

DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S NEWSLETTER

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GOOD



~ Message to D9400 from DG Maria Angelica Salomao for May 2026 ~

Dear Fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors, Anns and Friends of Rotary of District 9400,

Youth Service Month

May is the **YOUTH** service month.

Youth means the future. **Youth** means the continuation of our organization.

Inspired by People of Action, Rotary's vision for the future is bold. There is no future - anywhere, and Rotary is not different- without youths.

Over its 121-year history, Rotary has achieved a great deal, and we must engage young people for the continuation of the Rotary success history and not jeopardize the gains. However, if the youth issue is not taken as a priority, Rotary is likely to face serious challenges.

Each November, the Rotary community celebrates World Interact Week to mark Interact's anniversary on 5 November. Each March, Rotary celebrates World Rotaract Week to mark Rotaract's anniversary on 13 March.

In our district, Interact has grown significantly over the past two years. We now have 67 active Interact clubs, demonstrating Rotary clubs' strong commitment to supporting young people aged 12 to 18 through service, leadership development, and values-based learning. Rotaract growth, however, still requires greater focus, especially as most of the population across District 9400's four countries are young. In district 9400, the Rotary nursery has not yet been successful in bringing Rotaractors.

When celebrating the Youth Service Month, clubs are reminded of their commitment to empower the next generation, by preparing them to serve, to lead, to actively contribute to the development of their communities. Clubs are thus responsible for mentoring and shape future leaders to continue the Rotary mission of "*Service Above Self*" and the importance of mentoring, trust, **encouraging their active participation in service, and nurturing ethical leadership skills that benefit both communities and the world at large.** If from early ages youths are exposed to sound values, to giving, to serving, they will easily engage in service projects that address community needs. Supporting or organizing RYLA events and Youth Exchange visits is a way to promote leadership and educate and prepare youth to become citizens



Caros Rotários, Rotaracts, esposas e amigos do Rotary do Distrito 9400,

Mês dos Serviços da Juventude

Maio é **mês dos Serviços da Juventude**

Juventude significa future. **Juventude** significa a continuidade da nossa organização.

Inspirada em Pessoas de Acção, a visão do Rotary para o futuro é impressionante. Não há futuro em nenhuma área – e o Rotary não é excepção, sem jovens.

Ao longo dos seus 121 anos, o Rotary fez milagres e temos de envolver jovens para a continuidade da história de sucesso do Rotary sem desperdiçar os sucessos. Todavia, se à questão Juventude no Rotary não é dada a devida prioridade, o Rotary irá enfrentar desafios sérios.

Em cada Novembro, o Rotary celebra a Semana Mundial do Interact, para marcar o Dia do Aniversário do Interact a de Novembro. A cada Março, o Rotary celebra a Semana Mundial do Rotaractor que marca o aniversário a 13 de Março.

No nosso Distrito, o Interact cresceu de forma significativa nos dois últimos anos. Existem 67 clubes activos no distrito, demonstrando o forte engajamento dos clubes em apoiar os jovens dos 12 aos 18 anos através de serviços, desenvolvimento de liderança e aprendizagem baseada em serviços com valores. Contudo, o crescimento dos Rotaractors ainda requer agrane atenção, sobretudo tendo em conta que a grande maioria da população dos quatro países do distrito é maioritariamente jovem. Ou seja, no distrito 9400, o viveiro Rotary ainda não conseguiu reproduzir Rotaractors.

Ao celebrar o **mês dos Serviços da Juventude**, chama-se a atenção dos clubes para a sua responsabilidade de empoderar a geração futura, preparando-a para servir e contribuir activamente para o desenvolvimento das suas comunidades. Tal corresponde a dizer que os clubes são responsáveis pela mentoria e preparação dos futuros líderes para continuarem a missão «Dar de Si Antes de Pensar em Si» e a importância da mentoria, confiança, **encorajando a sua activa participação em Serviços, e preparando capacidades de liderança éticas que venham a beneficiar quer as comunidades que o mundo global.** Se desde bem cedo os jovens são expostos a valores sérios, a dar, a servir, com facilidade estes se envolvem em projectos de serviço que respondem a necessidades das comunidades. Apoiando ou organizando RYLAs e as visitas de Youth Exchange são formas de preparar os jovens para serem cidadãos prontos a ter acção para

who will be ready to take action to create lasting change across the globe, in their communities and in themselves.

criar mudanças duradouras no mundo, nas comunidades e em si próprios.

DISCON 2026

Under the theme Let us safeguard our planet by preserving the environment, Mozambique hosted the 2026 Rotary District Conference in Ponta do Ouro, Maputo Province.



DISCON 2026

Sob o lema, Vamos preservar o nosso Planeta preservando o ambiente, Moçambique acolheu a Conferência Distrital do Rotary em 2026 Ponta do Ouro, Província de Maputo.

About 120 participants were in Ponta de Ouro. Rotarians from the four districts participated in DISCON.

Cerca de 120 participantes estiveram na Ponta do Ouro. O Distrito esteve representado por participantes dos 4 distritos.

It was time for fellowship, to celebrate District 9400 achievements and our collective impact, share stories of success, good practices, and get inspired to continue our commitment to Service Above Self, learn from Rotary leaders, engage in environmental-focused discussions, strengthen partnerships and an opportunity to connect with fellow Rotarians and also enjoy Mozambican culture and cuisine.

Foi uma ocasião de companheirismo, de celebrar as realizações do Distrito 9400 e do nosso impacto colectivo; de partilhar histórias de sucesso, boas práticas e ser inspirado para continuar o nosso envolvimento em Dar de Nós Antes de Pensar em Nós; de ouvir de líderes comunitários; de escutar discussões ambientais; de reforçar parcerias e oportunidades de ligar Rotários e de desfrutar da Cultura e Cozinha Moçambicana.

I am grateful to all participants who attended 2026 DISCON. Despite the shortcomings from our organizational side for which we beg for understanding, I believe the 3 days' event was a time of celebration, fellowship and fun. Thank you for making the DISCON an excellent gathering. My gratitude also goes to the Organising Committee and to all who contributed to make DISCON possible.

Estou grata a TODOS os participantes que estiveram na DISCON 2026. Apesar dos desafios enfrentados na organização – e pelos quais peço a vossa compreensão, ainda estou em crer que os 3 dias da DISCON foram uma ocasião de celebração, de companheirismo e diversão. Grata por terem feito da DISCON uma reunião excelente. Os meus agradecimentos são extensivos à Comissão Organizadora e a quem contribuiu para a realização da DISCON.

PDG Sam Movva from District 3020, India, served as the Rotary International President's Personal Representative (RIPPR). PDG Maurice Stander served as Special Aide to the RIPPR. Ms. Elizabeth N'gang'a represented The Rotary Foundation and delivered an inspiring message about doing good in the world.

PDG Sam Movva do District 3020, India, foi o Rotary International President's Personal Representative (RIPPR). O PDG Maurice Stander foi o Special Aide to the RIPPR. A Sra Elizabeth N'gang'a representou a Fundação Rotária (Rotary Foundation) e abordou o tema Fazendo Bem no Mondo e desenvolveu o tema como fazer bem no mundo.

Motivational speakers covered several engaging topics, including diversity, equity, and inclusion; environmental education; opportunities for peace; the status of polio eradication; partnerships; sports, wellbeing, and mental health; and RCCs.

Oradores excepcionais abordaram temas de interesse como a diversidade, educação ambiental; oportunidades para a paz; estadios da erradicação da polio; parceria; desporto, bem estar e saúde mental e RCCs.

Several awards were given to clubs and projects.

Vários reconhecimentos foram feitos a clubes e projectos.

Clubs

- o Highest number of inducted members: eClub of Southern Africa
- o Highest number of active members: Fourways Main Reef (South Africa)
- o Biggest donation to the Rotary Foundation–Brits-Hartbeespoort (South Africa)
- o Biggest donation to Polio Plus - eClub of Southern Africa
- o Best Rotaract – Rotaract Club de Maputo

Clubes

- o Mais membros induzidos: eClub of Southern Africa
- o Mais membros activos: Fourways Main Reef (South Africa)
- o Mais alto valor doado à Fundação Rotária–Brits-Hartbeespoort (South Africa)
- o Mais alto valor doado à Polio Plus - eClub of Southern Africa
- o Melhor Rotaract – Rotaract Club de Maputo

Projects

- o Eco bricks – RC de Morning Side
- o Kgabo Car Training Centre /RCC & RC Waterkloof

Projectos

- o Eco bricks – RC de Morning Side
- o Kgabo Car training Centre /RCC & RC Waterkloof

During DISCON, it was announced that PDG Francis Callard, Rotary Club of Northcliff, has been awarded the Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award. This Award is the highest honour bestowed by The Rotary Foundation Trustees, recognising Rotarians for exceptional, long-term, hands-on

Durante a DISCON, foi anunciado que o Rotário PDG Francis Callard, do Rotary Club de Northcliff, tinha recebido da Fundação Rotária a condecoração por Altos e Distintos Serviços. Esta condecoração é a honra mais elevada atribuída pelos oficiais da Fundação Rotária, em reconhecimento de Rotários com serviço excepcional, de longa

service that significantly furthers the Foundation's mission. *The Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award is a prestigious award, limited to a maximum of 50 recipients globally per year.* It moves D9400 to higher heights while also showing it has Rotarians who permanently remind and show us the value and importance of Service Above Self. *Thank you Rotarian PDG Francis Callard (backed by partner Janet) for giving us this honour!*

AGM

Chaired by PDG Francis Callard, the AGM was held on the 2nd of May afternoon. Unfortunately, the 2024-25 accounts were not looked at as the clubs were not prepared. The budget for the year 2026-27 was presented. The Youth Friendship Exchange raised many

questions. A specific session to address the procedures and clarify related issues was scheduled and happened already.

Membership growth and the visit of Rotary International President Elect

Membership continues to be the D9400 top priority. From 15 to 19 May 2026, Rotary International President Elect (RIPE) Yinka Hakeem Babalola accompanied by Rotary International Director, Elect (RIDE) for Zone 21 and 22, Emmanuel Katongole, were in South Africa, in a visit requested by the district to support membership growth, focusing on South Africa where membership is not growing.

The activity on the very 1st day was a visit to Tutu Home in Soweto for a ceremony marking the opening of the mini aquaponics centre, funded through a successful global grant. Desmond Tutu House will anchor the aquaponics centre, a food security training centre to help end hunger as a longtime dream and wish of bishop Desmond Tutu. From the Tutu House, the RIPE went to visit the Soweto RCC Lebo sponsored by the Johannesburg New Dawn RC. In the evening, the RIPE and RIDE attended a welcome reception for Diplomatic Corps and relevant government officials and NGO partners organised by the district in which RIPE Yinka spoke of Rotary and the work that can be done through the organization to improve lives and alleviate suffering, and calling for the guests to join Rotary and do good.

On Saturday morning, the RIPE addressed business leaders at BNI with the same objective. Later, he met with Nigerian professionals and invited them to join Rotary.

In the evening, at a fundraising dinner held to encourage giving to the Foundation and attract new members, the RIPE inducted eight new members. All four countries of D9400 and their diplomats were represented.

The amount of **12,552 USD** was pledged that evening. On Sunday morning the RIPE and the RIDE joined the PELS session and addressed the participants. The amount of 11,500 USD was pledged during the training session.

duração que de forma significativa traduzem a missão da Fundação. *A condecoração por Altos e Distintos Serviços da Fundação Rotária é uma condecoração de prestígio limitada a um máximo de 50 recipientes por ano a nível global.* Coloca o distrito no nível elevado evidenciando que tem Rotários que permanentemente nos lembram e mostram o valor e a importância de Dar de Si Antes de Pensar em Si. Obrigada Rotário PDG Francis Callard (apoiado por sua esposa Janet) por nos concederem esta honra!



*The RIPE with some of the new inducted members
O RIPE com alguns dos membros induzidos.*

AGM

Presidida pelo PDG Francis Callard, teve lugar na tarde de 2 de Maio a AGM. Lamentavelmente, as contas do ano 2024-25 não chegaram a ser apreciadas, pois a maioria dos clubes não estava preparada para o efeito. Foi apresentado o orçamento para 2026-27. Um tema bastante debatido foi o Youth Exchange. Foi sugerida uma sessão específica sobre o assunto

entre o distrito e os clubes para explicação dos procedimentos sobre o Programa e clarificação de dúvidas, sessão que foi realizada.

Aumento de membros e a visita do Presidente Eleito do Rotary Internacional.

O aumento de membros continua a ser a prioridade de topo do D9400. De 15 a 19 de Maio de 2026, o Presidente Eleito do Rotary Internacional (RIPE), Yinka Hakeem Babalola acompanhado pelo director internacional do Rotary para as Zonas 21 e 22, Emmanuel Katongole, esteve na África do Sul numa visita solicitada pelo distrito com o objectivo de apoiar o crescimento de membros com foco na África do Sul onde o número de membros não tem aumentado.

A 1^a actividade do dia foi a visita a Casa Tutu no Soweto para participar na cerimónia de abertura de um mini centro aquapónico financiado a partir de um global grant. A Casa de Desmond Tutu vai albergar o centro aquapónico, um centro de formação em segurança alimentar para ajudar a acabar com a fome, um velho sonho e desejo do Bispo Desmond Tutu. Depois da Casa Tutu, o RIPE visitou o RCC Lebo, também no Soweto, que é apoiado pelo RC Johannesburg New Dawn. À noite, o RIPE e o RIDE participaram numa recepção organizada pelo distrito para os visitantes falarem com os diplomatas sobre o Rotary e do trabalho feito pela organização para melhorar vida e aliviar o sofrimento, convidando-os a juntar-se ao Rotary e fazer bem.

No Sábado de manhã, o RIPE foi orador numa reunião de negócios do BNI com objectivo similar. Mais tarde, encontrou-se com profissionais Nigerianos a quem também convidou a aderirem ao Rotary.

Na noite de Sábado, num jantar organizado para angariação de membros e doação à Fundação, o RIPE fez a indução de oito novos Rotários. Participaram no evento Rotários dos 4 países e respectivos diplomatas.

Um montante correspondente a **12.552** dólares americanos foi obtido no jantar. Na manhã de domingo, o RIPE e o RIDE participaram na sessão de PELS e interagiram com os presentes. O valor de cerca de 11.500 dólares americanos foi o resultado da colecta na sessão. Na segunda e terça feira, o RIPE e o RIDE tiveram encontros com a

On Monday and Tuesday, RIPE and RIDE met with district leaders and the media. On Wednesday, the RIPE left for Kenya to represent the RIP at the D9212 conference.

Clubs in D9400 still have about one month to increase membership. Let us move forward. We can still make a difference! We hope to charter a new Rotaract club at one of the universities in Pretoria.

Giving to the Rotary Foundation

As District Governor of district 9400, I can say that we are blessed. PDG Francis Callard and wife Janet decided to contribute to the Rotary Foundation with 50,000USD (fifty thousand) through endowment. «*Improving the environment is one of the avenues of the Rotary Foundation to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace. This requires funding*

sustainable interventions that shape the lives of communities. We have been blessed in that we could make this contribution to the Rotary Foundation in the form of a named endowment. We believe, according to the principles of the Foundation, they will use it wisely for the preservation and improvement of the environment, now and into the future.

They were already major donors, but they are aware that interventions need funding. Thank you, Francis and Janet.



PDG Francis and Janet Callard

Liderança do Distrito e falaram aos media. Na quarta feira, o RIPE partiu para o Quênia para representar o RIP na Conferência do D9212.

Os clubes do D 9400 ainda têm um mês para aumentar o número de membros. Vamos ao trabalho! Ainda Podemos fazer a diferença. Ainda contamos acolher um Rotaract Club numa das universidades de Pretoria.

Doações à Fundação Rotária

Como Governadora do Distrito 9400, posso dizer que estamos abençoados. O PDG Francis Callard e esposa Janet decidiram contribuir para a Fundação Rotária com cinquenta (50.000) mil dólares americanos via Fundo para Investimento. Dizem «melhoria do ambiente é uma das avenidas da Fundação Rotária para fazer avançar a compreensão, boa vontade e paz. Tal requer financiar intervenções sustentáveis que mudem as vidas das comunidades.

Somos abençoados em poder fazer esta doação à Fundação Rotária sob forma de fundo para investimento. Acreditamos que de acordo com os princípios da Fundação, o valor será criteriosamente usado para a preservação e melhoria do ambiente, agora e no futuro.»

Eles já eram doadores maiores e estão conscientes de que as intervenções necessitam de financiamento. Obrigada Francis e Janet!

DGND 2027-28

On the 22 of May, interviews for the selection of the DGND 2027-28 were held. Currently, the 14 days challenging period is in observation. If there are no challenges, selected candidate will be announced by early June.

DGND 2027-28

A 22 de Maio, tiveram lugar as entrevistas para selecção de DGND 2027-28. Decorrem os 14 dias de reclamação. Se as não houver, o candidato seleccionado será anunciado em princípio de Junho.

DG Maria Angelica Salomao

District Governor 2025-2026, Rotary District 9400

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 13-17 June 2026

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<https://rotary5810.org/sitepage/rotary-international-convention>



D9400 DG Observations

Discon Echoes



ABOVE: The RIPPR and Mozambican Rotarians

LEFT: The conference brochure exhibiting the DISCON theme - Safeguard our Planet



ABOVE: Gauteng Rotarians ready to depart for DISCON by bus from Gauteng ... to Ponta do Ouro



Rotarians from all over D9400 thoroughly enjoyed the warm Mozambican welcome



RIGHT: Lurdes Mutola, MOZ Olympic champion addressing the DISCON on sports, well-being and Mental health



SUNDAY MORNING POLIO WALK

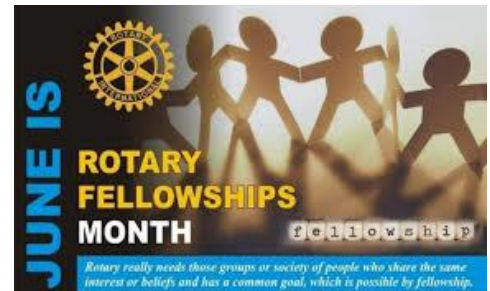


JUNE IS ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

June is designated **Rotary Fellowships Month** to recognize the importance of international fellowship and goodwill among Rotarians with similar recreational and vocational interests, promote increased participation in fellowships, and increase understanding of this program.

This month celebrates the global friendships and international groups that bond members together through shared passions, hobbies, and professions.

"Fellowship is wonderful; it illuminates life's pathway, spreads good cheer, and is worth high price." Rotary Founder, Paul Harris.



What are Rotary Fellowships?

- ❖ **Shared Interests:** They are independently organized, international groups made up of people who share a common interest in recreational activities, hobbies, professions, or cultural identity.
- ❖ **Purpose:** These groups help expand skills, foster vocational development, and enhance the Rotary experience while building connections globally.
- ❖ **Action-Oriented:** Many fellowships channel their special interests into service, such as the Fellowship of Canoeing Rotarians organizing river cleanups or the International Computer Users Fellowship providing tech training.

What are the benefits for Rotarians in joining the Rotary Fellowships?

Fellowship provides opportunities for Rotarians to make lasting friendships outside their own Club, District or country. Fellowships contribute to the advancement of world understanding and peace. Also, Fellowships serve as an incentive for attracting new members to Rotary and retaining our existing members. Indeed, Rotary Fellowship, together with the Rotarian Action Groups, serve as an effective tool in promoting membership development and should be actively promoted in our Districts.

There are many Fellowships that would be of interest to our members, and they are detailed on <http://www.rotary.org/fellowships>

This June, why not explore a Rotary Fellowship, invite someone new into a Rotary conversation, or simply take time to celebrate the friendships Rotary has created?

<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/more-fellowships>

Because when Rotarians connect, great things happen.

Major Global Grant for Soweto to Take Centre Stage in Global Fight Against Hunger



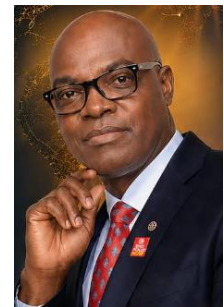
It was a landmark moment for Soweto, Rotary, TRF and the international humanitarian community: The historic home of the late Desmond Tutu on Vilakazi Street has officially been declared the **Global Headquarters of the Desmond Tutu Programme to End Global Hunger** in a fitting continuation of his lifelong message of shared humanity and compassion.

The announcement, made during a special ceremony attended by civic leaders, faith communities and Rotary International leadership, places Soweto at the heart of one of the world's most important humanitarian missions — the fight against hunger and food insecurity. The iconic Bishop Tutu House, long recognised as a symbol of courage, justice and reconciliation, now begins a new chapter as a global centre of hope, sustainability and community upliftment.

A highlight of the event was the address by **Olayinka Hakeem Babalola, Rotary International President-Elect**, who delivered an inspiring call to action to Rotarians throughout District 9400 and beyond. During the ceremony, President-Elect Babalola announced **The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Global Grant** of US\$94,000 (approximately R1.5 million) to establish a state-of-the-art greenhouse aquaponics unit at the Desmond Tutu House.

He explained that this greenhouse aquaponics unit will create not only jobs for the people of Soweto but will bring dignity, prosperity, food security, sustainability skills and will be a learning platform for the people of Soweto. The project is expected to become a model for sustainable urban food production, skills development and community upliftment.

The occasion also celebrated the growth of Rotary itself. During the event, President-Elect Babalola inducted two new members into RC Eagle Canyon, reinforcing Rotary's enduring commitment to service and community impact. As the global headquarters were formally launched, the Rotary family within District 9400 also grew — symbolising the spirit of inclusion, service and shared purpose that lies at the heart of Rotary.



*Rotary International
President-Elect
Olayinka Babalola*

Bishop Sepadi Moruthane welcomed guests to the historic site and reflected on the significance of Archbishop Tutu's home being dedicated to such an important global cause. Archbishop Tutu had bequeathed the house to the Diocese of Johannesburg, and today it stands not only as a monument to the struggle against apartheid, but also as a beacon of hope in the struggle against hunger. He said that Bishop Tutu would have been very proud for his home to be used in ending global hunger and that these Headquarters are a testimony to his great work and legacy.



The **Speaker of the Johannesburg Metropolitan Council**, Margaret Arnolds, affirmed the city's support for the initiative and praised the collaboration between Rotary and community stakeholders. She said this historic day on Vilakazi Street marks a celebration of collaboration and the enhancement of dignity for the people of Soweto. The legacy of Archbishop Tutu lives on through this aquaponics project. Her remarks highlighted the broader importance of the initiative — it is here that global humanitarian vision and local community development come together in practical and meaningful ways.



Aquaponics: Sustainable Food Security for the Future

At the centre of the project is an innovative aquaponics system — a sustainable agricultural method combining **aquaculture** (raising fish) and **hydroponics** (growing plants in water). In this environmentally efficient system, nutrient-rich water from fish tanks feeds the plants, while the plants naturally purify the water for the fish. The process uses significantly less water than traditional farming methods and is ideally suited to climate-resilient food production in urban communities. Beyond producing healthy vegetables and fish, the project will provide skills training, educational opportunities and employment creation for local residents.

This will be remembered as more than the launch of a new project. It marks the moment Soweto stepped onto the world stage as a global centre for humanitarian action against hunger. As Archbishop Tutu once said: "My humanity is bound up in yours, for we can only be human together." Through this initiative, his home now becomes a living symbol of that truth — a place where dignity, sustainability and hope can flourish for generations to come.

Rotarian Prof Lucille Blumberg Leads World-Class Scientific Response to Hanta Virus Outbreak

Rotarians across District 9400 can take immense pride in one of our own, Professor Lucille Blumberg from RC Johannesburg New Dawn, whose leadership and expertise placed South Africa at the forefront of an extraordinary international medical investigation in May.

Professor Blumberg, a leading infectious disease specialist at the National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD), played a central role in identifying a rare and dangerous hantavirus strain linked to illness and deaths aboard the expedition cruise vessel *MV Hondius*.

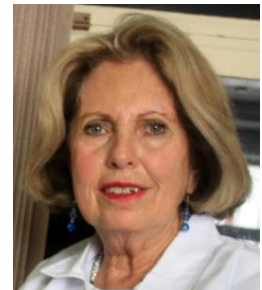


What unfolded was nothing short of remarkable. Late on the evening of Friday, 1 May 2026 — a public holiday in South Africa — Professor Blumberg received an urgent email from a colleague in the United Kingdom regarding a mysterious outbreak aboard the cruise ship. Passengers were reportedly suffering severe respiratory symptoms, and a British tourist had already been evacuated to Johannesburg for treatment.

Within just 24 hours, the NICD team had confirmed that the patient was infected with **hantavirus** — an exceptionally rare diagnosis in South Africa. By 6 May, advanced sequencing had identified the virus as the Andes strain, the only known hantavirus capable of spreading from person to person.

Professor Blumberg later described the achievement before Parliament’s Portfolio Committee on Health as an exceptional example of teamwork, dedication and scientific excellence. “It was really amazing. This was a team effort,” she said. “They have done extremely well.”

The discovery was especially significant because hantavirus is not endemic to South Africa and is not normally associated with outbreaks on cruise ships. In such environments, medical teams would typically suspect influenza, Covid-19 or *Legionella* bacteria. The complexity of the investigation was heightened by the fact that several passengers were elderly and had existing health conditions, making diagnosis particularly challenging.



Professor Lucille Blumberg
RC Johannesburg New Dawn

“This is not a virus we usually see in this country. And, it is not the usual cause of respiratory infection outbreaks on ships.”

South Africa’s involvement began after a British passenger with pneumonia-like symptoms was airlifted to Johannesburg on 27 April. However, investigators soon learned that a 70-year-old Dutch passenger had already died aboard the vessel on 11 April, with no clear cause identified at the time. His widow later travelled with his body via St Helena to OR Tambo International Airport, where she unexpectedly collapsed shortly after arrival and later died in hospital. Initially, authorities had no indication that her illness might be linked to the outbreak aboard the ship.

Professor Blumberg and her team acted swiftly once they became aware of the case. In what she described as “a stroke of luck,” they managed to rescue a routine blood

sample from destruction. Testing later confirmed that she too had been infected with the **Andes hantavirus** strain. The investigation eventually connected the outbreak to the couple’s earlier visit to Argentina, where the Andes strain is endemic and unique in this family because it is the only one that can be transmitted between humans.

Members of Parliament praised the NICD’s rapid and highly skilled response while Professor Blumberg recognised the broader scientific community and her NICD colleagues, emphasising the collaborative nature of the achievement. The NICD team also immediately initiated contact tracing efforts out of an abundance of caution, even before the diagnosis had been fully confirmed. Health authorities subsequently identified dozens of individuals who may have had close contact with infected passengers, including healthcare workers, flight crews and airport personnel.

For Rotary District 9400, it is particularly inspiring to know that one of our own Rotarians stood at the centre of this globally significant medical response and that her work reflects the very best of Rotary’s values. We salute Professor Blumberg and the entire NICD team for bringing honour to South Africa and to Rotary through their extraordinary dedication and expertise.

Hantavirus prevention

Key points

- Hantaviruses are a family of viruses which can cause serious illness or death.
- You can get hantavirus from infected rodents or their droppings.
- Avoiding exposure to rodents and their urine/faeces is the best way to prevent infection.
- When cleaning up after rodents, special steps should be taken to avoid exposure.

TRANSMISSION

A Breathing in the virus **B** Touching face after touching virus **C** Being bitten or scratched by rodent **D** Eating contaminated food

Review of DISCON 2026



On Friday 1 May the D9400 conference kicked off on the beautiful shores of **Ponta do Ouro**, Maputo Province, Mozambique with the customary welcoming by Conference Chair PAG Gloria Leite, recognition and flag ceremony. The audience was treated to a special video United For Good” featuring the RI President Francesco Arezzo. President Charmaine Govender reflected on diversity in D9400 Rotary District. A special word of welcome to the DISCON host country was presented by the Mozambique Agriculture Minister. The Rotary International President’s Personal Representative (RIPPR) PDG Sam Movva was welcomed by DG Dr Maria Angelica Salomao.



Conference attendees were delighted by the presence of Dr Graca Machel who spoke on community service and the impact of joining efforts. A duo, Mark McClue Armour & AG Debbie Smith, discussed dealing with urban litter and the project “Go for Change”, highlighting proposed and sustainable actions. Rotaractor Yuran Langa reflected on education to eliminate environmental challenges (Vorupa). District Governor Elect, DGE Grace Van Zyl, addressed the gathering while the District Governor Ann, DGA Frances Hyson, presented her report.



Diversity and Peace was an important theme. Opening of opportunities for Peace was discussed by President Dieketseng Diale while PDG Annemarie Mostert spoke on the advancing of Rotary and Peace through Intercountry Collaboration (ICCs) worldwide. District Governor Nominee, DGN Harry Nxumalo, also addressed the meeting. The District Rotaract Representative Report was presented by DRR Vania Chambule. The matter of protecting girls and children was covered in a RAG4GE video.

The conference theme “Let us safeguard our planet by preserving the environment” was continued with a presentation on promoting the sustainable use of the ecosystem in Mozambique” by Mr. Luis B. Honwana, Executive Director of Biofund and also Rtn Elizabeth N'gang'a, of RF Services who encouraged everyone to do good in the world. Foundation chair, PAG William McLellan, spoke on addressing G3 in 9400: Grant, Give, Gratitude. PDG Dr Stella Anyangwe gave feedback on Polio in D9400 and reviewed here we are in Polio eradication. An update on the Council On Legislation was provided by D9400 COL representative, Dr Patrick Coleman.



President Dr Rita Sonko has revived the Rotary Action Group, Rotary Means Business and explained the impact of this effort. PP Graeme Holmes of RC Morningside explained how supporting local businesses could create jobs and strengthen communities using “The ECO bricks Project” as example. Ties to improve community health, specifically through Rotary Family Health Days (RFHD) were presented by PP Skhumbuzo Mbuyisa while DGAE Sonia Knoop/RCC Benoni Aurora spoke on empowering community members in sustainable economic development.

Sports, wellbeing and mental health came under the spotlight when Dr Maria de Lurdes Mutola took to the stage. Jacqueline van Vyk, Polio Plus Chair spoke about donations, contributions and actions to End Polio. PDG Dr Patrick Coleman handed out RLI certificates to those Rotarians who had completed their training through the Rotary Leadership Institute. The District Governor's Report by DG Dr Maria Angelica Salomao was followed by PDG Sam Mowva's RIPPR DISCON close report.



Rtn Azera Cunningham, who will be the **DISCON 2027** Chair teased the audience with her announcement of District Conference 2027 and snippets of what to expect at the next DISCON.

BUILDING OUR FUTURE TO CREATE LASTING IMPACT



The new team is getting ready to shake it all up. After the PETS/PELS events of the last two months and the fleeting visit of RIPE Yinka Babalola, everyone is fired up to take D9400 to greater heights.

WE HAVE A NEW LEARNING CHAIR!



PDG Francis Callard has passed on the baton to new learning chair **Edson Correia**.

In addition, the learning team now consists of the following:

- **Ashleigh Schaap** – Curriculum & Content Lead
- **Sibongile Nkuna** – Vice Chair / Monitoring & Evaluation Lead
- **Patrick Coleman** – RLI Coordinator
- **Lloyd Derengi** – Digital Learning Lead
- **Wendy Damons** – Facilitator Development Lead

COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2026/2027

 Bill McLellan Foundation Chair	 Thys Louwrens Membership Chair	 Thabang Chloane Public Image Chair	 Matsepo Africa Community Service Chair
 Edson Correia Learning Chair	 Terry Cannon Youth Exchange	 Nokumuka Dube Interact Chair	 Debbie Smit Ryla Chair
 Shirley Downie International Service	 Jackie Van Waveren Friendship Exchange	 John Bintcliffe IT Chair	 Azera Cunningham DISCON 2027 Chair

Rotary Foundation announces 2026 Programs of Scale award recipient and finalists



The Rotary Foundation announced on 6 May the recipient of the 2026 Programs of Scale grant, **Collaboration for Sustainable Water and Sanitation Systems** in Haiti.

By expanding people’s access to water, sanitation, and hygiene, increasing demand for these services, and strengthening the governance of local water systems, this program aims to improve living conditions and reduce the incidence of waterborne disease by 25% in three local government areas in Haiti.

[Learn more about Programs of Scale.](#)

In addition, the Foundation named the two finalists:

- **Home Management of Malaria in Papua New Guinea** aims to reduce malaria cases and improve community health for 500,000 people. The program will train 2,100 community malaria volunteers to diagnose and treat people at home in more than 1,000 villages.
- **Empowering Highland Communities in Thailand** aims to transform 126 villages inhabited by highland peoples by establishing community-owned water and sanitation systems and strengthening community-based enterprises centred on coffee cultivation, livestock production, and traditional crafts.

New AI guidelines for members

Artificial intelligence (AI) is becoming a helpful tool for Rotary clubs and members — from drafting social media posts and generating fundraising ideas to summarizing meeting notes and analysing volunteer engagement trends.

Brand consistency matters. When AI-generated content misrepresents Rotary, it reflects on all of us in the public image space. AI can amplify our work, but it must be used with care. To help members use AI ethically and responsibly, Rotary has produced two resources — AI Guidelines for Members and the Member FAQ on AI Use — which outline key best practices for using AI in Rotary:

- Protect sensitive information, like personal data, donor information, and confidential club or district records.
- Never use AI to generate Rotary logos or marks. Any manipulation of our logo or marks violates our brand guidelines.
- AI-generated content can be inaccurate or biased and should always be reviewed by people before being shared.
- Disclose when AI is used to build transparency and trust.

We recommend sharing these resources with members, discussing them at club and district meetings, and incorporating them into club and district operations.



Global Domino Challenge 2026

The [Global Domino Challenge](#) unites global schools, clubs & communities. Youth groups **register for free** and raise funds by getting friends, family, and businesses to **sponsor dominoes** at just R10 each.



Register your youth group team [here](#). Sponsor a Domino Team [here](#)

WORLDWIDE DOMINO TOPPLE 27 JUNE 2026!

And yes... They keep 50% of what they raise. This is more than a fundraiser. It’s a launchpad for the next generation of leaders.



Bring your youth team into the challenge before the topple: [#YouthLeadership](https://globaldominos.org/#YouthLeadership) [#FutureChangemakers](#) [#DominoMovement](#) [#27JuneTopple](#)

UNITE FOR GOOD

D9400 SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Click [here](#) to view Club newsletters and stories online! Send your Club Newsletters to admin@rotary9400.org.za to have them loaded onto the D9400 website!

Rotary Club of Vanderbijlpark



RC Vanderbijlpark applied for a district matching grant and, following its approval, they swiftly commenced with their latest project at the Dante Chan Christian Centre. The centre had requested a water tank to support its activities.

Rotarian Allan Claase, the Club's Foundation Chair, got to work immediately with all the steps necessary to obtain and successfully install the tank.

AG Jackie van Waveren initiated the grant and was instrumental in this achievement.

Captain Alwyn Wilken, assisted by his wife Trudie, established the Dante Chan Christian Centre after being involved in a police case years ago. They were moved by the murder of 14-year-old Dante Chan, which exposed them to the plight of the homeless. Their aim was for the centre to provide essential services including meals, shelter, and job placement support.

Today, with involvement from local businesses and the community, it serves soup to over 200 people on a daily basis and a meal on Sundays after church.



Two Dante Chan staff members flank fltr PP Petro Bester, President Zander Lintvelt, PP Adri Roos, Allan & Carol Claase and Captain Alwyn Wilken

Rotary Club of Pretoria East

Organised by RC Pretoria East on behalf of D9400 and held at the Silver Lakes Country Club on May 16, 2026, a gathering of Rotary's most influential African voices has led to a turning point for the region.

The guests of honour were Rotary International President-Elect (RIPE) **Olayinka Babalola** and Director-Elect (RIDE) **Emmanuel Katangole**.



Olayinka Hakeem Babalola Rotary International President Elect 2026-2027 and Emmanuel Katangole Rotary International Director Elect 2026-2027

The atmosphere was one of camaraderie and ambition. A fundraising dinner was transformed into a strategic event — five counter-intuitive lessons emerged that are now reshaping District 9400's approach to service, growth, and leadership.

A total of R213,383 was raised and eight new Rotarians were inducted.



READ MORE about the event at <https://www.rotarypretoriaeast.org.za/blog/rotary-foundation-gala-2026>



District 9400 EVENTS CALENDAR

5	June 2026	World Environment Day
6	June 2026	District Assembly Online 09h00-11h30 https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50107/Events/district-9400-assembly-2026
13-17	June 2026	Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan Click here to find out more: https://rotary5810.org/sitepage/rotary-international-convention
18	July 2026	Mandela Day
26-28	February 2027	4th Inter-District Leaders' Summit for Rotary Region 28 and Rotaract Region 28 in South Africa. Save the Date!

The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

A Prova Quádrupla

Do que pensamos, dizemos ou fazemos:

1. É a VERDADE?
2. É JUSTO para todos os interessados?
3. Criará boa VONTADE e MELHORES AMIZADES?
4. Será BENÉFICO para todos os interessados?

DISTRICT 9400



To view the 4-Way Test in some of the other languages spoken in D9400, click [here](#)

DISTRICT GOVERNOR
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Join the District 9400
Facebook Page
CLICK [HERE](#)

SEND YOUR SUBMISSIONS TO:
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