

"IT IS ABOUT KNOWING RESOURCES WE HAVE, HOW TO MANAGE THEM"

KAMPALA

By Richard Ategeka

Uganda's development challenges are not rooted in a lack of resources, but rather in a deficit of leadership and intentional action, the deputy governor of the Bank of Uganda, Prof. Augustus Nuwagaba, has said.

Speaking during the charter and installation of the Rotaract Club of Muyenga Beacon of Hope, at the Las Vegas Garden Hotel, Nuwagaba challenged young people to take charge of the country's future through purposeful leadership and community action.

"The problems we are having are not structural; they are not rocket science," he said. "It is about knowing the resources we have and how to manage them, especially through leadership."

The newly chartered club, founded by the Rotary Club of Muyenga, brings together 73 members, largely drawn from universities, marking a growing wave of youth participation in Rotary's service agenda.

Nuwagaba emphasised that leadership must be anchored in values, such as professionalism, dignity and dependability, if it is to translate into tangible development outcomes.

"Leadership is about standards, professionalism and ensuring that what you do

Uganda's challenge is leadership, not resources – Prof. Nuwagaba



Nuwagaba (second-left) installing Nakazibwe (left) as the new club president of the Rotaract Club of Muyenga Beacon of Hope in presence of the outgoing charter president Besigomwe (second-right). This was at Las Vegas Garden Hotel in Kampala, last week

has purpose," he said, urging members to harness resources at the family, community and national levels.

His remarks highlighted the growing role of youth-led initiatives in addressing pressing community challenges, from healthcare gaps to social welfare.

"If you are intentional in what you do, you will transform the

communities around you," he said.

Incoming president Leticia Nakazibwe outlined an ambitious agenda focused on maternal and child health, citing alarming conditions in some health facilities.

Nakazibwe revealed plans to renovate dilapidated maternal wards at Azul Medical Centre in Hoima district, where some

mothers reportedly give birth on the floor.

The club will implement its flagship maternal health project in phases, alongside outreach programmes targeting young girls and vulnerable mothers.

"Our focus is to empower, educate and uplift communities, especially those that are often left behind," Nakazibwe said.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

District Rotaract representative Alebor Kanyonza said many new clubs struggle because of weak mentorship and limited sustained engagement from their sponsoring bodies.

"One of the biggest challenges is that clubs are formed and then neglected. What stands out here is their spirit of collaboration, and that is what will sustain them," Kanyonza said.

Representing the mother club, Herbert Masengere said the chartering of the new club adds to a legacy of community outreach, noting that the Muyenga Rotary Club has now birthed 22 clubs.

"You have been created to serve humanity. Stay committed to meaningful work and keep your members engaged; that is how you will grow," Masengere said.

The club also plans to roll out leadership training initiatives across institutions and organise youth-centred activities such as sports galas and networking events to expand membership and engagement.

The outgoing charter president, Karungi Prettie Besigomwe, reflected on the journey of building the club from a small initiative into a fully chartered entity.

"It has not been easy leading people with different perspectives, especially as a

first-time leader," Besigomwe said.

Under her leadership, the club conducted several community projects, including a blood donation drive at Makerere University that collected more than 80 units of blood, as well as tree-planting activities and support for children's and elderly homes.

"We are students, but we give the little we have to make someone feel better. That is what service is about," she added.