

ROTARY HAILED FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT

PHOTO BY SIMON PETER TUMWINE

By Nelson Kiva

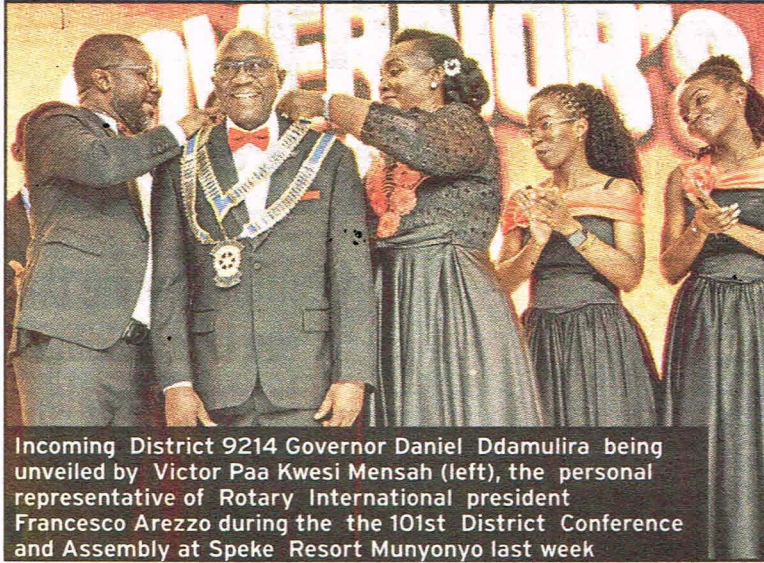
The expanding footprint of the Rotary International in Uganda has drawn praise from both the central government and Buganda kingdom, with leaders citing its growing contribution to community well-being.

The recognition came as Rotary District 9214, which covers Uganda and Tanzania, held its 101st District Conference at Speke Resort Munyonyo in Kampala from April 23-26. The annual gathering marked the close of the 2025/2026 Rotary year.

COMMUNITY PROJECTS

Opening the conference, Speaker of Parliament Anita Among applauded Rotary's role in delivering transformative community projects, while reaffirming Parliament's commitment to partnerships that advance national development.

"We commend Rotary for the work they have done in partnership with the Government," Among said, stressing that national progress cannot be achieved by the Government alone but through collaboration with civil society, the media and development



Incoming District 9214 Governor Daniel Ddamulira being unveiled by Victor Paa Kwesi Mensah (left), the personal representative of Rotary International president Francesco Arezzo during the the 101st District Conference and Assembly at Speke Resort Munyonyo last week

partners. Among revealed that Parliament has supported several Rotary initiatives, including funding extended to the Nsambya Hospital cancer unit. She added that Parliament has contributed sh3b towards the 2026 Rotary Cancer Run, bringing its total contribution since 2016 to sh7.2b.

During the conference, Among

was formally inducted into Rotary by District Governor Christine Kyeyune Kawooya and pledged to become a major donor to the Rotary Foundation with a contribution of \$10,000 (sh37m).

She also paid tribute to Ugandan Rotary leaders gaining global recognition, including Emmanuel

KATIKKIRO SPEAKS OUT

At the closing dinner, the Katikkiro of Buganda, Charles Peter Mayiga, praised Rotary's unique model of service, particularly its commitment to supporting communities beyond immediate social circles.

"In the case of Rotary, support is extended to strangers in far-off places, many of whom may never meet you," Mayiga said.

He also praised Kawooya's leadership, particularly her efforts to improve access to oxygen for newborns and strengthen community health interventions.

Katongole also lauded Kawooya and District 9213 Governor Geoffrey Martin Kitakule for elevating the profile of Rotary in the region, noting that both districts command strong respect within Rotary International.

Katongole, who will represent Africa, the Middle East and Eastern Europe on the Rotary International board, and Francis Tusbura.

The conference also marked a leadership transition, with Daniel Ddamulira unveiled as incoming District Governor, set to replace Kawooya when her term ends on June 30, 2026.

Globally, Rotary continues to expand, with more than 45,000 clubs and an estimated 1.9 million members as of 2026.

FAREWELL

In her farewell address, Kawooya highlighted achievements under her tenure, which focused on maternal and child health, support for teenage mothers, and improvements in water, sanitation and hygiene.

She reported that the district raised over \$1.2m (sh4.4b) for the Rotary Foundation, well above the initial \$600,000 (sh2.2b) target.

Kawooya urged incoming leaders to prioritise teamwork and accountability, cautioning against the pursuit of titles without delivery.

"We must be careful with teams," she said.

Ddamulira called for stronger unity among Rotarians and Rotaractors, noting that collective effort is key to amplifying impact.