



# THE SIREN

MONTHLY Bulletin

ISSUE X  
APRIL  
2024



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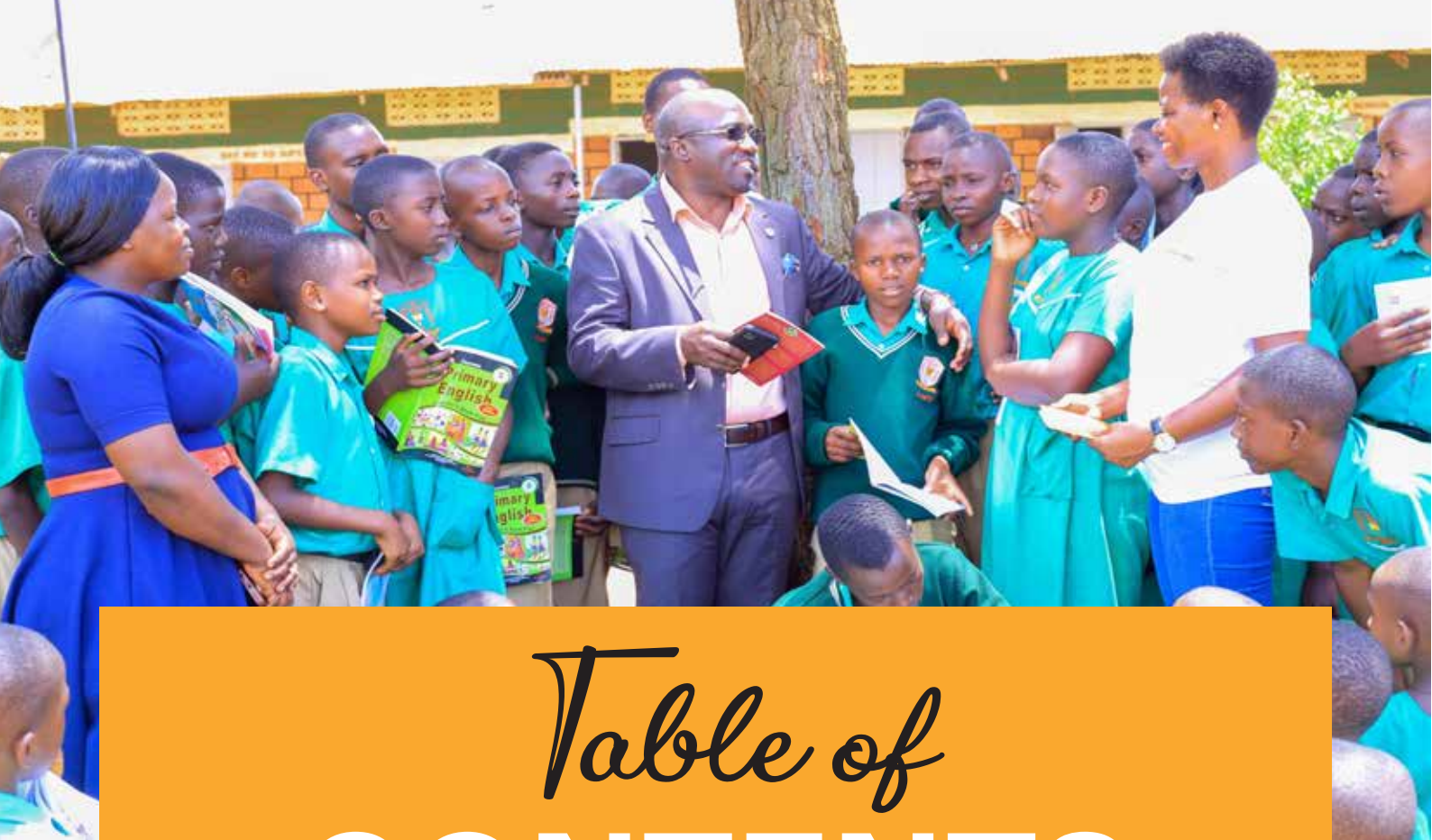
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RAC Bwebajja



## EMBRACING CHANGE AND INSPIRING LEADERSHIP

Hello everyone!

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter, where we are diving headfirst into the exciting world of change, growth, and leadership within our amazing Rotaract and Rotary community.

As we celebrate achievements and reflect on our journey together, it's clear that purpose-driven leadership can truly make a difference.

This edition features inspiring individuals like DRRE Joseph Ssengooba, PE Andrew Ssennabulya, and President Annie Ninyesiga. Their dedication to empowerment and service exemplifies the core values of Rotary. Their stories will motivate you to embrace growth opportunities and make a significant impact.

Our community service projects are a powerful reminder of what we can achieve when we work together. Whether it's the joy of celebrating the DEAR Day at St. Charles Lwanga Primary School in Kawuku, or the life-changing water supply system we commissioned at Nakivale Refugee Camp, these projects showcase the positive change we can create as a team.

We're also focusing on the importance of supporting the youth. We're tackling issues like period stigma and the unique needs of young men. Articles like "Rewriting the Period Story" and "Why Investing in Boys Matters" aim to build a more inclusive and equitable future.

As we navigate the ever-changing world of service and leadership, let's remember our core values: integrity, compassion, and collaboration. Together, we can build a brighter tomorrow – a future where our legacy is defined by the positive changes we make.

With gratitude,

*Joseph Ssuuna*

**Editor-in-Chief**



*Rtn. Juliet Nasimolo  
Club Admin*



*Rtr. Belinda Akampurira  
Rotaract Representative*



*Rtr. Kukundakwe M. Atim  
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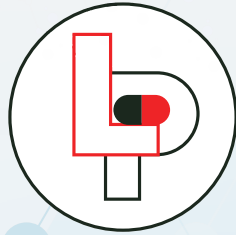
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# THE CHANGE WITHIN

**T**hese are times that cry out for peace. The Middle East is in its most volatile condition in years. The war in Ukraine is the largest in Europe since World War II, and there are armed conflicts in Sudan and parts of Central Africa. Nearly every continent is experiencing a major armed conflict.

Rotary has a vital role to play in advancing the cause of peace — I often say Rotary needs to work toward peace as aggressively as those who wish to wage war. It's the spirit found in our vision statement: "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves." We must never lose track of that last call — that to bring about change in the world, we need to foster change within.

It is up to us to model peacebuilding behavior among each other. We can do better than questioning the motives of one another and jumping to the harshest possible explanation. After hearing words that might strain or offend us, we have an opportunity to ask, with compassion and curiosity, the intent of those offending words. And then we have another opportunity to repair the breach.

If we wish to be a beacon to the world, let us start by being so to one another. Let's help each other find greater understanding and productive alternatives to words that cause hurt and distrust. And let's stick to our principles, but never doubt the sincerity of each other to end conflicts, not inflame



them.

I'm reminded of a speech that U.S. Senator Robert Kennedy made on 4 April 1968, that dreadful day when the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated. Kennedy was in Indianapolis speaking to an audience in a predominantly African American neighborhood where people had yet to learn that Dr. King had been killed.

He shared the terrible news. He honored Dr. King for all he had done for the cause of justice and peace. And then he connected with the fuming, grieving crowd by saying: "For those of you who are Black and are tempted to be filled with hatred and distrust at the injustice of such an act, against all white people, I can only say that I feel in my own heart the same kind of feeling. I had a member of my family killed." It was the first time he had spoken publicly about President John F. Kennedy's assassination. And while many American cities exploded in violence that night, Indianapolis did not.

It is in times of crisis and despair that we need empathy most of all. Empathy is the most powerful tool of peace, and it is vital if we are to take the first brave, humble steps to Create Hope in the World.

*R. Gordon R. Meinally*  
RI President



*Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves. We must never lose track of that last call — that to bring about change in the world, we need to foster change within."*

# CELEBRATING MILESTONES AND LOOKING FORWARD

**M**y Rotary family and friends, I bring you warm greetings from District 9214.

We are less than 3 months from the end of Our Rotary year, time indeed flies!!

The month of March had two main highlights that touched my heart namely; The Inter District Leaders' Summit of District 9212 (Kenya, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Eritrea), D9213 (Uganda) and D9214 (Uganda and Tanzania). This happened between 20th to 23rd March 2024. A team of Rotarians from D9212 of over 56 people led by District Governor Leonard Ithau visited Districts 9213 and 9214. We had Joint Fellowships, a Leadership Summit on 21st March at Speke Resort Munyonyo, visiting and bench marking on different Projects, Charity fundraisers among others.

I would like to sincerely appreciate my Counter Parts, District Governors Leonard Ithau and Edward Kakembo Nsubuga for District 9212 and 9213 respectively for participating in this collaboration. I also thank all the Past District and future Governors from Uganda for having been part of this milestone. We, the three Governors agreed that this coming together of Our 3 Districts should be on an annual basis and also sold this Idea to the Incoming Governors which they agreed to carry it on.

The second highlight of the month of march was the Rotary Foundation Recognition Dinner that took place on 30th March 2024. This event saw District 9214 partnering with the Swangz Avenue to organize it and it was a big success at the Lugogo Cricket Oval. The event was attended by Rotarians, Non-Rotarians, Corporates like Toyota, NBS, MTN among others. The most important benefit of this function was not only the celebration



of our Givers to the Rotary Foundation but also increasing the Rotary visibility among the non-Rotarians and corporates. I would like to sincerely thank our District Rotary Foundation Fundraising Chair Past President Farouk Busuulwa and the entire committee for a job well done. To you our Rotarians, thank you so much for your selflessness by parting with your Resources to support our Foundation. I am excited to inform you that we have so far achieved over 95% of our set TRF contribution target!!

As we draw close to our biggest celebration of the Rotary year that is the District Conference and Assembly that is going to happen at the Speke Resort Munyonyo between the 24th to 27th April 2024, the organization of this event is in full gear and we are finalizing with all preparations. I continue to thank our Chairperson, District Governor Nominee Christine Kyeyune Kawooya and the team for all your tireless effort and I am so confident that we are going to have a very successful event.

Dear friends, as we run through the Last quarter of Our Rotary year 2023/24, I argue you not to relax but rather work even more harder to consolidate our achievements in our effort to Increase our Impact, Expand Our Reach, enhance participant Engagement and Increasing Our Ability to Adapt as we Create More Hope in the World!!

*Francisco Selwanga*  
District Governor



*As we draw close to our biggest celebration of the Rotary year that is the District Conference and Assembly that is going to happen at the Speke Resort Munyonyo between the 24th to 27th April 2024, the organization of this event is in full gear and we are finalizing with all preparations."*

# REFLECTING ON OUR JOURNEY AND LOOKING AHEAD

**D**ear Rotary Family,  
As we step into the final quarter of the Rotary year 2023-2024, I find myself reflecting on the journey we've undertaken together as a club. It has been a year filled with lots of fun, many impactful projects, dedicated service, and the unwavering dedication of each and every one of us. As the President of this iconic Club, I am immensely proud of what we have achieved thus far, and I am excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

From the start of the year to date, we've stayed true to our core values of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership. These values have been our compass, guiding our actions in community programs, local support, and building connections. By upholding these values, we've truly impacted lives.

As we approach the end of this Rotary year, I encourage each of you to uphold the spirit of Rotary in your actions. Let's stay focused on our mission of fostering positive change locally and globally. Keep seeking opportunities to serve, promote understanding, and leave a meaningful impact. I deeply appreciate the dedication of our members, whose hard work has driven our achievements. Together, we've shown Rotary's ability to innovatively inspire hope and improve lives. Looking forward, let's face the future with



optimism, enthusiasm, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Thank you for your continued support and dedication. Here's to a successful final quarter of the Rotary year 2023-2024, and to many more years of service, fellowship, and making a difference together.

*Annie Ninyeriga*  
**RC Bwebajja President**



*From the start of the year to date, we've stayed true to our core values of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership. These values have been our compass, guiding our actions in community programs, local support, and building connections. By upholding these values, we've truly impacted lives."*



# LEADING WITH PURPOSE: REFLECTIONS FROM A ROTARACT PRESIDENT

**A**s I stand here, reflecting on my time as president of our Rotaract club so far, I am reminded of the journey we have embarked on together—a journey filled with challenges, triumphs, and unforgettable memories. Leadership, I've come to realize, is indeed a walk to remember.

Leading our Rotaract club has been an honor and a privilege, but it has also been a profound learning experience. It's taught me that leadership is not just about making decisions or giving orders; it's about inspiring others, empowering them to unleash their full potential, and walking alongside them every step of the way.

Throughout my tenure as president, I've witnessed the incredible impact that we can achieve when we come together as a team, united by a shared vision and a common purpose. Whether it was organizing community service projects, fundraising for important causes, or fostering connections with other organizations, each endeavor has been a testament to the power of collaboration and collective action.

But leadership is not without its challenges. There have been moments of doubt, uncertainty, and even failure. Yet, it's during these times that I've learned some of the most valuable lessons. I've learned the importance of resilience, perseverance, and the willingness to adapt and grow in the face of adversity.

As I look back on our journey, I am filled with gratitude for the incredible individuals who have been by my side every step of the way. From fellow club members to advisors and mentors, each person has played a vital role in shaping our success and making our vision a



reality.

To my fellow Rotaractors, I want to say thank you. Thank you for your dedication, your passion, and your unwavering commitment to service. Together, we have made a difference in the lives of others, and I am immensely proud of all that we have accomplished.

As my term starts to come to an end, I am filled with hope and optimism for the future of our club and the impact we will continue to make in our community and beyond. Leadership is indeed a walk to remember, and I am grateful for every step of this incredible journey we've taken together.

*Hope Tushenerewe*  
President RAC Bwebajja



*Throughout my tenure as president, I've witnessed the incredible impact that we can achieve when we come together as a team, united by a shared vision and a common purpose.*



The Siren  
**Stories**

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# DRRE JOSEPH SSENGOOBA UNVEILS VISIONARY PLANS AT FRIENDS OF JB FELLOWSHIP



“

*Guided by the wisdom of past presidents, the club orchestrated a magnificent celebration, uniting Rotarians and Rotaractors from districts 9213 and 9214 in a tapestry of collaboration and goodwill.”*

On the memorable evening of 21st March 2024, Rotary Club of Bwebajja played host to a remarkable event that transcended district boundaries and united members from Districts 9214 and 9213. The occasion? A special fellowship dubbed "Friends of JB," featuring none other than the esteemed District Rotaract Representative Elect (DRRE) Joseph Ssengooba. The atmosphere crackled with anticipation as Rotarians, Rotaractors, young and old, gathered to hear his vision for the upcoming Rotary year (2024-2025).

The Friends of JB fellowship served as a platform for members to come together, exchange ideas, and rally behind a shared vision of service and impact. As DRRE Ssengooba took center stage, his passion and dedication to the Rotaract movement were palpable, infusing the room with energy and enthusiasm.

With eloquence and conviction, he articulated his strategic goals and initiatives for the upcoming Rotary year, outlining a roadmap for success grounded in innovation, inclusivity, and collaboration.



*DRRE Ssengooba articulated his commitment to fostering a culture of leadership development and mentorship within the Rotaract community."*



One of the key highlights of DRRE Ssengooba's visionary plans is a renewed emphasis on community engagement and empowerment. Recognizing the power of grass-roots initiatives to effect positive change, he envisions a Rotaract district that actively partners with local communities to address pressing issues and drive sustainable development projects. By harnessing the collective talents and resources of Rotaractors across Districts 9214 and 9213, DRRE Ssengooba aims to amplify the impact of Rotaract's service efforts and foster meaningful connections with those they serve.

Furthermore, DRRE Ssengooba articulated his commitment to fostering a culture of leadership development and mentorship within the Rotaract community.

Through targeted training programs, mentorship opportunities, and networking events, he seeks to empower Rotaractors to realize their full potential as leaders and change-makers in their communities and beyond.

By the end of the evening, the "Friends of JB" fellowship had left a lasting impression. It was a powerful reminder of the magic that happens when people come together, united by a common

purpose. With DRRE Ssengooba leading the charge, Districts 9214 and 9213 are poised for a year of transformative service, leadership development, and lasting impact.



# PE ANDREW'S EXPERIENCE AT THE 2024 PRESIDENTS-ELECT TRAINING SEMINAR



“

*The day was a whirlwind of insightful talks, and interactive sessions led by experienced district leaders. From mastering Rotary Club Central , Leadership and Succession planning, navigating legal and financial compliance,....”*

Rotary is all about inspiring leaders, and for Rtn Andrew Sennabulya, the President-Elect for RC Bwebajja, that inspiration came alive at the 2024 Presidents-Elect Training Seminar for Rotary District 9214. Held on Saturday, 23rd March, at Nican Resort - Seguku, this training included incoming club presidents, treasurers, and secretaries.

This was no typical training event, the seminar buzzed with energy as incoming leaders came together. Andrew knew this was his chance to dive deep into the world of Rotary, connect with others, and unlock the secrets to a thriving club.

The day was a whirlwind of insightful talks, and interactive sessions led by experienced district leaders. From mastering Rotary Club Central , Leadership and Succession planning, navigating legal and financial compliance, Andrew gained the tools he needs to lead RC Bwebajja with confidence.

But the real magic unfolded during the breakout sessions. Andrew bonded with other President-Elects, sharing experiences, challenges, and fresh ideas. These new friendships become a network of support, a united front for overcoming the obstacles facing Rotary clubs in the region.

By the end of the seminar, Andrew wasn't just inspired – he was energized. He left Nican Resort with a clear vision, a backpack full of knowledge, and a heart brimming with purpose. Back at the club, he is ready to lead with passion and confidence. He knows it takes more than him, but with the backing of his fellow club members, Andrew is determined to make a real difference in the Irresistible year 2024-25.

# EMPOWERING LEADERSHIP: MY APPOINTMENT AS **ASSISTANT GOVERNOR**



**HCP Annie Ninyesiga**

As President of the Rotary Club of Bwebajja, I believe the call to serve transcends the boundaries of our Club. Recently, I was honored with the appointment as an Assistant Governor for Lake Victoria 3 Clubs in the coming year 2024/25, a role that extends my reach to impact Rotary's mission on a district level. To prepare for this new role, I embarked on a transformative journey first to the Rotary learning centre and then to the District Training Seminar held in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania.

This DTTS proved to be more than just an educational event; it was a melting pot of leadership wisdom, cultural exchange, and collaborative spirit. Surrounded by fellow AGs and district leaders from diverse backgrounds, I

found myself immersed in a vibrant collection of ideas and experiences. Networking transformed from just an activity to the cornerstone of building lasting connections and fostering cooperation. Through engaging discussions and shared insights, I acquired valuable leadership skills that will undoubtedly shape my tenure as an Assistant Governor. Learning from the successes and challenges of others broadened my perspective and equipped me with innovative strategies to navigate the complexities of district governance.

Beyond the enriching educational sessions, the seminar provided a platform to forge bonds of camaraderie with like-minded people



“

*The opportunity to serve beyond the confines of our club is a privilege that comes with great responsibility.”*

united by a common purpose. As Rotary ambassadors, we pledged our commitment to uphold the organization's principles of service above self and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

The opportunity to serve beyond the confines of our club is a privilege that comes with great responsibility. This appointment exemplifies Rotary's unwavering dedication to creating positive change across the globe. In this spirit, I am eager to collaborate with fellow leaders, empower communities, and make a lasting impact that transcends borders. Together, we will continue to uphold Rotary's legacy of service and transform lives one project at a time.



# EASTER CAROLS AND FRIEND OF THE YEAR GIFT EXCHANGE FELLOWSHIP



**Rtn. Muganga Jude**

favorites. Everyone was captivated, and the room was filled with a delightful mix of reverence and pure joy.

But the music wasn't all! Rotary Club of Bwebajja also carried on a cherished tradition: the Friend of the Year Gift Exchange. There were smiles and excited whispers as people exchanged thoughtful gifts they'd picked out especially for each other. These gifts were more than presents; they were symbols of the strong bonds and camaraderie that unite the Rotary family. From heartfelt tokens of appreciation to funny surprises, each gift was a reminder of the generosity and kindness that Rotary is all about.

The entire evening buzzed with warmth and a true sense of community. People mingled, shared stories, and sang carols together, both old friends and new. There was a feeling of belonging that filled the room, making it a truly special place to be.

As the night wound down, everyone left feeling happy and uplifted. The Easter Carols and Friend of the Year Gift Exchange Fellowship perfectly captured the spirit of our club: fellowship, friendship, and a commitment to serving others.



*Their beautiful voices filled the air with classic hymns and contemporary renditions of Easter favorites. Everyone was captivated, and the room was filled with a delightful mix of reverence and pure joy."*

On 28th March, Rotary Club of Bwebajja held a very special celebration at our club fellowship venue, Emperor Heights Kisubi. The evening combined the joy of Easter with the warmth of fellowship among friends. Club members and guests gathered for the annual Friend of the Year Gift Exchange Fellowship, which also doubled as an Easter Carol event

Festive decorations and twinkling lights set the scene for an evening filled with heartwarming music, laughter, and the spirit of giving. The highlight? Undoubtedly the performance by the renowned Golden Gate Choir. Their beautiful voices filled the air with classic hymns and contemporary renditions of Easter



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The Siren

# Articles

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## PAGES OF JOY:

### CELEBRATING DEAR DAY AT ST. CHARLES LWANGA PRIMARY SCHOOL, KAWUKU

The energy crackled in the air at St. Charles Lwanga Primary School, Kawuku on 15th March 2024. Students, teachers, and staff buzzed with excitement as they prepared to celebrate a special day: DEAR Day. Rotarians and Rotaractors from Bwebajja joined the event, led by the charismatic duo of HCPs Annie Ninyesiga and Hope Tushemereirwe. And gracing the event as the Chief Guest was Country Chair Ismael Mukasa.

But what exactly is DEAR Day? It stands for "Drop Everything and Read," which is a wonderful annual event that reminds everyone at school about the pure joy of reading and its power to transform lives.

The festivities kicked off with a special assembly. The school's headmistress, Rtn Elizabeth Naggawa, welcomed everyone with open arms. Her message was clear: reading is the key that unlocks incredible new worlds. Through stories, students can expand their imaginations, learn new things, and grow into well-rounded individuals. Chief Guest CC Ismael echoed this sentiment, applauding the support Rotary provides to the school and urging the students to make the most of their educational opportunities.

After the assembly, the real action began! Students eagerly scattered around the school premises to find their perfect spots in the classrooms and school compound for DEAR activities. Teachers and guests transformed into reading stars, catering to all sorts of interests and reading levels. Some



**Rtn. Tahiah Nabakooza**

sessions featured interactive storytelling, where stories came alive with dramatic performances, and thought-provoking discussions. It was a peaceful yet electric atmosphere, a beautiful example of a community united by a love of literature. There was also something special for the older students – girl and boy empowerment sessions!

As the day drew to a close, the students took centre stage with heart-warming performances. They expressed their sincere gratitude to the Rotary and Rotaract clubs of Bwebajja for their unwavering support in areas like basic education, literacy, water sanitation, and hygiene.

This DEAR Day wasn't just about reading; it was about creating a deeper appreciation for the magic books hold. Students left with a renewed passion for stories and a commitment to keep exploring the world of reading, long after DEAR Day had ended. As the headmistress reminded them, the reading journey is a lifelong adventure.

This is a powerful reminder for all of us Rotarians. By participating in events like DEAR Day, we have the incredible opportunity to inspire and empower students to become lifelong learners, filled with a love for reading. And that, after all, is a recipe for a brighter future!





*As the water flowed from the taps, so too did a renewed sense of dignity and empowerment for the residents of Nakivale Refugee Camp."*



**Rtn. Sylvia Nabakadde**



## ROTARY AND ROTARACT CLUBS COMMISSION WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM AT NAKIVALE REFUGEE CAMP

In a world where access to clean water remains a luxury for many, a beacon of hope shines bright at Nakivale Refugee Camp, thanks to the collaborative efforts of the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Bwebajja. Supported by the generous funding from We Help Organization, this initiative has culminated in the commissioning of a much-needed water supply system, bringing relief and revitalization to thousands of displaced individuals.

Nakivale Refugee Camp, located in southwestern Uganda, is home to over 100,000 refugees fleeing conflict and persecution from various countries. Amidst the challenges of displacement and uncertainty, access to clean water has been a pressing concern, with many residents having to travel long distances and endure arduous conditions to fetch water for their daily needs.

Recognizing the urgency of the situa-

tion, the Rotary and Rotaract Clubs of Bwebajja rallied together with a shared commitment to make a tangible difference in the lives of those residing in Nakivale Refugee Camp. With unwavering dedication and a spirit of service, they embarked on a mission to provide a sustainable water supply solution that would alleviate the hardships faced by the camp's inhabitants.

Through meticulous planning, diligent fundraising efforts, and collaborative partnerships, the project took shape, culminating in the installation and commissioning of a 10,000-litre reliable water supply and filter system at Samaritan Foundation School which is located within the camp. This system ensures a steady flow of clean and safe water to the residents, promoting better health, hygiene, and overall well-being.

The commissioning ceremony, presided over by Immediate Past District Governor Peace Taremwa, was a momentous occasion filled with joy, gratitude, and renewed hope. It symbolized not only the successful completion of a vital infrastructure project but also the triumph of compassion and solidarity in the face of adversity.

As the water flowed from the taps, so too did a renewed sense of dignity and empowerment for the residents of Nakivale Refugee Camp. No longer burdened by the daily struggle for water, they can now focus on rebuilding their lives and forging a brighter future for themselves and their families.

This project is not just water pipes and filters; it is the power of people coming together to help others. It shows that compassion and teamwork can change the world, and that's a beacon of hope worth celebrating.



*Rotarians had the chance to ask questions, share ideas, and explore potential areas where their efforts could be combined with those of Xtreme Hygiene Solutions to create a stronger synergy."*



## HYGIENE FOR HEALTH: RC BWEBAJJA RECOGNIZES XTREME HYGIENE SOLUTIONS' SUPPORT

Rotary Club of Bwebajja celebrated a special guest at the Corporate Partners Fellowship on 4th March 2024, solidifying the commitment to building strong bonds with club sponsors. The distinguished visitor was none other than Mrs. Christine Mugume, the Managing Director of Xtreme Hygiene Solutions.

The fellowship was a wonderful opportunity for our club to express its sincere appreciation for Xtreme Hygiene Solutions' generous support this Hope Creator year. Xtreme Hygiene Solutions, a key gold sponsor, has played a vital role in enabling the club's various service projects and community initiatives, ultimately improving the lives of those in need.

The evening began with a warm welcome from HCP Annie Ninyesiga on behalf of the club. Annie extended her gratitude to Mrs. Mugume for her company's continued dedication to corporate social responsibility and philanthropy. Eager to learn more, Rotarians and guests were excited to hear Christine's presentation titled "The Impact of Improved Hygiene Practices on Public Health" and also gain insights into the services offered by Xtreme Hygiene Solutions.

Christine's talk focused on the importance of personal hygiene. She highlighted common issues like inadequate handwashing, improper food handling, and neglecting dental care, emphasizing how poor hygiene practices can negatively impact public

health. She also acknowledged the government's crucial role in promoting hygiene through policy development, infrastructure investment, and public education campaigns. Christine even offered suggestions on how Rotarians themselves could contribute to improving hygiene in their communities.

As the fellowship concluded, Rotarians had the chance to ask questions, share ideas, and explore potential areas where their efforts could be combined with those of Xtreme Hygiene Solutions to create a stronger synergy.

The Corporate Partners Fellowship serves as a powerful example of how partnerships and collaboration can create positive change. By fostering strong relationships with corporate sponsors like Xtreme Hygiene Solutions, Rotary Club of Bwebajja is better equipped to make a significant difference in the world, perfectly upholding the ideals of Rotary.



## RC ENTEBBE BASE: CELEBRATING UNITY AND SERVICE

The charter of RC Entebbe Base, a new and vibrant club formed through the partnership of Rotary Clubs Bwebajja, Entebbe and Garuga, marks a significant milestone in Rotary's journey of service and fellowship. This collaborative effort underscores the shared commitment to expanding Rotary's impact and reach within the community. Founded on Rotary's core values of integrity, diversity, service, and leadership, RC Entebbe Base embodies the spirit of innovation and adaptation that defines Rotary in a changing world.

The birth of RC Entebbe Base

celebrates the power of collaboration and unity, highlighting Rotary's ability to address evolving community needs. As we rejoice in this achievement, we honor the dedication and vision of all those involved in making it possible. Together, we embrace the mission of Rotary to advance goodwill and peace through service above self.

RC Entebbe Base invites individuals to join in this journey of service and fellowship, as we work together to make a difference in our communities and beyond. With enthusiasm and optimism, we welcome RC Entebbe Base into the Rotary family, confident that it will continue to uphold Rotary's legacy of impact and excellence.



**Rtn. Brother Innocent Kaleebi**  
*Membership Director*



*Beyond the glamour, the concert served as a reminder of the transformative power of philanthropy, igniting a renewed determination to make a meaningful difference in the world."*



## CELEBRATING GENEROSITY AND IMPACT: RECAP OF THE GATHER FOR IMPACT CONCERT 2024



**PP Miriam Nangonzi Kyeyune**  
*Connecting President  
RC Bwebajja*

As a proud Past President of RC Bwebajja, I am thrilled to share the highlights of the Gather for Impact concert held at Lugogo Cricket Oval on March 30, 2024.

The event celebrated generosity and impact, uniting District 9214 to honor individuals whose unwavering support has significantly influenced positive change. From Paul Harris Fellows to Major Donors, the evening paid homage to those embodying the spirit of service above self.

Our club, RC Bwebajja, was honored with over 10 members acknowledged for their dedication to Rotary's ideals. I was personally recognized as a PHF+2, and our President as a Major Donor, reflecting our commitment to effecting positive change.

The concert itself was an enchanting spectacle, showcasing stellar performances from renowned artists who graced the stage with their unparalleled talent and passion. From the soul-stirring melodies of Madox Ssematimba to the pulsating rhythms of Afrigo Band, and the captivating performances by Elijah Kitale, Double Black, and the sensational Azawi, the audience was enthralled in an evening of entertainment that will linger in memory for years to come.

Beyond the glamour, the concert served as a reminder of the transformative power of philanthropy, igniting a renewed determination to make a meaningful difference in the world.

Let us carry forth the spirit of generosity and service that defines Rotary, creating hope for all.





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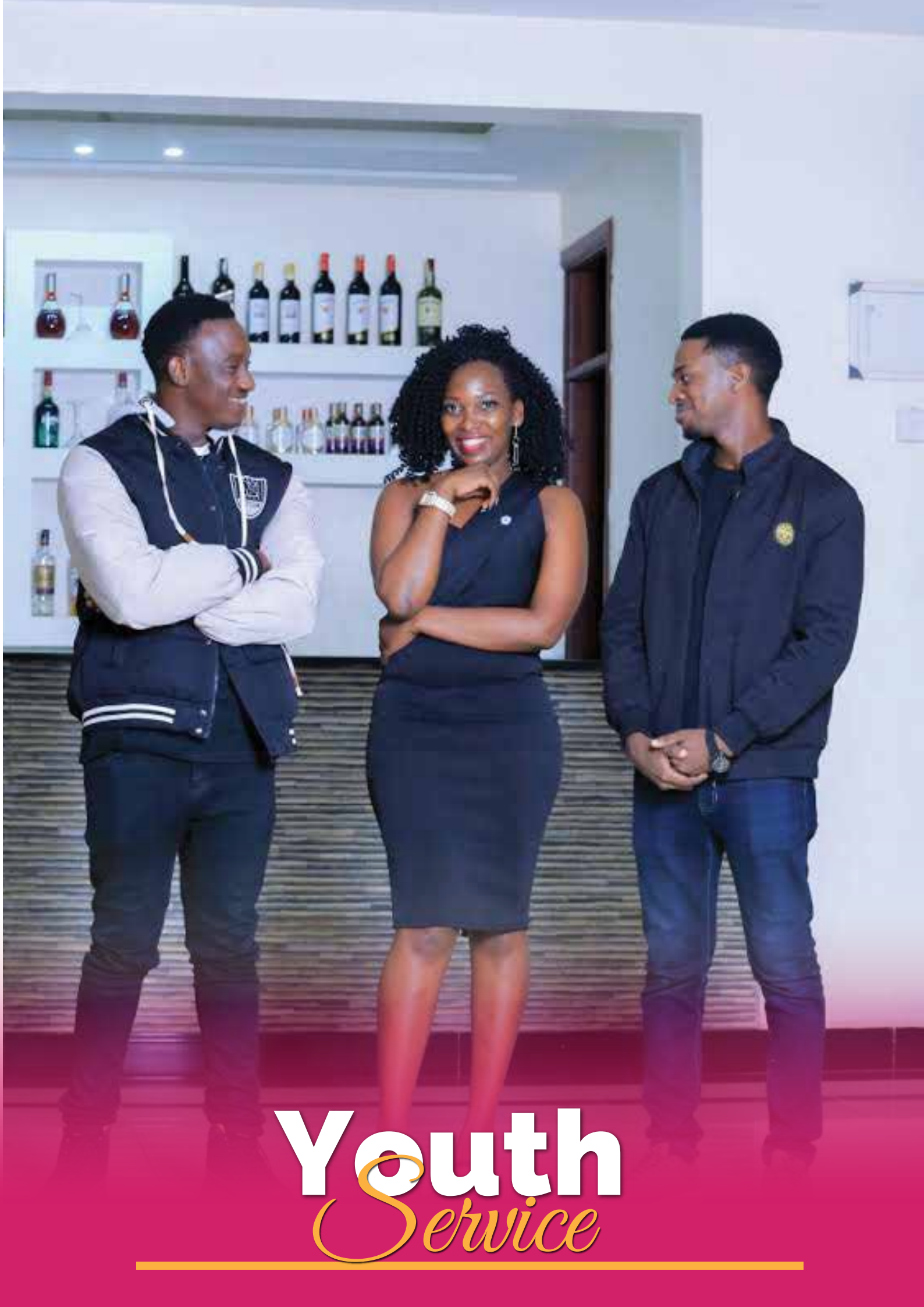
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# Youth *Service*

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# REWRITING THE PERIOD STORY



**Rtr. Rose Namulime**  
*RAC Bwebajja*

Imagine this: you get your period, a completely normal bodily function, and suddenly you feel like you need to hide. That's the reality for many women and girls around the world. Periods have been shrouded in stigma and misinformation for far too long, but the good news is, things are changing.

We all know Aunt Flo, the curse, or whatever euphemism you grew up with. But periods are natural, affecting billions of women and

girls globally. For years, secrecy and shame have surrounded this essential part of life. Just think back to whispers in the hallway or the frantic search for a forgotten tampon. In some cultures, periods are seen as unclean, leading to restrictions and isolation. This doesn't just hurt our confidence; it can also have serious health consequences.

But there's a growing movement to smash the period taboo! Education campaigns are clearing up the myths and spreading accurate information. From local heroes to international organizations, everyone's recognizing that periods are a normal part of life, deserving of respect, not shame.

Here's the thing: not everyone has access to the things they need to manage their period. It's crazy to think that in this day and age, affordable sanitary products are out of reach for many women and girls. This leads to health risks and missed opportunities. Rotary is working hard to change that.

Rotary clubs around the world are working with governments and organizations to provide free or

subsidized menstrual products in schools, workplaces, and public spaces. No one should be held back by their period, and Rotary is on a mission to make that a reality.

There's also a wave of innovation happening in the world of period products. From menstrual cups to period-proof underwear, there are more options than ever before. This not only gives women more control and comfort, but it also reduces environmental waste. It's a win-win for everyone!

But having the right products is just one piece of the puzzle. We need to create a world where periods are openly discussed without fear or embarrassment. It's time to challenge those old stereotypes and embrace menstrual health as a key part of women's rights and well-being.

Imagine a future where periods are a source of pride, not shame. Imagine a world where every woman and girl can manage their period with dignity and confidence. That's the future Rotary is working towards, one period at a time. Let's rewrite the period story together, and create a world where periods are a normal part of life, not something to hide away from.



**Rtr. Kizza Godfrey Lubuuka**  
*RAC Bwebajja*

In conversations about gender equality and empowerment, the focus often leans heavily towards addressing the challenges faced by girls and women. While this attention is crucial and necessary, it's equally important to shine a light on the experiences and needs of boys and young men. It's time we recognize the importance of uplifting and supporting the boy child in our efforts towards building a more inclusive and equitable society.

Boys encounter a myriad of societal pressures and expectations from a young age. They are often taught to suppress emotions, adhere to rigid gender roles, and conform to unrealistic standards of masculinity. These

## **BUILDING A FAIRER WORLD FOR ALL: WHY INVESTING IN BOYS MATTERS**

stereotypes can have detrimental effects on boys' mental health, self-esteem, and overall well-being. Yet, these issues are frequently overlooked or dismissed, overshadowed by the focus on girls' empowerment.

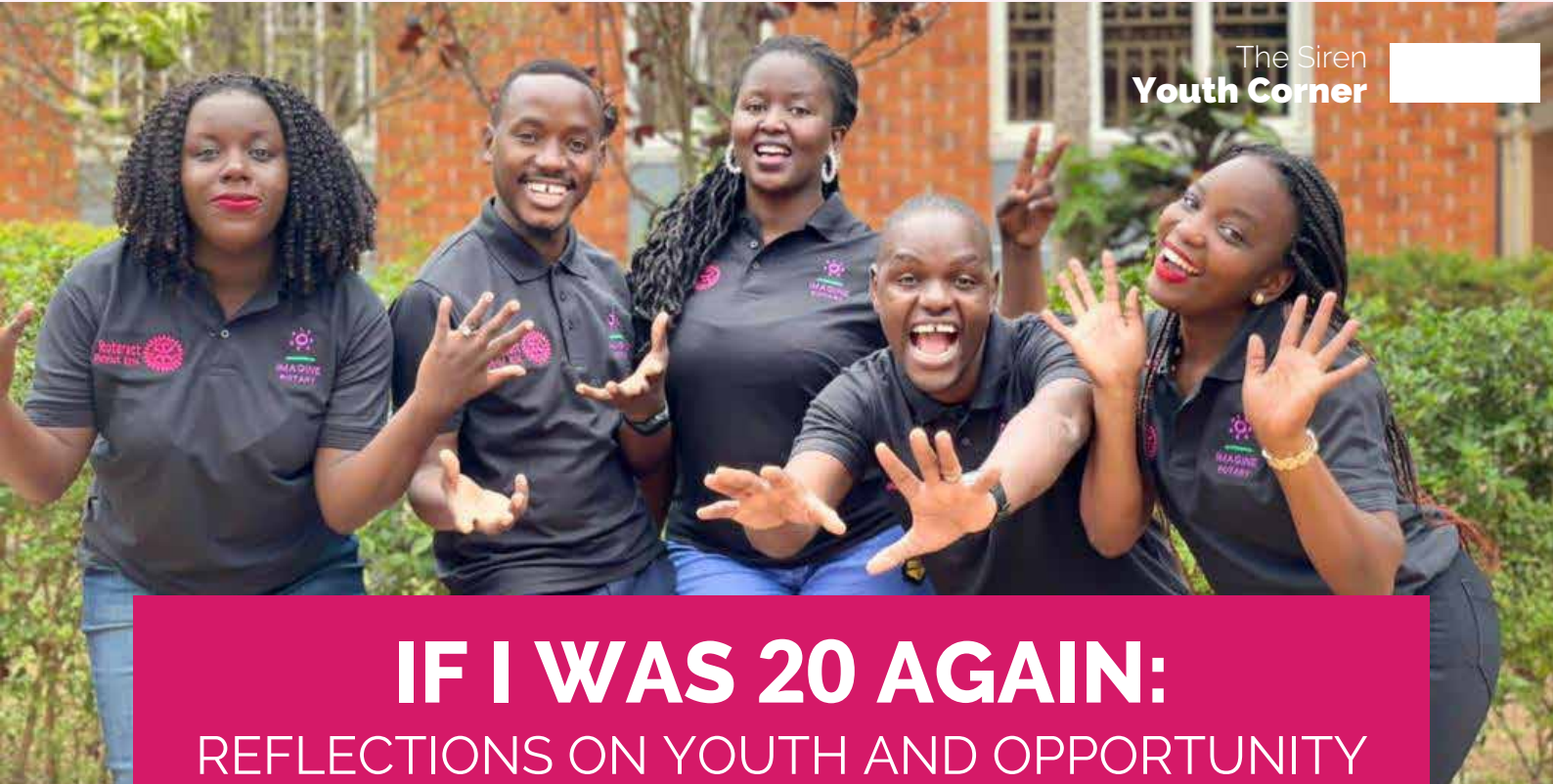
Addressing the needs of the boy child means challenging harmful stereotypes and fostering a more inclusive understanding of masculinity. It means creating spaces where boys feel safe to express their emotions, vulnerabilities, and aspirations without fear of judgment or ridicule. It means promoting positive role models who embody traits such as empathy, compassion, and respect for others—qualities that are often undervalued in traditional notions of manhood.

Education plays a pivotal role in shaping attitudes and beliefs from a young age. It's essential to incorporate lessons on gender equality, consent, and healthy relationships into school curricula, ensuring that boys learn to value and respect the rights and autonomy of all individuals, regardless of gender. By challenging harmful attitudes and behaviors early on, we can cultivate a generation of boys who are allies in the fight for gender equality.

Supporting the boy child also involves

addressing systemic issues such as access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities. Boys from marginalized communities, including those from low-income families or ethnic minorities, often face additional barriers to success. By investing in programs and initiatives that provide support and resources to these boys, we can help level the playing field and ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive.

In our quest for gender equality, let's not forget about the boy child. By acknowledging their experiences and addressing their needs, we can create a more inclusive and equitable world for all genders. It's time we recognize that empowering boys is not a zero-sum game but a crucial step towards building a more just and compassionate society for everyone.



## IF I WAS 20 AGAIN: REFLECTIONS ON YOUTH AND OPPORTUNITY

If I was 20 again, the world would stretch out before me like an endless horizon, filled with boundless possibilities and opportunities waiting to be seized. At that age, the future felt both thrilling and daunting, a blank canvas upon which I could paint my dreams and aspirations.

Looking back, there are many things I would tell my 20-year-old self. I would whisper words of encouragement, reassurance, and advice, knowing now what I didn't know then. I would remind myself to embrace uncertainty, to be open to change, and to trust in my own resilience and resourcefulness.

If I was 20 again, I would prioritize experiences over possessions, understanding that true wealth lies not in material possessions but in the richness of life's experiences. I would travel more, explore new cultures, and immerse myself in unfamiliar surroundings, knowing that it is through stepping outside of our comfort zones that we truly grow and learn.

I would also tell my younger self to cultivate relationships with kindness, empathy, and authenticity. I would cherish the friendships forged in those formative years, knowing that they would become the foundation upon which I would build my life. I would also be more mindful of the impact of my words and actions on others, recognizing the power of compassion and connection to uplift and inspire.

If I was 20 again, I would approach challenges with courage and resilience, knowing that setbacks are not failures but

opportunities for growth and learning. I would embrace failure as a natural part of the journey towards success, understanding that it is through overcoming obstacles that we discover our true strength and potential.

Above all, if I was 20 again, I would remind myself to live in the present moment, to savor the small joys and pleasures of everyday life, and to be grateful for the gift of youth and opportunity. I would seize each day with enthusiasm and purpose, knowing that time is the most precious commodity we possess and that each moment is a chance to create the life we desire.

So to all the 20-year-olds out there, embrace this moment in your life with all the passion, curiosity, and optimism you can muster. The journey ahead may be filled with twists and turns, ups and downs, but know that you have the power to shape your own destiny and create a future that is truly extraordinary. If I was 20 again, I would seize that opportunity with both hands and never look back.

**JB Ssengooba**  
*RAC Bwebajja*





# AFTER 7 YEARS IN ROTARACT, I'M READY TO MAKE THE MOVE



**Rtr. Mutebi Ronald**  
*RAC Bwebajja*

For the past seven years, I've been a proud member of Rotaract, dedicating my time and energy to serving my community and making a difference in the world. It's been an incredible journey filled with unforgettable experiences, meaningful connections, and countless opportunities for personal and professional growth. But as I reflect on my time in Rotaract, I realize that it's time for me to take the next step in my path of service. That's why I've made the decision to join Rotary next month.

This choice hasn't come lightly. Over the years, Rotaract has become a significant part of my life, shaping who I am and what I believe in. I've had the privilege of working alongside inspiring individuals, collaborating on impactful projects, and witnessing the positive change we can create when we come together with a shared vision and purpose.

However, as I approach this milestone in my journey, I feel a calling to expand my horizons, deepen my commitment to service, and take on new challenges. Joining Rotary offers me the opportunity to do just that. It opens doors to

a larger network of experienced professionals, community leaders, and change-makers who are dedicated to making a difference on a global scale.

Through Rotary, I'll have access to a wealth of resources, expertise, and support that can amplify my efforts and enable me to tackle more significant challenges. I'll have the chance to contribute my skills and experience to projects and initiatives that address pressing issues facing communities around the world—from promoting peace and conflict resolution to advancing healthcare, education, and environmental sustainability.

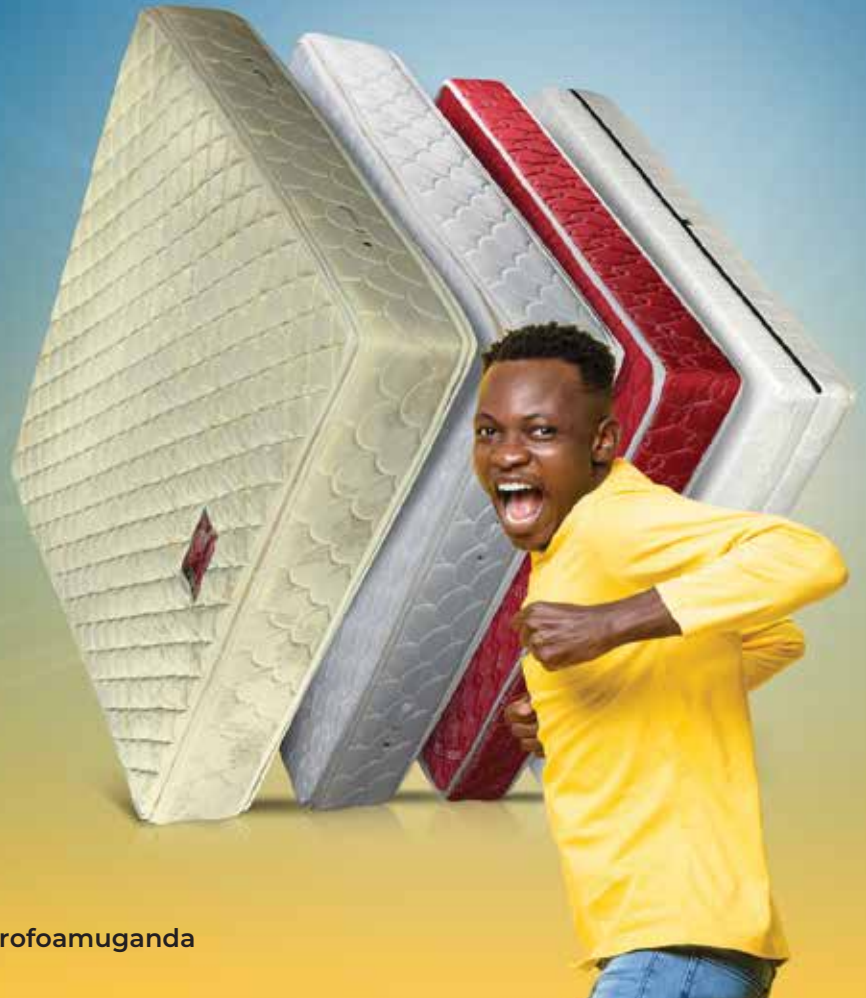
Moreover, transitioning to Rotary allows me to continue my journey of service alongside like-minded individuals who share my values, passions, and commitment to creating positive change. It's an opportunity to build upon the foundation laid by my years in Rotaract, while also embracing new opportunities for growth and leadership.

As I prepare to embark on this new chapter, I feel a mix of excitement and gratitude. I'm grateful for the friendships forged, the lessons learned, and the memories made during my time in Rotaract. And I'm excited for the adventures that lie ahead as I join Rotary and continue my journey of service and leadership in the years to come.



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