Interact Club of Vienna High School.

By all means, this has been a great achievement.

Projects.

Once again, as the main objective of Rotary International, the Club has carried out numerous projects across the country, and this effort continues up to the present moment.

The List of projects is quite long, but a few are mentioned below, and all of them received international Funding and contributions from Club members, well-wishers, corporate bodies, etc.

- **Naguru Children's Reception Centre** has been supported since the year 1989 and is still going. Helped in numerous ways.
- **St. Stephen Mpererwe Hospital** provided Hospital equipment and an ambulance.
- **Mpererwe Women Group**, giving them more than 100 Heifers.
- **Kizinda Women Group**, giving them more than 30 Heifers and helping them to staff a Micro finance SACCO.
- **Omukabare Water Project** providing water to the community and giving families more than 20 Heifers.
- **Kitagwenda Water and Sanitation Project** providing water to schools, constructing Toilets for children, providing water to the community, and supplying equipment to Kitagwenda Health Centre iii.
- **Namutumba Women Group**, helping them add value to their Rice Products.

This has been possible due to the strong and committed Rotarians of the Club, combined with strong membership retention. The Club boasts approximately 20 Major Donors and several PHF members.

Thank you, Rotary Club Kololo Kampala, for your continuous service to humanity during the journey of 37 years and still going strong.



Rtn. Juyamureba Charles

Major Donor | Charter Member

OUR PAST PRESIDENTS

38 YEARS OF VISIONARY LEADERSHIP



NO	PRESIDENT	YEAR	THEME
1	Ernest Kakwano	1988/89	<i>Put Life into Rotary - Your Life</i>
2	Pascal Mukasa (RIP)	1989/90	<i>Enjoy Rotary</i>
3	Fulgence Mungereza	1990/91	<i>Honor Rotary with Faith and Enthusiasm</i>
4	Sam Zaramba	1991/92	<i>Look Beyond Yourself</i>
5	Godfrey Zobbo	1992/93	<i>Real Happiness Is Helping Others</i>
6	Jackson Karyarugookwe	1993/94	<i>Believe In what You Can Do</i>
7	Charles Biraaro (RIP)	1994/95	<i>Be A Friend</i>
8	James Bagandanswa (RIP)	1995/96	<i>Act with Integrity, Serve with Love</i>
9	Joseph Biribonwa	1996/97	<i>Build the Future with Action and Vision</i>
10	Yorokamu Abainenamar (RIP)	1997/98	<i>Show Rotary Cares</i>
11	Godfrey Ruhurira	1998/99	<i>Follow Your Rotary Dream</i>
12	Hamu Tumuheirwe (RIP)	1999/00	<i>Act with Consistency, Credibility</i>
13	Warren Byabashaija (RIP)	2000/01	<i>Create Awareness; Take Action</i>
14	Charles Turyamureba	2001/02	<i>Mankind is Our Business</i>
15	Wycliff Mulindwa	2002/03	<i>Sow the Seeds of Love</i>
16	Patrick Byabakama	2003/04	<i>Lend A Hand</i>
17	Misusera Wamala Wanaale (RIP)	2004/05	<i>Celebrate Rotary</i>
18	Stanley Mulumba	2005/06	<i>Service Above Self</i>
19	Sam Frouk Mukasa	2006/07	<i>Lead The Way</i>
20	Simon Sagala-Mulindwa	2007/08	<i>Rotary Shares</i>
21	Jackson Muhwezi	2008/09	<i>Make Dreams Real</i>
22	Caleb Babihuga	2009/10	<i>The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands</i>
23	David Nyende	2010/11	<i>Building Communities Bridging Continents</i>
24	Frederick Mubiru	2011/12	<i>Reach Within to Embrace Humanity</i>
25	Patrick Ssemwogerere	2012/13	<i>Peace Through Service</i>
26	Paul Bogere (RIP)	2013/14	<i>Engage Rotary Change Lives</i>
27	Munira Ali	2014/15	<i>Light Up Rotary</i>
28	Jim Mukasa (RIP)	2015/16	<i>Be A Gift to the World</i>
29	Rosemary Byanyima	2016/17	<i>Rotary Serving Humanity</i>
30	Kenya Mugisha	2017/18	<i>Making A Difference</i>
31	Peter Alambuya	2018/19	<i>Be The Inspiration</i>
32	Bonnie Nsambu	2019/20	<i>Rotary Connects the World</i>
33	Christine Luutu	2020/21	<i>Rotary Opens Opportunities</i>
34	Moses Nareeba	2021/22	<i>Serve To Change Lives</i>
35	Alex Muhwezi	2022/23	<i>Be an Inspiration</i>
36	Moses Turyatembera	2023/24	<i>Imagine Rotary</i>
37	William Kaguma	2024/25	<i>The Magic of Rotary</i>
38	James Africa Byekwaso	2025/26	<i>Unite for Good</i>

"Service Above Self"

38 Presidents. One Legacy. Endless Impact.

IN MEMORIAM

HONORING OUR DEPARTED ROTARIANS AND SPOUSES

As the Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala proudly celebrates the installation of its 38th President, it is both a poignant and solemn occasion to remember and honour the dedicated Rotarians and Spouses of Rotarians who have passed on over the years. Their contributions to our Club and broader community have left an indelible mark, and their absence is deeply felt.

Remembering Our Rotarians

CP Rtn. Ernest Kakwano.
PP Rtn. Pascal Mukasa.
PP Rtn. Charles Biraaro.
PP Rtn. Bagandaswa.
PP Rtn. Yorokamu Abeinenamah.
PP Rtn. Hamu Tumuheirwe.
PP Rtn. Warren Byabasheija.
PP Rtn. Paul Bogere.
PP Rtn. Wamala Wanale.
PP Rtn. Jim Mukasa

Rtn. P. Tusubira
Rtn. Manooti.
Rtn. Kakama.
Rtn. S. Kakuranga.
Rtn. Corazza.
Rtn. M. Kyobubire.
Rtn. Kandabu Henry.
Rtn. Edward Ruyombya.
Rtn. Herbert Byabagambi.
Rtn Stanley Mulumba

Honoring Our Spouses

The spouses of our Rotarians also played a vital role in supporting the Club's activities and enhancing our community impact. Their partnership and dedication were instrumental in many of our achievements. We remember;

Ann Priscilla Alambuya
Ann Winnie Biraaro
Ann Rachel Nandudu Maziina Kenya Mugisha
Mr. Butegwa
Prof. Deborah Mugerwa Mulumba

A Legacy of Service

These esteemed individuals exemplified the Rotary motto "Service Above Self". Their dedication to humanitarian service and unwavering support for our Club's initiatives have left a lasting legacy. As we move forward, we carry their spirit with us, continuing the work they were so passionate about.

Their memory serves as a beacon of inspiration, reminding us of the profound impact that committed individuals can have on their communities. It is in their honour that we recommit ourselves to the values they held dear and strive to uphold the high standard they set.

Many souls of the departed Rotarians and spouses rest in eternal peace. Their memory will forever remain in our hearts and minds, guiding us as we continue our mission of service.



**By PP RTN. MD Turyamureba
Charles**

**Charter Member,
Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala.**

LIFE AND LEGACY

PP HAM TUMUHAIRWE

President, Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala | 1999/2000



Fare thee well, comrade!!

You led us with integrity and wisdom

Your infectious passion for impactful projects was a cornerstone for our impact in our communities!

You were a true embodiment of service above self.

You believed deeply in the tangible impact of our work!

Your zeal was not only in the field but also in boardrooms!

Your laughter and your steadfast belief in Rotary ideals enriched our fellowships.

Your persona and commitment to service ignited a spirit of service!!

As RC Kololo, we extend our deepest condolences and enduring gratitude to your family for sharing you with us!

May you rest with angels as we uphold your legacy!!



Rotarian Kazoora Seth,
Rotary Club of Kololo-Kampala.



MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

Mr. Emorut James Peter, Hon. Okello Anthony, Dr. Kayunga Sallie Simba, Hajjat Aisha M. Lubega Basajjanaku (Deputy Chairperson), Justice Byabakama Mugenyi Simon (Chairperson) Hon. Tashobya Stephen, Ms. Beinamaryo Caroline Bright, and Mr. Kamugisha Richard Baabo (Secretary/EC)



THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

The Electoral Commission of Uganda is an independent constitutional body established under Article 60 of the 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda (as amended). Under Article 61, the Commission is mandated to organize, conduct, and supervise regular, free, and fair elections and referenda; demarcate constituencies; compile and update the National Voters' Register; implement voter education programmes; handle election-related complaints before and during polling; and declare election results.

The Commission operates within a strong legal framework that includes the Constitution, the Political Parties and Organisations Act, 2005, and the Electoral Commission Act, among others, while upholding international standards of transparency, inclusion, and accountability. Article 62 of the Constitution guarantees the independence of the Commission, free from the direction or control of any person or authority in the execution of its mandate.

Since its establishment in 1995, the Commission has successfully organised and conducted seven General Elections (1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016, 2021, and 2026), two national referenda on political systems (2000 and 2005), and numerous Parliamentary and Local Government elections and by-elections. These elections

– reflect the continued commitment of Ugandans to democratic and peaceful leadership transitions.

The Commission is headed by the Chairperson, Justice Simon Byabakama Mugenyi, deputised by Hajat Aisha Lubega Basajjanaku, together with Commissioners Peter Emorut, Stephen Tashobya, Dr. Kayunga Sallie Simba, Okello Anthony, and Beinamaryo Caroline Bright.

The Secretariat, led by the Secretary to the Commission and Accounting Officer, oversees the day-to-day operations of the institution through the Directorates of Operations, Technical Support Services, and Finance and Administration, supported by regional and district offices across the country.

The Electoral Commission aspires to be an exemplary Electoral Management Body that delivers credible elections with professionalism, integrity, and excellence.

The Commission is honoured to associate with the Rotary community as part of its social responsibility, community engagement, and service, which reaffirms our commitment to progress and national development.

DEAR PRESIDENT

Major Donor (MD) Dominic Kadenge Tumwesigye

Congratulations! I am so proud to see you step into this role. Knowing your dedication, I have no doubt you will lead with heart and vision. Huge congrats on becoming President! I've seen how much you care about the community, most especially when you served as Club Project Director for three (3) good years, thereafter you became a consultant and a guiding tool in project applications.

Recall our first encounter project proposal that we sat on our Kawempe resident dining table for a full day consulting each other and wondering whether ours would ever be accepted, but it was amazing, and a miracle when the button as primary contact for Rushooka MCH project was clicked, and eventually the district team accepted the application with minimal questions, and the grant was approved for RI further review.

Again, we sat in your office for a further Rushooka X-ray grant, which was also approved, and the community will be served because of your dedication and focus to serve above self without selfishness, and so many club service projects. If we mentioned medical Camps, our first ever club medical camp at Rushooka Health Centre II strikes most with sticks and commandos until the two ladies came in to cool the tempers using their professional classification of Innerwheel.

As a Club, we expect support from your Ann Recheal Tumwesigye as a First Lady during your term of office and beyond. Her encouragement at all times will simplify the challenges ahead of the year.

The Club couldn't have picked a better leader than you as you served in different directorates hands on that made you understand values of rotary and am so proud that every handover of office, it would be William to Dominic for instance, I handed over to you the Directorship of Projects, Treasurer, Secretary and again intentionally with purpose chose you to deputize me when I was the President and you did so well during my absence. I made sure that even during my presence in fellowships, I delegated to you to chair the sessions as a learning curve for all of us.



William Kaguma Manyenye
**Club President 2024-2025 &
Assistant Governor 2025-2026**



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POEMS AND BOOK REVIEWS



OH ROTARY!

Oh Rotary!

Your name is acclaimed
You make me smile just by thinking about you
I like the way that you quietly make things happen
By bringing us all together as Rotarians in the open
Focused on making lasting impact and positive change
In the lives of the Community around us
Beside us, within us, and upon us

Oh Rotary!

How grand you are
You teach us to value life every day
To live a life of integrity, honour, and splendour
Without causing any harm to those around us
Beside us, within us, or upon us

Oh Rotary!

What a test it is to live the Four Way Test
To always tell the truth
To always be fair to all concerned
To always build goodwill and better friendships
To always ensure that we are beneficial to all concerned
Beside us, within us, and upon us

Oh Rotary!

I like the fun around you
Through swallowships and home hospitalities
You make us laugh, dance, and jump
We always look forward to the next Rotary event
To be able to share in great jazz, great food, and great love
Beside us, within us, and upon us

Oh Rotary!

Let us continue to grow our numbers
To attract more brilliant and talented members
To attract more creative and committed people
To attract more diverse and interested friends
To give Rotary a lease of new life every new Rotary Year
Beside us, within us and upon us



Isaac Kiberu

ROTARY CLUB OF KOLOLO – KAMPALA



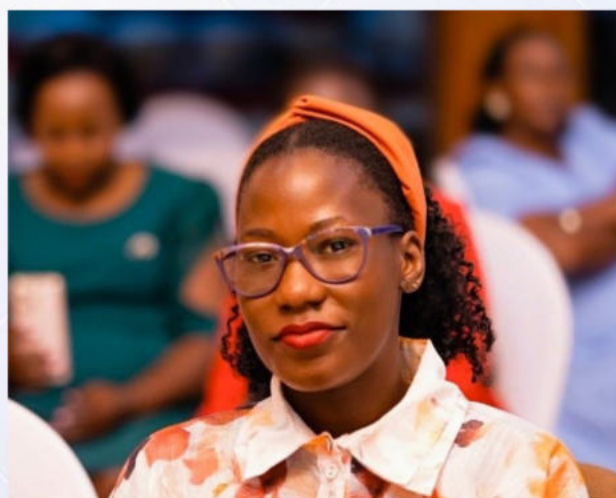
THE LANGUAGE WE HAVE LEARNED TO CARRY IN OUR SKIN BY SHINGAI KAGUNDA

You know that feeling when you're reading something, and you forget you're reading because the voice is so alive it feels like someone is sitting right next to you, talking? That's exactly what happened with this piece.

We start with Nyanya, a grandmother with silver-white dreadlocks down to her butt, eating sukuma and chapati, and she's telling stories the way only grandmothers can, measured, cheeky, full of "ehe" and "ayiii" and absolute certainty that everything wrong with Africa started when the wazungu came. Her theory? The white man made African leaders close their eyes and pray, and when they opened them, the land was gone. But then she goes further: the wazungu actually spat vita—violence, brutality, war into the mouths of those leaders behind closed doors, and that violence scratched their throats, forced itself down their esophaguses, and settled in their tongues. Life and death lie on the tip of a tongue, she says. And honestly? That image has not left my brain since I read it.

Then the story pivots. We jump a decade forward. The narrator is quitting her journalism job because she can't take editing one more brutal headline, like the one about a teacher beating a pupil to death for cheating. Her boss, a typewriter-worshipping relic who believes the British canon is the only real writing, calls her a coward. She doesn't argue. She just leaves. And then she dreams of a little boy with an open mouth, something choking him, wounds that won't stop bleeding. When she reaches in to help, it cuts her wrist, and she knows that wound will never heal. That's the thing about swallowing violence: it doesn't just stay inside the people who swallow it. It spills out. It cuts the people who try to help.

What makes this piece so effective is how it refuses to separate the personal from the political. The narrator's tiny rebellion, adding "bated breath" to stories that don't need it, is just as meaningful as Nyanya's guerrilla resistance. The writing is conversational but never lazy, and there's a quiet fury underneath every sentence, especially when the story nods to December 28th, 2007 (if you know, you know). My only tiny gripes: the jump from Nyanya's monologue to the quitting scene felt a little abrupt, and the "Yt" section heading confused me, maybe a typo? But honestly, those are nitpicks. This is raw, tender, angry, and unforgettable. I'd read the whole book in a heartbeat, and I'm already planning to steal Nyanya's line about closing your eyes to pray. She'd probably approve.



Sharone Kirabo Nakimera
Simba Buddy Group

BEHIND THE SCENES:

REFLECTIONS OF THE CLUB ADMINISTRATOR (2025–2026)

“Behind the scenes” is perhaps the best way to describe the role of Club Administrator—not just because of where it sits, but because of how much it quietly carries.

It is also a role full of interesting ambiguities—between what people imagine it to be, what is visible, and what one actually ends up doing.

On the surface, the responsibilities seem clear: organize meetings and support the smooth running of the club. In practice, the role often becomes the natural point of reference whenever something needs attention.

When turnout is low, there is a gentle: “Administrator, what is happening?” When the projector hesitates, delays or the internet is slow, eyes instinctively turn in one direction. When members forget to sign the attendance register and statistics are low. When a speaker is delayed, the Administrator is never far from the conversation.

Over time, I came to see this not so much as blame, but as a reflection of how central the role is to the functioning of the club. It sits at the intersection of many moving parts—and, occasionally, many expectations.



It was designed to make life easier and information readily available to everyone.

And yet, the familiar question would still arise: “Who is on duty this week?”

I must admit, though, I smiled when I saw our effort evaluated as “moderate.” My experience suggested something a little more... dynamic. Or, depending on the week, athletic.

This year, I set out to bring a bit more structure and accessibility to our systems. One of my highlights was developing a comprehensive club directory—a small, pocket-friendly, practical guide that brought together key information: Rotary norms, buddy groups, committees and their members, member contacts, where clubs across the district meet, and the duty rota for each buddy group.

**“WHEN THINGS RUN SMOOTHLY, IT IS
OFTEN A SIGN THAT MANY QUIET
PIECES HAVE COME TOGETHER WELL
BEHIND THE SCENES.”**

At first, I resisted the urge to simply point to page 3.

Instead, I learned to appreciate the gentle art of the reminder—the well-timed message, the strategic follow-up, the subtle repetition. In another life, this might be called behavioural economics. In Rotary, it is simply persistence with good manners.

A nudge here, a reminder there—and before long, behaviour begins to cooperate. Beyond the systems and schedules, one of the most rewarding aspects of this role has been getting to know members more deeply. You begin to see who can be relied upon in different situations, who brings quiet consistency, who energizes discussions, and where different strengths lie within the club.

It also became clear that each Rotary year begins with a quiet reset. New committees are formed, new roles assigned, and—almost on cue—we begin the well-known journey of forming, storming, norming, and performing.

The form is polite. The storming is... character-building. Somewhere in between, there is negotiation, improvisation, and the occasional moment of “I don’t recall volunteering for this.”

And then comes the settling.

In that process, roles rarely stay in their neat, original boxes. They stretch, overlap, and occasionally wander off entirely. A Club Secretary may find themselves doing what looks suspiciously like administration. Someone else drifts into Family of Rotary matters simply because they are good at it—or because they were standing closest when the need arose.

Nothing is entirely prescribed. Nothing is cast in stone -and if it is, it is politely rearranged.

And yet, as the dust settles and people find their rhythm, things do get done—often impressively well—until, of course, the next Rotary year arrives and we begin again, slightly more experienced and no less hopeful.

In many ways, this felt familiar.

I was reminded of my time as Attendance Officer, and later as the Rotary Foundation Director, when I often found myself gently—but persistently—teasing attendance and contributions out of members. Those roles, much like this one, required going beyond systems and engaging individuals—understanding what motivates them, what holds them back, and how best to bring them along.

Perhaps, without quite naming it at the time, I was nudging then too.

The lesson has been consistent: Rotary is not just about structures and processes—it is about people.

I also took pride in contributing to the life of the club by ensuring engaging speakers and meaningful fellowship. We maintained a steady rhythm throughout the year, only pausing briefly over the Christmas period. Interestingly, despite Uganda's many public holidays, they never quite seem to fall on a Tuesday!

I stepped into this role without a clear roadmap. But I step out of it more aware, more adaptable, and more connected—to the club, to its members, and to the spirit of Rotary itself.

Being a Club Administrator may be "behind the scenes," but it offers a front-row seat to how a club truly functions.

And for that, I am grateful.

And if there is one final lesson I will carry forward, it is that when things run smoothly, it is often a sign that many quiet pieces have come together well behind the scenes.



By Anne Gamurorwa
Club Administrator 2025-2026



HAPPINESS IS FREE

You Don't Even Need Wi-Fi



I first heard "Happiness Is Free" by Pompi Shamboko—a Zambian gospel musician whose real name is Chaka Nyathando, whose music blends faith, culture, and contemporary sound in a way that feels both rooted and refreshing. It is a track that doesn't just play, it moves you. My introduction to the song came courtesy of PDG Tom Kamwendo, District Governor D 9210, 2024–2025, during a Rotary Health Community Challenge project meeting in Zambia in September 2024.

Now, Tom didn't just sing the song—he performed it. He embodied it. With every lyric, gesture, and beat, he pulled the room in like a magnet. Before we all knew it, our heads were nodding, our feet were tapping, and we were all joining in, almost instinctively. It wasn't rehearsed—it was infectious. What makes the song even more compelling is its blend of language. While parts are in a local Zambian tongue, much of it flows in English, making the message instantly accessible: happiness (joy) isn't something you buy—it's something you choose—it is free.

If you haven't heard Happiness Is Free yet, do yourself a favour and look it up on YouTube—but fair warning: somewhere between the first chorus and your second shoulder move, you'll realize (slightly out of breath) that happiness isn't hiding in some expensive plan—it's already within you, absolutely free.

Across the world—whether in vibrant cities or quiet villages—happiness remains a central pursuit of human life. It shapes how we live, how we relate with others, and how we experience fulfillment. Yet it is often through simple, practical acts of service that happiness becomes most visible and most meaningful.

This truth is powerfully reflected in the work of Rotary. In Namutumba District, the Rotary Club of Kololo project donated a rice huller to women, which has transformed everyday life for many families. What once required long hours of manual labour can now be done more efficiently, saving time, reducing physical strain, and increasing productivity. For these women, the rice huller is more than just a machine—it is an opportunity for dignity, economic empowerment, and hope. It allows them to support their families better, engage in other productive activities, and experience the quiet but powerful happiness that comes with improved livelihoods.

In another expression of service, the Rotary Club of Kololo's donation of hearing aids to children with hearing challenges has opened a new world for them. For a child who has struggled in silence, the ability to hear for the first time—or to hear more clearly—can be life-changing. It means being able to learn in school, communicate with others, and participate fully in life. It restores confidence, connection, and a sense of belonging. In those moments when a child responds to sound, to a voice, or to laughter, we witness happiness in its purest and most transformative form.



These acts of service reflect the essence of "Service Above Self." They remind us that happiness is not only found within but is also awakened and amplified when we serve others. The joy experienced by those who benefit is matched by the deep fulfillment felt by those who give, because at the centre of every human pursuit is the desire for happiness. Yet over time, many people come to realize that happiness is not something to be bought, chased, or borrowed—it is something we already have access to. It is, quite simply, free. What service teaches us is that this happiness grows when it is shared, especially in ways that uplift and empower others.

The message from Happiness Is Free is both simple and transformative: joy is already within reach. It is found in everyday moments—acts of kindness, shared laughter, gratitude, and quiet reflection. In Namutumba, it is found in the relief of a woman whose work has been eased and whose income has improved. In the lives of children with hearing challenges, it is found in the discovery of sound, communication, and learning, it remains one of life's greatest treasures. It shapes how we think, how we act, and how we connect with others. When we choose to live intentionally, guided by meaningful values and a spirit of service, we create lives rich in purpose and fulfillment.

In the end, happiness is not something we wait for—it is something we choose, something we cultivate, and something we share. As the song Happiness Is Free so beautifully reminds us, joy is already within us, waiting to be expressed. Through the spirit of Rotary International and its call to "Service Above Self," we discover that the truest form of happiness is found in serving humanity. Whether it is empowering women in Namutumba through a donation of a rice huller or giving a child the gift of hearing, each act of service becomes a living expression of that song's message. In lifting others, we find ourselves lifted; in giving, we receive; and in serving, we experience a deeper, lasting happiness—one that is truly free.





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ROTARY HAS A QUIET WAY OF SHAPING LEADERS.

It does not always announce it. In fact, it often hides in what appears to be simplicity—even ambiguity. Take the role of Vice President. In many club bylaws, as in RC Kololo-Kampala, it is described in just a few lines: to preside in the absence of the President, and to perform duties “as ordinarily pertain” to the office.

At first glance, it feels... light. Almost undefined. But that lightness is not an omission. It is intentional. Because Rotary does not just assign roles—it builds a leadership pipeline.

From Vice President, to President-Elect, to President, and then Immediate Past President, there is a deliberate arc. A season of observing. A season of supporting. A season of leading. And finally, a season of guiding. Each stage is less about the title and more about preparation.

In that sense, the Vice President is not “in waiting.” The Vice President is in formation.

The role quietly carries a deeper mandate: to support continuity in leadership, to strengthen coordination between past and present, and to begin preparing for what comes next. It is a space to learn how decisions are made, how relationships are managed, and how a club finds its rhythm.

It is also a space to notice. To see what works—and what doesn’t. To understand the culture beneath the meetings. To begin asking, gently, what could be better.

I have already had the privilege of seeing this role lived out in practice. Over the past year, I observed Rtn Betty Kyaddondo, our outgoing Vice President and now President-Elect, step in seamlessly whenever the President was away—steady, prepared, and without fuss. There was no sense of interruption, only continuity.

It reflected something deeper about our club. That quiet, dependable rhythm—the Kololo culture of fellowship and support—where leadership is not about the spotlight, but about ensuring that the work carries on, and that the President is never standing alone. Where stepping in is done so naturally that it is almost unnoticed... and that is precisely the point.

In many ways, that example has been more instructive than any bylaw. It shows that the Vice President’s role is not defined by how often one presides, but by how well one prepares, supports, and sustains the flow of leadership. It also reassures me that stepping in does not require drama—just readiness (and, perhaps, a good sense of timing).

In many ways, it is one of the most strategic positions in the club. Not because of visible authority, but because of proximity—to leadership, to history, and to the future.

And perhaps that is Rotary’s quiet genius: leaders are not made at the point of presidency. They are shaped long before, through a system that allows them to grow into the mantle they will one day carry.

As we install President Dominic Tumwesigye for the year 2026–2027, we are not just marking the start of a new Rotary year. We are witnessing the continuation of this very design—where one leader steps forward, supported by those beside and behind them, and sustained by those preparing to step in when their time comes.

It is a reminder that leadership in Rotary is never a solo act. It is a relay—carefully run, sometimes breathlessly, occasionally with a slightly wobbly baton—but always moving forward.

As I step into the role of Vice President, I do so with a growing appreciation of this design. Not as someone waiting on the sidelines, but as someone being quietly, steadily prepared. Learning, observing, and, when needed, stepping in—hopefully with minimal disruption to the programme -and the President’s blood pressure. I also recognize that I will need the support, guidance, and collective wisdom of the entire club as I move forward in this journey.

If we embrace this pipeline as it is meant to be, then leadership in our club will not feel like a series of new beginnings each year, but like a steady unfolding—where each leader builds on the last, and leaves a stronger foundation for the next.

And so, as we celebrate our new President Dominic today, I take my place in the line—not impatiently, but attentively. After all, in Rotary, even the “waiting” comes with a job description... it just takes a year or two to fully discover it.

I wish everyone the best in 2026-2027.

By Anne Gamuvoruta

IN-COMING VICE PRESIDENT 2026-2027





THE NORTH GREEN SCHOOL
PERSPECTIVES ON EDUCATION

Catching the Horse Before It Bolts

Every school is waiting for the right moment to think about artificial intelligence. That moment is now – because the longer we wait, the more certain it becomes that we will one day adopt it in a panic.

By Elaine Alowo Matovu

Resident Director, The North Green School

Walk into most schools today and ask about artificial intelligence, and you will meet a kind of quiet. Not hostility, not excitement, but a watchful waiting. The subject comes up in a staff meeting and is set aside for a term that never quite arrives. A few teachers experiment, a few parents ask, but as an institution the school has not yet begun, and it assumes there is still time.

There are good reasons for the quiet. Declining to chase a fashion is sensible; so is refusing to spend scarce money on tools whose value you cannot yet judge. And it really is early almost everywhere. Yet I have come to believe this quiet holds the single greatest risk facing schools this decade – and that the risk is the opposite of the one most of us guard against.

“The danger is not adopting AI too soon. It is waiting until adopting it in a panic is the only option left.”

Consider how the quiet ends. Not with a calm decision one reflective afternoon, but with sudden pressure from outside – a rival school advertising itself as “AI-powered,” a parent asking why the school is being left behind, a directive from the Ministry of Education that must be answered by next term. And then the school does what any institution does when it feels exposed: it rushes. It buys the first persuasive platform, runs a one-day training, photographs teachers at laptops, and calls it progress.

There is a pressure more immediate still, and it is already inside the building. Our students have not waited for us. Many discovered these tools long ago, and – let us be honest about the part that stings – a child who finds a particular teacher hard to follow now quietly prefers the machine that explains patiently, instantly, and without ever once making them feel slow for asking again. Many arrive in class already knowing the day's topic, explained more clearly than the lesson is about to manage. In a real sense, our children have already decided. The only open question is whether the school will shape that reality or be quietly bypassed by it.

A child who finds a teacher hard to follow now quietly prefers the machine.

We have seen a version of this film before. Think back to the arrival of computers in schools. For years, a computer laboratory was the thing every serious school had to have; it went on the prospectus and into the brochure, and parents asked about it on their tours. And then the harder question, the one almost nobody asked at the time: what measurable difference did it make to how those children learned to think? In a great many schools, the honest answer is very little. The lab opened once a week, a few documents were typed, the machines aged, and the pride of the prospectus quietly became a store of obsolete equipment. The computer was never a bad tool. It was simply adopted as a symbol to be displayed rather than as an instrument made to serve learning.

That is the trap, and it is worth naming plainly. The danger is not the rush itself but what the rush forecloses. You cannot define what your school is truly for, weigh the evidence, and prepare your teachers in a panic. That work takes time, and the pressure, when it comes, will not respect how much time the work takes. A school that begins quietly now will have a foundation in place when the pressure arrives. A school that waits will find the work and the pressure colliding – and in that collision, the work always loses.

“Beginning does not mean buying anything. It means asking, while there is still room to think, what learning is actually for.”

It means investing in teachers now, because helping a teacher grow into confident, discerning judgement is the work of years, not of a weekend course. And it means being clear about the one thing a machine cannot do. A tool can explain a concept beautifully; it cannot sit with a child and help her judge whether an argument is sound, notice the gleam of a half-formed idea and help her grow it, or show her what it looks like to think with integrity. The most powerful technology in history is arriving in our classrooms. The schools that use it well will not be the ones that waited for it, but the ones that prepared – and that kept their teachers firmly at the centre of the work only a human can do.

At The North Green School, our mission is to develop in young people the focus, discipline, and tenacity to keep a competitive edge in an ever changing world. An edge is never kept by waiting for the world to change and then scrambling to catch up; it is kept by preparing before the moment of need. So my encouragement to every school still sitting in the quiet is simple. Begin now, while beginning is still calm.

Catch the horse while it stands peacefully in the stable – not by lunging at it.

Be ready, with a steady hand and a clear head, long before the horse has any reason to bolt. The world will keep changing. The schools that prepared in the quiet will be the ones still holding the reins.

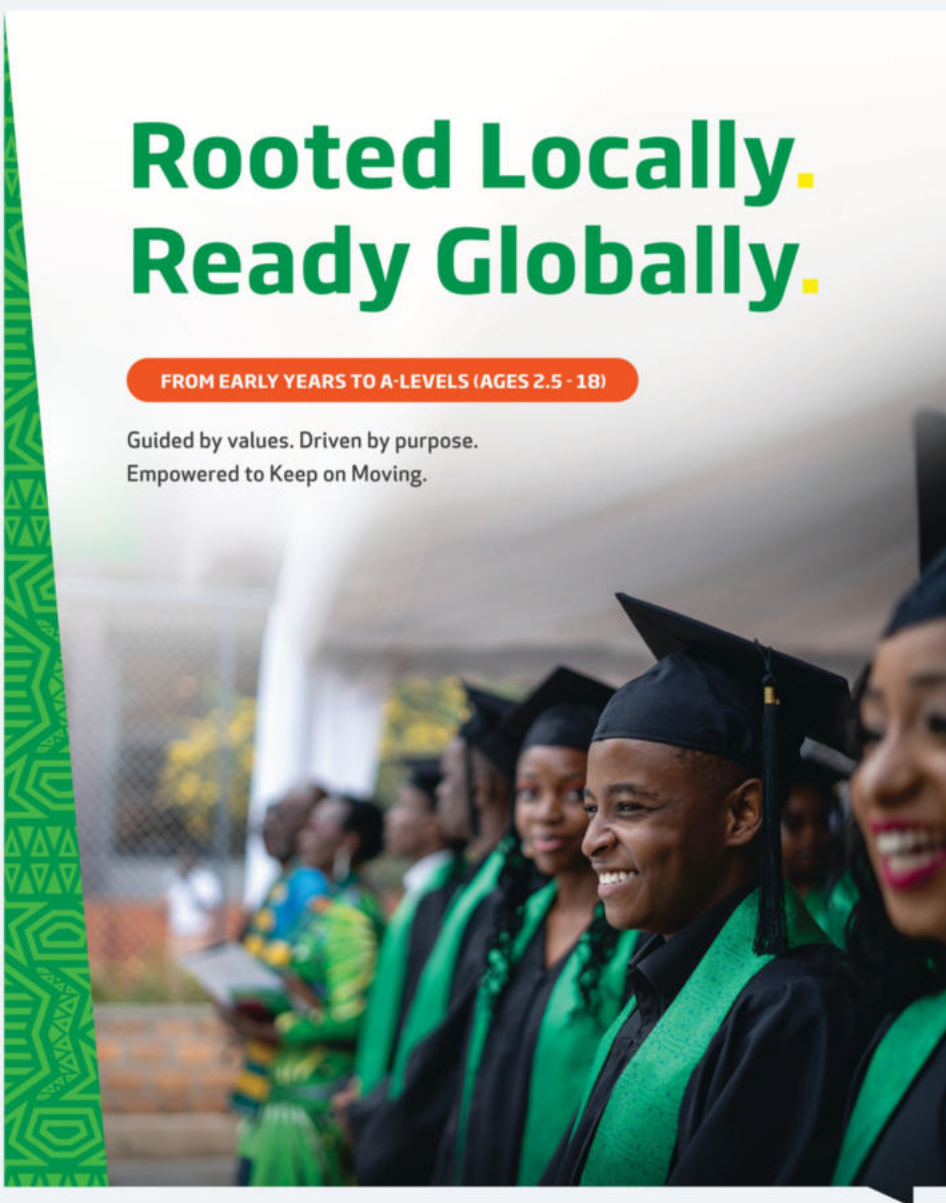
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Elaine Alowo Matovu is Resident Director of The North Green School in Uganda, a Cambridge-curriculum school developing a locally built framework for the meaningful use of AI in African classrooms.

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FROM EARLY YEARS TO A-LEVELS (AGES 2.5 - 18)

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