



# CELEBRATE ROTARY

*#RotaryAfrica100*

On 21 April 1921, the Rotary Club of Johannesburg, the first Rotary club in Africa, was chartered and so began an era of people exchanging ideas and creating lasting change. We call these friends, neighbours and leaders Rotarians... And in 2021, we will celebrate them!

# FIRST CLUBS

*The history of Rotary in Africa began with the Rotary Club of Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1921. In 1929, the Rotary Club of Cairo, Egypt, brought Rotary to north Africa and a year later, the Rotary Club of Nairobi was chartered in Kenya, east Africa. The Rotary Club of Dakar, Senegal (chartered in 1939) was the first west African club.*

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>1</b> April 1921<br>Johannesburg, Union of South Africa      | <b>6</b> February 1925<br>Pretoria, Union of South Africa*                    |
| <b>2</b> April 1924<br>Durban, Union of South Africa            | <b>7</b> February 1926<br>East London, Union of South Africa                  |
| <b>3</b> February 1925<br>Port Elizabeth, Union of South Africa | <b>8</b> August 1926<br>Bloemfontein, Union of South Africa                   |
| <b>4</b> February 1925<br>Cape Town, Union of South Africa      | <b>9</b> March, 1927<br>Elisabethville, Belgian Congo (Club no longer listed) |
| <b>5</b> March 1925<br>Pietermaritzburg, Union of South Africa  | <b>10</b> August 1927<br>Queenstown, Union of South Africa                    |

*\* According to RI charter date, Pretoria was the sixth registered in Africa, but it was the third club organised. There have been a number of similar instances with clubs in Great Britain*



# OUR LEGACY

“We will look forward to create a legacy and our legacy will be a Rotary African Mediators in Africa for Africa Vocational Training Team project which will help grow peace on our continent for the next 100 years!”

“We in Africa, especially in Southern Africa, are at war with ourselves. We need mediators. Even if we start off with just 100, we can train them and deploy them immediately,” says DGE Annemarie Mostert, the chair of Rotary’s Africa Centennial celebration.

This is no longer pie-in-the-sky thinking, she explains, but rather something which will become a reality. “As we celebrate 100 years of Rotary in Africa, we won’t just be looking at our rich history or what we have achieved on the continent. We will look to create a legacy and our legacy will be a Rotary Peace project for Africa to help grow peace on our continent for the next 100 years!”

The launch of VTT Rotary Mediation Action for Southern Africa (RMASA) will be the highlight of the centennial celebration in 2021 and already, a Global Grant account that was established for this purpose, has been seeded with a donation of more than R100 000 from the Rotary Club of Pietersburg 100 (D9400). Much more funding as well as donations are needed from clubs, individuals and corporates to make this a reality.

According to Dr Dries Velthuisen and Dr Martin Rupiya, both members of the Rotary E-Club of Southern Africa

9400, the project is aimed at establishing Mediation Teams consisting of “African Mediators in Africa for Africa” in all Rotary districts of Southern Africa. The Mediation Teams will be independent from court-annexed mediation structures and any other existing dispute resolution initiatives. All mediators will be accredited with Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI).

A Rotary Vocational Training Team (VTT) will train African Mediators to render mediation services in Africa in collaboration with Unisa’s Institute for Dispute Resolution in Africa (IDRA) alternatively The African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD).

The most suitable academic partner will still be confirmed, but the most suitable partners include the Institute for Dispute Resolution in Africa (IDRA) at Unisa, ACCORD (headquartered in Durban) and Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI), whose expertise lie in the field of Dispute Resolution, including customary African Dispute Resolution and in particular Mediation the African way. The short learning programme (SLP) will be in the form of blended learning: a combination of distance learning offered by an accredited mediation

training provider in collaboration with Unisa and a five-day capacity building contact workshop in collaboration with the academic partner and MBBI. Civil servants, the judiciary, magistrates, women, youth, practitioners and academics, media, members of parliament, religious groups, and peace activists from all countries in the mentioned districts will be among those who qualify for the SLP. The training will include twelve candidates from all the other Rotary districts in Africa, supplementing current initiatives rather than duplicating them.

On completion, a mentoring relationship will be established between participant students and the VTT. The purpose of this mentorship will be to visit targeted areas in the different districts and embed the essential knowledge into the operating environment of mediators after the SLP has been completed.

As a project partner, ACCORD is uniquely placed to contribute to the peace centre’s success. In September 2005, ACCORD became the first African NGO in history to address the UN Security Council. Since 1992, the South Africa-based civil society organisation works throughout Africa to bring creative African solutions to the challenges



**“The centre will offer three areas of activities - peace, security and conflict resolution tuition, dispute resolution services and research and publication,” says Prof. Dries Velthuisen.**

posed by conflict on the continent and continues to play an integral role in conflict resolution activities across the continent. The model ACCORD follows to achieve this, is recognised by the United Nations.

Mediators Beyond Borders International (MBBI), which has partnered with Rotary previously, will assist with accrediting the trained mediators.

The need for “African Mediators in Africa for Africa” resides within the Rotary Foundation focus area: Peace

and Conflict Resolution. The vision is to have credible independent accredited Mediators in every district in Africa.

This project will form part of a peace infrastructure that reaches across society while collaborating with African civil society and existing government structures.

The project will be governed by a steering committee . The members will include PDG Grant Daly, PDG Jankees Sligcher, DGE Annemarie Mostert, Prof Dr Martin

Rupyia of ACCORD, Prof Dr Dries Velthuisen of Unisa and Advocate Les Morrison from District 9400, Siham Bodha and Tom Bergmann-Harris of District 9350, Mr Ronnie Kasrils (retired politician and experienced dispute resolution practitioner), Chair of the MBBI, CEO Prabha Sankaranarayan, Steve Goldsmith, Operations Facilitator of the MBBI Southern California. The Governor’s Council for Southern Africa (COSA) will form a Support Committee.

## **CALL TO ACTION**

**This project is being proposed by the Rotary E-club of Southern Africa D9400 which plans to use a Global Grant to fund it. To achieve this, we need the support of all districts in Africa - We need you to help contribute towards this Global Grant, while inspiring other clubs and districts to do the same.**

**Contact DGE Annemarie Mostert at [annemarie@rotary9400.org.za](mailto:annemarie@rotary9400.org.za)**

# We look forward to welcoming you to this special event!

Rotary  
District 9400



Look out for us as we go live in April 2020 to accept your bookings. We will provide assistance with pre- and post-event tours, flights, home hosting, proposed accommodation and project visits.



Annemarie Mostert  
Organising Committee Chair  
[annemarie@rotary9400.org.za](mailto:annemarie@rotary9400.org.za)



Shirley Downie  
Special Aide to Committee Chair  
[shirley@phomella.co.za](mailto:shirley@phomella.co.za)



# CENTENNIAL CALLING



22 May 2020

Dear DGE Annemarie,

In April 2021, Johannesburg will host 1 350 members of Rotary International from across Africa and the world as Rotarians celebrate the 100th anniversary of Rotary International in Africa. As the Rotary Club of Johannesburg (D9400) is the oldest Rotary club in Africa, the club and D9400 will host the Centennial Celebrations for the continent. The Gala Banquet will be held on **25 April 2021**.

## CONNECT AFRICA

This major international event creates an opportunity to connect with the Rotary footprint on the continent. As we join hands with Rotarians in Africa and from around the world, we can look forward to the next 100 years of continuing to respond to the needs of the day. We do hope that you will be joining us to celebrate this gala event!

## COFFEE TABLE BOOK – CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES !

A **coffee table book** to commemorate the Rotary Centennial in Africa, will be available for sale at the celebration. As this is an ALL-AFRICA celebration, information and projects from **ALL** districts will be included to showcase the wonderful work that has been done by Rotarians on the continent of Africa since 25 April 1921.

The primary purpose of this mail is to ask whether you could please provide us with a congratulatory message for this commemorative **coffee table book**, from a personal perspective, as to how you feel that Rotary has added value to the continent of Africa and its people over the years. Should you be agreeable, we will need a high res photograph (preferably over 1 MB) with a short message of not more than 500 words to be mailed to me at [corpcon@global.co.za](mailto:corpcon@global.co.za) by 1 August 2020.

We look enormously forward to receiving your congratulatory message and photograph.

With warm regards,

PDG June Webber





# CENTENNIAL AWARDS



28 May 2020

Dear DG and DGE

## **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS APRIL 2021**

I write this letter to you as chair of the awards committee. As you are already aware the Rotary Club of Johannesburg, being the oldest Club in Africa will together with D9400 host the Centennial Celebrations for the continent. This will all take place in April 2021.

We, as awards committee, rely on you to assist us in gathering information to enable us to make decisions on the recognitions and awards to be presented at this prestigious occasion. What will make it more significant is the RI President, Holger Knaack, will be present and doing the honours of signing and handing out the various recognitions.

Available for recognition on the evening of the banquet are:

- 4 Paul Harris Recognitions. The recipient may or may not be a Rotarian.
- In addition you as district leaders can also recognize PHF in your district who can then also be recognized at the Centennial Celebration.
- One certificate of excellence will be awarded to each of the 16 districts highlighting a club project put forward for the Coffee Table Book.
- One special All Africa 100 Year Certificate of Excellence, signed by the International President. The recipient can be a Rotary Club or a member that has proved to have made a significant contribution to the community in your district, changing the lives of others.
- In addition to the above, Rotarians may make a personal substantial contribution of \$10,000 or more to the Foundation. The recognition of the contribution will be highlighted by the RI President at the Gala Banquet on the 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021 and be featured in the Coffee Table Book.

We are aware this is an onerous and time consuming task, and will require assistance from reliable members appointed by you to scout out worthy recipients. Your co-operation will highlight Rotarians or business people in Africa who have made significant contributions, change in your district, club and community.

DGE Annemarie Mostert's letter sent to you on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020 has made it clear what is at stake. Please also forward all your info with regards to the coffee table Book, significant projects and Rotary heroes to the awards committee.

We have a strict timeline for contributions to be submitted, namely the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and we really rely on your assistance supplying us with the necessary information.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the committee members if you require further information.

Warm Rotary Regards

PDG Annie Steijn – D9400  
Centennial Awards Committee Chair  
Tel: +27 82 550 0806  
E-mail: [assteijn@gmail.com](mailto:assteijn@gmail.com)

**Committee members:**

June Webber  
Past District Governor  
Future Pillar Chair – District 9350  
Rotary Club of Waterfront  
E-mail: [corpcon@global.co.za](mailto:corpcon@global.co.za)

Elaine Stathacopoulos  
PDGA – District 9400  
Rotary Ann Club of Boksburg Lake  
E-mail: [elainest@global.co.za](mailto:elainest@global.co.za)