



The District Newsletter

September 2026 edition

Create Lasting Impact

Rotary International theme, 2026–2027



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From the editor's desk
Farai Gwaze
District 9210 Newsletter Editorial Team

The people who make Rotary, Rotary

If August was the month we talked about growing membership, September is the month we show why membership matters: the people, the fellowship and the quiet, personal moments that turn a Rotarian into a Rotarian for life.

This issue opens with two stories from the Rotary Club of Harare Central. PAG Dr Nyepudzayi Vanani writes candidly about becoming the club's first woman president in 2002, and Past President Marian Mazingi reflects on twenty-two years of service.

Membership Month's momentum carried into late August. District Governor Sam Chikowore inducted a new member at Borrowdale Brooke, and two days later the club's Rotaract chapter installed Tinashe Hove as President. Bulawayo lived out Ubuntu with support for returnees, Chingola donated three wheelchairs, and the Rotary Club of Belmont's EntraPov programme helped a mushroom grower build her business.

From Zambia we bring a school-visit reflection. In Malawi, Lilongwe City Centre paired a safeguarding conversation with a menstrual hygiene outreach, and Blantyre gathered to watch the Scorchers. On the Copperbelt, Rotarians proved that fellowship is what makes service sustainable.

We close in Harare, where 26 volunteers from the Rotary Club of Highlands and three Rotaract clubs kept Unplugged 2026 running for ten straight hours.

Every one of these stories was written by a Rotarian, about Rotarians, for the district. Keep them coming.

Yours in Rotary Service,
The District 9210 Newsletter Team





Yinka Babalola
President, Rotary International

1.25m

Rotarians by our 125th anniversary in 2030

125,000

Rotaractors by the same date

1.25m is more than a number

Rotary has always been about people. Not projects.
Not numbers. People.

Our goal to reach 1.25 million Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors by our 125th anniversary in 2030 is also about people. I worry that a goal this large may begin to feel abstract, distant from the everyday work of our clubs. I do not want that to happen.

A simple exercise for your club

Look back over the last five to seven years and find your best year. Maybe it was a year new members arrived and, more meaningfully, stayed. Maybe it was a year your meetings became something members looked forward to.

Then do better than your best. This is never a competition between Rotary members. It is an invitation to hold ourselves to our own highest standard and to rise to meet it again.

Behind every one of those numbers is a person whose life could be changed by this organisation, just as mine and yours have been. Rotary has given me friendships that have lasted decades, a sense of purpose I did not know I was searching for and something that came to feel like an extension of my family.

There are people in your communities right now who would find real meaning here, if only someone thought to ask them.

So tell them your story. Tell them honestly how Rotary changed you, not just about the projects you led or the funds you raised but about the person you became. If we hope to Create Lasting Impact, the kind that resounds for generations, we need more people standing beside us to help carry our work forward.

Let's come together, not only this month but every month of every year, to make Rotary stronger, more joyful and more like the family it has always been to me.

Yinka

President, Rotary International



Find your best year. Then let us be better than our best, together.

From the District Governor

Basic Education and Literacy Month

Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors, Interactors and friends of Rotary across Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique,

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month, a time when Rotary places special emphasis on one of the most powerful tools we can give any individual or community: education.

Education is more than learning to read and write. It is the foundation upon which opportunity is built. It gives a child confidence to dream, equips a young person to pursue a future, empowers adults to participate meaningfully in their communities and gives families a pathway out of poverty.

When we educate one person, we create possibilities. When we educate a community, we change generations.

Already happening across District 9210

- ◆ Supporting schools
- ◆ Donating books
- ◆ Improving learning environments
- ◆ Providing scholarships
- ◆ Developing libraries
- ◆ Promoting digital literacy
- ◆ Supporting teachers
- ◆ Ensuring vulnerable children can learn

But this month, I challenge us to go further.

Read on for what that looks like in practice.



Samuel Taurai Chikowore

District Governor 2026–2027
Rotary District 9210

**Together, we educate.
Together, we empower.
Together,
we transform.**

Let us move from donation to transformation

It is wonderful to donate books. But...

Can children read and understand them?

It is wonderful to build classrooms. But...

Do teachers have the resources they need to teach effectively?

It is wonderful to provide school supplies. But...

What is stopping the most vulnerable children from staying in school?

Our Rotary projects must not simply provide things. They must create measurable, sustainable change.

One action, every club, this September

I encourage every Rotary and Rotaract club in District 9210 to identify at least one meaningful action that advances Basic Education and Literacy in its community:

- ◆ Visit a school
- ◆ Support a reading programme
- ◆ Establish or strengthen a library
- ◆ Mentor a learner
- ◆ Provide learning materials
- ◆ Support teacher development
- ◆ Promote adult literacy
- ◆ Explore digital learning opportunities
- ◆ Partner with communities to improve the environments in which our children learn



Book distribution at Rudhanda Primary School, Zimbabwe.

And importantly, listen before we act

Speak to teachers. Speak to parents. Speak to learners. Speak to education authorities. Understand the real need, and then use Rotary's networks, partnerships and resources to respond effectively.

Our goal should never simply be to say, 'Rotary was here.' Our goal should be that, years later, a child whose life was changed can say, 'Because Rotary was here, my future is different.'

There are classrooms waiting to be improved, teachers waiting to be supported, books waiting to be opened and young minds waiting to discover what is possible. Let us reach them.

Samuel Taurai Chikowore
District Governor 2026–2027





Mwaka Zamchiya

District Public Image Chair 2026–2027

The PI Lens

Are we as good at telling our stories as we are at doing the work? The gap isn't effort. It's framing.

Across District 9210, clubs support schools, provide books and learning materials, improve classrooms, award scholarships and mentor young people. A club will often spend weeks preparing a literacy drive, sourcing books, coordinating volunteers, showing up at a school on a Saturday morning and even reading with the children.

What happens after that? A few photos land in a WhatsApp group, some are posted to Facebook with the caption "Great turnout today!", and that's it. The

story ends there, known only to the people who were in the room.

This month, focus on proper storytelling. Instead of "Our club donated 200 books to a local school", which is informative only, move to descriptive reporting. Tell us why those books mattered. Who will read them? What challenge was the school facing? What difference will the project make?

And make sure the communication is recognisably Rotary: the correct club logo, strong photographs, clean design and consistent Rotary branding.

Three things to try on your next literacy project

Chase the moment, not the line-up

No more rows of ten Rotarians smiling at the camera. A photo of one child mid-laugh over a new book, or a volunteer kneeling to read at eye level, tells people why it mattered.

Borrow someone else's voice

A single quote from a teacher, parent or student changes everything. For example, "Now I don't have to share a book with four other people." Ask the question, write down the answer, use it in your story.

Post while it is still warm

Within forty-eight hours or less. A story shared a week later reads like an afterthought. Shared the same evening, it reads like something happening right now.

Your turn, D9210

Conduct a basic education or literacy project and tell the impact story, not simply the activity. Use a compelling photograph, apply correct Rotary branding and, most importantly, show us whom Rotary's work has helped and how their life or opportunity has changed.

Good work deserves to be seen. Let us make sure ours is consistently seen!

#alwayschoosekindness





PAG Dr Nyepudzayi Vanani

1996

The family becomes involved with the Rotary Club of Harare Central when PAG Vanani becomes a Rotarian. She becomes a Rotary Ann.

October 2002

She is inducted as the club's first woman President.

Today

The club is close to 60% female, with a very young membership.



PAG Vanani at a Rotary event.

Zimbabwe

Focus on women membership in Rotary at Harare Central

By **PAG Dr Nyepudzayi Vanani**, with Past President Marian Mazingi

Shattering a glass ceiling

As a couple, and as the Nyangulu household and family, we became involved with the Rotary Club of Harare Central in 1996, when the head of our family, PAG Vanani, became a Rotarian. I became a Rotary Ann. At that time, all the ladies were white and were visibly uncomfortable having me around them.

At one "bring and share" cheese and wine meeting, I accepted half a glass of wine from one of the ladies. To demean and embarrass me, she later spread a story among the club that I had finished her bottle.

I was, quite literally, walking into hostile territory, and it stayed with me all the way to my presidency year and beyond.

One of the club members, President Elect Don McDonald, saw my plight and my potential to become a Rotarian in my own right. He proposed my name for membership.

I became the first woman inducted as President of the club, in October 2002. There was huge resistance, not only to my joining but to my becoming President. Some left the club; many remained but continued to be unfriendly and unwelcoming. I was attacked from all fronts, including about my job at the President's Office. Some said I was an informer, others said I was anti-white.

Wives were allowed to be involved only as Rotary Anns, a much lower position than the male members. I believe this had a lot to do with power dynamics, both in the marketplace and in the home.

In my acceptance speech I did not refer to the resistance. I spoke instead about the good that women could bring to the life of the club and to Rotary's work. I chose to act positively in the face of a negative reception.



Passing the baton

Next came Past President Marian, who joined the club through the Rotary Exchange Programme after her year in Brazil. As my year as President was coming to an end, I pushed for her to become President Elect, knowing it might otherwise take a long time before another woman became President.

This is how we managed to shatter the glass ceiling I had broken earlier. We teamed up and got down to work to prove our worth as equal members alongside our male counterparts.

Our club's membership has changed completely, from mostly older male members to a very young membership. This is good for Rotary, and it shows that we have a future.

~60%

of Harare Central's members are now women, a change PAG Vanani calls "certainly unthinkable during my time".

PAG Vanani's advice to Rotarians

- ◆ Do Rotary as unto the Lord, giving it your commitment, time, resources and prayers.
- ◆ Use the networks to grow professionally and in humanitarian work.
- ◆ Participate in club activities and enjoy them.
- ◆ Attend as many Discons and RI Conventions as you can, and be part of the global Rotary family.
- ◆ When you hit a block or negativity, focus on Rotary's end goal: humanity, and making a difference for many.



Past President Marian Mazingi

◆ Story two

From a youth exchange to President of Harare Central

In my early years I was always asked to do the attendance table and most of the running around, partly because I was the youngest member. It gave me the chance to know every member of the club and to manage our database. The Rotary Group Study Exchange Programme to Southern Brazil gave me life-changing experiences and helped me understand true and meaningful service.

The book project I ran at the Joburg Warehouse, from 2009 to 2010, with schools in Harare earned me the Booklegger Pin from the Rotary Club of Midrand. The schools that benefited still use the donations to this day. PAG Dr Nyepudzayi Vanani was my mentor: she nominated me to become a Rotarian and she believed in me.

Harare Central memories

- ◆ Early-morning bird watching and breakfast outings
- ◆ Farmhouse fellowship
- ◆ Holiday expeditions to Vumba
- ◆ Hosting exchange teams
- ◆ Progressive lunches
- ◆ The Gift of Life project
- ◆ Makumbe Orphanage project, with the Rotary Club of New Tampa, USA
- ◆ Howard Hospital project, with the Rotary Club of Whitby, Canada
- ◆ St Giles donation, with the Rotary Club of Newcastle upon Tyne



My Rotary Story: Past President Marian Mazingi

Twenty-two years on, the desire to serve is still what defines her. Now, in Membership and New Club Development Month, she reflects on the spark, on how Rotary has changed, and on why she proudly wears the pin.

Almost clocking 22 years in Rotary is no mean business.

Past President Marian Mazingi, Rotary Club of Harare Central · Rotary Foundation Alumna · Paul Harris Fellow · has served the club and District 9210 in various positions

Why I joined

Joining Rotary helped me fully use and scale up my vocational skills, expand and diversify my fellowship and business networks, and give back to communities near and far. I created lasting impact through projects that broke cycles of poverty, isolation and exclusion, and strengthened friendships on a platform that fosters gainful and effective engagement. The Rotary motto guides me daily.

Why I stayed

The fun, laughter and camaraderie that connect Rotarians from club to club and district to district. The professional encounters that teach valuable life skills. The mentorship of young students into responsible citizens. The regional and international travel to Discons and Conventions: Rotary never shortchanges you on exciting destinations.

26

clubs visited on a Group Study Exchange in Brazil, hosted by District 4660, Rio Grande do Sul

The exchange that shaped her

Her Group Study Exchange, hosted by District 4660, covered Southern Brazil and Northern Argentina. "It was phenomenal," she says. "The thousand smiles Rotarians create through small, medium or very large grants, continuous learning and new ideas make me a very rich and valuable member of society." Her closing words: "I am a winner, and I wear the Rotary pin with total commitment."



Photographs from PP Marian's Rotary journey.

For PP Marian, twenty-two years of service are an invitation to the next generation of leaders. Members may join out of curiosity or a desire to give back; they stay because of the sense of purpose and community they build along the way.





District Governor Samuel Chikowore with a new member at the RCBB meeting.

◆ Zimbabwe

Borrowdale Brooke welcomes DG Chikowore in a night of vision, fellowship and new members

**Thursday 20
August 2026**

Borrowdale Brooke
Country Club

17:00–18:30

Closed
board meeting

18:30–20:00

Open to members
and public

The Rotary Club of Borrowdale Brooke (RCBB) hosted District Governor Rtn. Samuel Chikowore in an evening that captured the essence of the Rotary spirit.

DG Chikowore delivered an impassioned address, challenging every Rotarian to take personal ownership of this year's mission. He called on members to market the Rotary brand, grow club membership and deepen community partnerships.

What we perceive, we can achieve. This is the year where we create lasting impact, and I want each and every member to say, 'I did play a part in that.'

District Governor Samuel Chikowore

A historic year for Africa

The DG reminded the club that its strong foundation giving in the prior year proved no goal is beyond reach when Rotarians commit. He placed 2026/27 in its global context: it is only the second time in Rotary's 121-year history that Africa holds the Rotary International Presidency, a historic call to excellence across the continent in membership, service, visibility and foundation giving.

A full-circle moment

A new member, Rtn. Ruvimbo Chakona, was inducted in the District Governor's presence. DG Chikowore was himself inducted into Rotary by a visiting District Governor, making this a moment of Rotary's most cherished tradition: paying forward the invitation once extended to you.

It took someone to invite you to come through that door to be called a Rotarian. Why not extend the same invitation to others?

Welcome, Rtn.
Ruvimbo Chakona





Rotaract Club of Borrowdale Brooke Presidential Induction Ceremony, The Firepit, Harare.

A legacy in the making: Rotaract Club of Borrowdale Brooke installs President Tinashe Hove

Saturday 22 August 2026

The Firepit, Harare

President 2026/27

Rtr. Tinashe Hove

Theme

Service Above Self

Two days after the District Governor's visit, the spirit of service and succession was on full display as the Rotaract Club of Borrowdale Brooke held its Presidential Induction Ceremony.

RCBB President Rtn. Louis Kasekende attended as special guest, and invited current and former Rotaractors of age to consider transitioning to RCBB, pointing to abundant opportunities for service, including an ongoing project needs assessment at Sally Mugabe Central Hospital.

Let this installation be a re-awakening of our relationship, and let us re-commit to the vision of the founding fathers of this club.

RCBB President Rtn. Louis Kasekende

14

years of community impact by the Rotaract Club of Borrowdale Brooke, including the Spelling Bee programme and sanitary wear initiatives

From vision to club presidents

The vision

Past President Phil Mlambo saw the need for a space where young men and women could develop their leadership and service ethic.

The execution

The vision was entrusted to PAG Kudakwashe Vincent Nyemba to execute.

14 years on

A pipeline of leaders: Past Presidents Farai Gwaze and Zenzo Samkange, and IPP Paida Murapa, have served as RCBB club presidents.

Current RCBB members Nobukhosi Ndlovu, Tafara Maziriri and Tamuka Chinyadza, the club's Chair of Finance, are further testament to that pipeline. President Kasekende added: "We stand here to celebrate a vision come true." Both clubs enter 2026/27 with renewed purpose, a shared legacy and a common call: Service Above Self.



◆ Zimbabwe

Ubuntu in action: Rotary Club of Bulawayo supports returnees

Ubuntu is humanity towards others. It reminds us that, regardless of race, colour or creed, we are what we are because of who we all are.



Donated toiletries and cleaning materials.

100,000+

people processed since the programme began, according to facility leaders

4

full buses arrive on average each night

22:00

to 02:00: when most buses arrive. Transfers leave at 07:00

The Rotary Club of Bulawayo sprang into action, bringing in District Governor Samuel Chikowore and Assistant Governors and Past Assistant Governors from various clubs, to help people in need after anti-migrant unrest in South Africa. Since May 2026, scores of men, women and children have returned home without food, clothes or basic necessities, forced to rebuild their lives from scratch.

The UCCSA (United Congregational Church of Southern Africa) provided a transit camp and reception centre at its premises in Njube, Bulawayo. Partners including the Zimbabwe Council of Churches and the wider business and civic community helped, while government arms including Home Affairs, the civil

registry and the Ministry of Health and Child Care provided documentation, registration, healthcare and transfers back to returnees' original homes.

What the needs assessment found. Church leaders said this was the only facility of its kind in Zimbabwe. Everyone needed to be fed, treated and given a place to sleep before the 07:00 transfers. Detergents, toiletries and clothing were fast-moving.

The Rotary Club of Bulawayo identified cleaning materials and toiletries as being of utmost importance, especially for mothers and children, in line with the district's focus areas of disease prevention and maternal and child health. The Ministry of Health also flagged an urgent need for an examination bed.



Rotarians and Rotaractors at the Njube transit centre.

In August 2026, Rotarians donated an examination bed, detergents and toiletries, delivered to the Njube UCCSA transit centre.

The number of returnees has reduced, but the need to help has not. As the Four-Way Test asks us, dig deep and be the change we hope to see: no good deed is ever too big or too small.



◆ Zambia

Three wheelchairs, three lives touched

By **Tilyenji Mwanza**, Chingola, Zambia · 11 August 2026

Rotary Chingola Metro brings hope to three families.

For Gibson and Cosmas, life changed in ways no family could have imagined. The 30-year-old twins from Nchanga North were growing up normally until, about eight years ago, illness began to change the course of their lives. They progressively lost motor function in their lower limbs and have depended heavily on their mother for support. Around the same time, the twins also stopped talking.

For years, their mother has cared for both sons while the family struggled to access the diagnostic care needed to understand their condition. On 11 August, that changed a little.

3

wheelchairs
donated by Rotary
Chingola Metro

8

years since the
twins lost
motor function

25

years Nicholas has
lived with the
same condition

Rotary Chingola Metro donated three wheelchairs to community members living with mobility challenges: Gibson, Cosmas and 53-year-old Nicholas Mvula. Nicholas is a former rugby player who represented Nchanga Rugby Club and later the Zambia national rugby team.

The wheelchairs were made possible through an international Rotary partnership between clubs in Zambia and the United Kingdom, spearheaded by the Minehead and The Quantocks Rotary Club with PhysioNet, bringing mobility aids to communities across the Copperbelt.

It is a mother carrying a little less weight. It is a person being given back a measure of independence. And it is a reminder that they have not been forgotten.

The journey for Gibson, Cosmas and Nicholas continues. They still need appropriate medical and social support. But today three people have something that makes daily life a little easier: three wheelchairs, three lives touched, and a reminder that a simple act of kindness can help someone move forward.



Wheelchair handover, Chingola.





Learners with Study Buddy materials.

◆ Zambia

What a school visit taught me about the power of service

By **Annette Chiluba**, Rotary Peace Fellow Candidate, Luanshya, Zambia

I have always believed that education can change the direction of a person's life. Growing up in Mansa, Zambia, I saw how unequal access to opportunities can shape what children believe is possible.

That is why my experience with the Study Buddy Project has stayed with me. It is organised by the Rotary Club of Luanshya with its partners, the Rotary Club of Redding West and Rotary District 5160 in the United States. I visited schools, worked alongside Rotarians and volunteers, and was warmly welcomed by Rtn. Professor Sherry Coleman and the Rotary Club of Luanshya team.

What moved me most was not simply seeing children receive educational materials. It was watching their excitement as they explored them, singing, smiling and proudly displaying what they had received.

I sat with learners and helped them explore the materials. Community service is not simply about giving something to someone. It is also about showing up, listening, engaging, and helping people feel seen and valued. The visit connected with my work through the Howard Legacy Project, which supports young people through school visits, mentorship and education-focused activities.



Rotary Club of Luanshya team at a classroom visit. **Thank you, Rotary!**

*You are already doing that,
Making a Difference.*

Words spoken to Annette when she was given a Rotary pin



Helping a learner explore a Study Buddy chart.

It also reminded me that my mother did not have the opportunity to receive a formal education. As children, we would share with her what we had learned at school. Knowledge could pass from one person to another and, in doing so, benefit an entire family. When we invest in a child, we invest in a family, a community and the future.

◆ Zimbabwe

Creating lasting impact: EntraPov and Thandazile Magunje

The Rotary Club of Belmont's EntraPov programme is turning training, guidance and resources into sustainable businesses.



Mushroom growers.

For Thandazile Magunje, the journey towards growing her mushroom business began with a conversation with her supervisor, Faithful Moyo, a member of the Rotary Club of Belmont, who introduced her to EntraPov, a project of the club.

She found the training highly interactive and practical, with a strong focus on financial literacy and marketing. The financial support has also let her invest directly in production. Production is now expanding, with plans to grow into a larger space in Matobo.

What she learned

- ◆ To separate business finances from household finances
- ◆ To pay herself as an employee
- ◆ To track her daily expenditure

What it made possible

- ◆ Buying mushroom-production inputs in bulk
- ◆ A knapsack sprayer for watering
- ◆ Confidence to see her enterprise as potentially investor ready



Mushroom production supported by EntraPov.

As I track my sales and expenditure, I am noticing the order in my work.

Thandazile Magunje

I want to start as a volunteer and Friend of Rotary, because their positive community impact, vision, mission and strategy motivates me. I also love to give back to my community.

EntraPov has paved ways for me to move myself from poverty to reach my greatest potential.

Her message to supporters and beneficiaries alike is simple: trust the process. She describes EntraPov as giving beneficiaries both the compass for the treasure and the tools to access it.



◆ Malawi

From learning to service: Lilongwe City Centre brings Membership Month to life

Membership is more than numbers. In August, the Rotary Club of Lilongwe City Centre showed how learning, fellowship and collaboration can turn membership into meaningful service.

6 August 2026

An evening on safeguarding

An information session and fellowship led by Rtn. Simon Musopole of the Rotary Club of Lilongwe Lingadzi, who also represents Malawi on the District Protection Committee. Members asked questions, shared feedback and reflected on what safeguarding means in practice.



The safeguarding session.

13 August 2026

Outreach in Mtandire

With Raine's Clinic in Mtandire, Lilongwe, the club, led by President Mackion Mpukusa Phiri, donated menstrual hygiene dignity kits for young women and girls in the community.



Dignity kits handed over in Mtandire.

MK4,000,000

approximate value of the menstrual hygiene dignity kits donated ("close to MK4,000,000")

Collaboration behind the kits

The club's sister club, the Rotary Club of Lilongwe Lingadzi, supported the outreach through its women's empowerment projects by producing the reusable menstrual pads included in the kits. By sharing skills, resources and experience, the two clubs extended their collective reach. Collaboration also creates a welcoming pathway for prospective members: when people see service in action, they can experience what Rotary represents rather than simply hear about it.

Membership is not simply about bringing more people into Rotary. It is about creating meaningful connections that enable people to participate, contribute and find purpose.



As a young and growing club, Lilongwe City Centre believes its greatest asset is its people and the relationships they build. Lasting impact does not always begin with a grand idea. Sometimes it begins with a conversation, a partnership and a group of people willing to show up.

Members of the Rotary Club of Lilongwe City Centre.



Rotary Club de Chimoio
Rotary
 Rotary Club de Chimoio Planalto
 D9210



**Rotary Healthy
 Communities Challenge
 Mozambique**

DELIVERY OF BICYCLES AND INCENTIVES FOR APS



Within the scope of the Rotary Health Community Challenge (RHCC) project, 76 bicycles, medicine kits, and food products were delivered to the project's primary healthcare units APS in Manica. The event was presided over by the District Administrator, Mr. P. Raposo, with PDG João Bettencourt representing Rotary.

**Location: Manica,
 Manica, Mozambique**

RHCC is a consortium between Rotary, World Vision, PATH, and MISAU. A team of volunteers from RCChimoio contributed to the success of the event. The bicycles were then transported to the locations of each APS. July 28, 2026



The issue in numbers

Figures as reported by the contributing clubs in this edition.

100,000+

people processed at the Njube transit centre since the programme began, according to facility leaders

Ubuntu in action, page 12

76

bicycles delivered to primary healthcare units in Manica

Mozambique, page 17

3

wheelchairs donated by Rotary Chingola Metro

Chingola, page 13

26

volunteers at Unplugged 2026, of 30 needed across 10 stations

Unplugged, page 21

~60%

of Harare Central's members are women

Women in Rotary, page 8

14

years of the Borrowdale Brooke Rotaract pipeline to club presidency

Club news, page 11

MK4m

approximate value of dignity kits donated (close to MK4,000,000)

Lilongwe, page 16

22

years of Rotary service for PP Marian Mazingi

My Rotary Story, page 9

121

years of Rotary; 2026/27 is only the second time Africa holds the RI Presidency

Club news, page 10

1.25m

Rotarians and 125,000 Rotaractors: Rotary International's goal for 2030, our 125th anniversary

RI President, page 3



Malawi's Scorchers celebrate.

◆ Malawi

Membership: a night of fellowship, pride and history

By **Rtn. Rumbidzai Bere**, Membership Chair, Rotary Club of Blantyre

On the evening of 16 August 2026, the Rotary Club of Blantyre gathered for a private, intimate celebration of national pride at an exclusive theatre in the heart of the southern city. Seasoned and fairly new members came together to witness history: Malawi's women's national football team, the Scorchers, competing in the WAFCON 2026 final against Cameroon in Morocco.

The atmosphere was electric. The friendly host served popcorn and drinks while members were welcome to bring their own beverage. As the match began, conversations hushed and eyes fixed on the screen.

For Malawi, this was a first. The women's team had defied expectations and put the nation firmly on the continental map. For the club, it reflected values it holds dear: perseverance, teamwork and service above self. Mature members reflected on how far the country had come, while younger Rotarians saw in the team's journey a mirror of their own aspirations.

Second

The Scorchers ended as runners-up in their first WAFCON final

Automatic qualification for the 2027 FIFA Women's World Cup in Brazil

The team walked away with US\$750,000 and a Golden Boot for Temwa Chawinga as top scorer.

The fellowship was about identity, and about celebrating women who carried the flag of Malawi with dignity and courage. As the final whistle blew, emotions ran high. Members embraced, cheered and some shed tears of joy. In that moment the club was more than a humanitarian service organisation; it was a family, united by pride in its nation and its daughters.

When individuals come together with purpose, they can achieve greatness that resonates far beyond their immediate circle.



Members of the Rotary Club of Blantyre.

In Membership and New Club Development Month, the club chose to step out of the normal environment to create this special moment, a reminder that clubs can weave national pride into their traditions and strengthen bonds to Create Lasting Impact.





Fellowship at the braai, Kumbaya gardens.

◆ Zambia

The Kopala Derby: Copperbelt Rotarians unite for fellowship

By **Tilyenji Mwanza**, with the Rotary Club of Kalulushi

If there is one thing Rotary knows how to do, it is serve, connect and, every now and then, have a really good time.

On Saturday 22 August 2026, the Rotary Club of Kalulushi hosted a Team Building, Networking and Fellowship Braai at the green gardens of Kumbaya, aptly dubbed The Kopala Derby. Rotarians, families and friends travelled in to join the host club. It was, quite literally, a Copperbelt affair.

The bring-a-dish affair had braai stands firing up, drinks flowing and plates filling up. Games and team-building activities brought out the child in everyone, and the inevitable Zambian 30 Seconds showdown made its appearance. Then came the main event: Ladies vs Gents. What happened next shall remain firmly within the bounds of fellowship.

With August being Membership Month, the gathering was a reminder that Rotary is not only about meetings, projects and service. It is also about the friendships that keep members engaged. Music, dancing and plenty of laughter lifted the atmosphere, and conversations flowed freely across club boundaries: new friendships were formed and existing ones strengthened.

Who came

Host: Rotary Club of Kalulushi
Visiting clubs: Ndola, Chingola, Chililabombwe, Kitwe, Kitwe North and the newly formed Copperbelt Rotary Club of Solwezi

If it's not fun, then it's not Rotary!

The Rotary Club of Kalulushi thanks all the participating clubs, Rotarians, families and friends, from those who brought food and refreshments to those who played the games and helped with preparations.

Food. Laughter. Games. Friendship. Fellowship. Service may be at the heart of what we do, but fellowship is what keeps the heart beating.





The District 9210 stand at Unplugged 2026, Harare.

Zimbabwe

Service in full swing: District 9210 shows up for Unplugged 2026

Saturday 29 August 2026

12pm to 10pm

First Capital Bank Sports Club

Ten straight hours

When the curtain rose on Unplugged 2026, Zimbabwe's premier live music and lifestyle festival, it was not just artists commanding the spotlight. Behind the scenes, and at every station from the entrance gates to the VIP area, members of Rotary District 9210 were quietly making it all happen.

A combined contingent of 26 volunteers, drawn from the Rotary Club of Highlands and three Rotaract clubs, served as the event's volunteer backbone. Unplugged demanded sustained energy, organisation and people skills. District 9210 delivered on all three.

Together, we made Unplugged unforgettable.



Volunteers at the Unplugged entrance arch.



Welcome desk at the District 9210 stand.

26

District 9210 volunteers

30

volunteers needed across 10 stations, from entrance points and parking to backstage, production and the VIP area



Who showed up

5

Rotary Club of Highlands

14

Rotaract Club of the University of Zimbabwe

5

Rotaract Club of Greystone Park

2

Borrowdale Brooke

26 volunteers in total, drawn to scale.

Leading the charge: Rotary Club of Highlands

Five volunteers and a seasoned leadership presence set the tone. **PDG Stella Dongo**, whose service record and hands-on commitment inspire Rotarians across the district, was on the ground. **President Rachel Matsika** led from the front, and **PP Chipo Nyangulu Zingunde** brought the institutional dedication that has long defined the club's service identity.

Special commendation

AG Colleta Mudondo served as primary volunteer coordinator for the entire activation, managing logistics, liaising with event organisers and ensuring all stations were properly resourced.

Rotaract rises: three clubs, one purpose

Rotaract clubs brought remarkable energy, contributing 21 volunteers between them. The **University of Zimbabwe** club was the single largest contributor with 14 members. **Greystone Park** deployed five volunteers who held their stations with professionalism throughout the long day, and **Borrowdale Brooke** rounded out the team.



Volunteers at work, from set-up to the bar.

A district that shows up

Senior Rotarians and enthusiastic Rotaractors worked side by side, a living demonstration of how Rotary's mentorship culture translates into real-world action. For many younger volunteers, serving alongside leaders like PDG Stella Dongo and President Rachel Matsika was itself an education in servant leadership. When the community needs hands, ours are the first raised.

Rotary District 9210 | People of Action #Unplugged2026 #D9210Serves #ServiceAboveSelf



The month in pictures

More moments from across District 9210.



Rotary Club of Lilongwe City Centre with community members at the Mtandire outreach, Malawi.



Addressing the Rotaract Club of Borrowdale Brooke installation, Harare.



A site visit connected to the EntraPov story.



A solar dryer on show to visitors.



Preparing the food at the Kopala Derby, Kumbaya gardens.



Guests at the Borrowdale Brooke evening with the District Governor.



Members at the Borrowdale Brooke evening, with the club bell.

Your turn, District 9210

Five ways to Create Lasting Impact this month, all taken from this edition.

Do one thing for education

Identify at least one meaningful action for Basic Education and Literacy Month: visit a school, support a reading programme, mentor a learner or strengthen a library. Listen before you act. **District Governor's challenge, page 5.**

- ◆ Visit a school
- ◆ Support a reading programme
- ◆ Establish or strengthen a library
- ◆ Mentor a learner

Invite one person

Tell them how Rotary changed you. **Page 3.**

Find your best year

Then do better than your best. **Page 3.**

Tell the impact story

Chase the moment, borrow someone else's voice and post within forty-eight hours. Use the correct Rotary branding. **The PI Lens, page 6.**

Send us your story

Submit your club's projects, inductions and milestones for the District 9210 newsletter.

With thanks

Lasting impact is never delivered alone. These partners are named in this edition's stories.

Minehead and The Quantocks Rotary Club (UK) and PhysioNet

Spearheaded the partnership behind the three wheelchairs donated in Chingola, Zambia.

Rotary Club of Redding West and Rotary District 5160 (USA)

Partners of the Rotary Club of Luanshya in the Study Buddy Project.

UCCSA, Zimbabwe Council of Churches, and the wider business and civic community

Supported returnees at the Njube transit centre in Bulawayo, alongside Home Affairs, the civil registry and the Ministry of Health and Child Care.

Rotary, World Vision, PATH and MISAU

The consortium behind the Rotary Health Community Challenge in Mozambique.

Rotary Club of Lilongwe Lingadzi and Raine's Clinic

Produced the reusable pads and partnered on the Mtandire outreach in Malawi.

Rotary Club of Belmont and Faithful Moyo

Ran the EntraPov programme that supported Thandazile Magunje.

Long-standing club partners of Harare Central

Rotary Club of New Tampa (USA), Rotary Club of Whitby (Canada), Rotary Club of Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) and Rotary Club of Midrand (South Africa).

Unplugged 2026 organisers

Recognised the district's contingent of 26 volunteers at First Capital Bank Sports Club.

Contributors to this issue

Yinka Babalola, Samuel Taurai Chikowore, Mwaka Zamchiya, PAG Dr Nyepudzayi Vanani, PP Marian Mazingi, Tilyenji Mwanza, Annette Chiluba, Rtn. Rumbidzai Bere, the Rotary Club of Bulawayo, the Rotary Club of Belmont, the Rotary Club of Lilongwe City Centre, the Rotary Clubs of Chimoio and the District 9210 Newsletter Team.

Photography

Photograph of the Scorchers: State House Malawi. All other photographs were supplied with the contributors' stories.



Lasting impact is never delivered alone.



Have a story for the next issue?

Submit your club's projects, inductions and milestones for the District 9210 newsletter.

Every story in this edition was written by a Rotarian, about Rotarians, for the district.

Rotary District 9210 | People of Action

#alwayschoosekindness #Unplugged2026 #D9210Serves #ServiceAboveSelf

