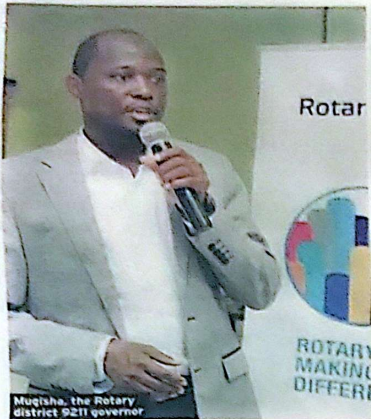


ROTARY'S MISSION GREEN PROJECT



Mugisha, the Rotary district 9211 governor



Members of Muyenga Rotary Club launching the Mission Green project

Rotarians intensify fight against

By Reagan Ssemplija

Looking at the importance of the environment to people's livelihood in East Africa and the adverse effect the very same livelihood has had on the environment, the governor of district 9211, Rotarian Ken Mugisha, has chosen the environment to be at the centre of the district's agenda.

According to the World Bank, the annual increment of the urban population in both Uganda and Tanzania was 5.4% in 2015. The proportion of our population that use wood products in form of charcoal and firewood as fuel for food preparation is too high. This, according to Rotarian Mugisha, shows that the green environment is gradually fading away and something ought to be done.

Mugisha revealed that over time, the trees on islands, such as those that have been cut down in favour of building land for cultivation and housing, are being used as a source of fuel of charcoal and firewood. This is not only affecting the environment but also leading to air pollution. We intend to carry out workshops, educating the people on the importance of the environment and making them aware of the energy. We will also



Muyenga Rotary Club during a Mission Green campaign at a school

plant and grow as many trees as we possibly can, to start the process of greening the islands.

Mugisha mentioned the six areas of focus by Rotary International as clean water and sanitation, basic education, maternal and health care, disease prevention, economic

empowerment and peace. He, however, intimated that this time around, District 9211, which covers Uganda and Tanzania, will focus on promoting of environmental conservation through its five-year initiative called Rotary Mission Green.

Mugisha intimated that Mission Green wants to restore the environment and they expect to do that by not only planting trees but also growing them.

"We are already partnering with Uganda Prisons Services to help us push our services. We want each

prisoner to be able to plant a tree and we'll ensure that it grows."

He added that District 9211 has signed a memorandum of understanding so that all refugees, who are over two million, make use of them and plant as many trees as possible," Mugisha added.

Rotary in Uganda has also partnered with National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO) to help in directing the different clubs on where to plant the trees, how to plant and which particular type of trees to plant.

"We are already working with Uganda National Roads Authority to help us plant trees along all roads entering and leading out of the country. This is already bearing fruits," Mugisha adds.

Rotarian Mugisha intimated that the education ministry has also come of board to help sensitise students in schools about the importance of planting trees in schools. Rotary Mission Green believes that it costs \$2,000 to build an energy-efficient cooking stove that serves a school of 800 children. This will result in that school saving approximately 250 mature trees of 800 students per year.

"We believe that all schools in Uganda have the ability to plant



Mission Green team planting trees with members of Uganda Prisons Services



Mugisha (left) with other rotarians



Rotarians planting trees with the clergy

climate change

MANY TREES ON ISLANDS LIKE SSESE HAVE BEEN CUT DOWN TO CLEAR LAND FOR CULTIVATION. AND, TREES ARE USED AS A SOURCE OF FUEL IN FORM OF CHARCOAL AND FIREWOOD

over 10 million trees. We are looking at having 20 million trees planted in the next five years," Mugisha explained.

Plans According to Mugisha the future of Rotary is bright. "We plan to develop Uganda into an independent district hence that will make us receive higher and independent funds from the Rotary International Foundation. This will help run more environmental projects and others in the country.

District 9211 is planning to organise the

East African trade fair in Uganda. This will be the first of its kind in Uganda and we believe this will continue to bring the people of East Africa together and boost knowledge on how to promote the environment. We are bringing Rotarians from across Africa to interact with local Rotary clubs," Mugisha said.

Achievements According to Mugisha, Mission Green project has been able to penetrate through the higher institutions of learning and working with them to plant trees. On September 24, last year, Makerere University Business School (MUBS) joined the Rotary Club of Bugolobi to launch their Mission Green under the theme *Our environment, Our future*. The campaign was launched at MUBS main campus in Nakawa in Kampala by planting over 100 trees around the institution. The function was honored by the District Governor, Ken Mugisha and the MUBS principal Prof. Wasswa Balunywa.

The Rotary Club of Bweyogerere Namboolo in Wakiso district launched its Mission Green project last year in August and over 1,500 eucalyptus trees were planted during that event.

Rotary in Uganda has also achieved a lot in terms of ensuring clean water and sanitation. According to Mugisha, they installed over 24 boreholes in Apac district. The development helped promote health standards in that area.

District 9211 also started receiving \$7.5m per year from Rotary Foundation. This money helps local rotary clubs to come up with vital projects, like the mission green project and be able to run them.

Congratulations!
D.G. Kenneth Mugisha

On behalf of the Board of Director, Management and staff of Parapet Cleaning Services (U) Limited, we would like to congratulate District Governor Kenneth Mugisha in his remarkable efforts in championing the Rotary Mission Green Project in Uganda.

We look forward to working together in making Uganda "Green Again"

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