**STATE OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 9104 PRESENTED AT 1ST DISTRICT CONFERENCE HELD**

**IN KUMASI ON APRIL 12, 2024**

**Salutations**

Conference Chair, PDG Jeff Afful

His Royal Majesty, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Asantehene Guest of Honour

Honourable Simon Osei-Mensah, Ashanti Regional Minister

Rotary International President representative, Drew Kessler and Spouse Vicki

PRID Sam Okudzeto – PRIMUS and Member of Council of State

Nana Agyakoma Difie II, Mamponghemaa

Nana Agyenim Boateng I, Amoamanhene

Nananom and notable chiefs here present

Inspector General of Police, George Akuffo-Dampare

Security Chiefs of the various arms of Command

District Governor, D9103 – Germain Tomegah,

I have the utmost pleasure, honour and respect to welcome you to this morning’s auspicious event.

I, your District Governor, PRIMERO of District 9104, as appointed by yourselves to serve you this Rotary year, I am especially humbled by the august presence of our father, our brother and loyal friend of Rotary , His Royal Majesty Osei Tutu II, Asantehene and a retinue of distinguished Chiefs and Royalty from Manhyia.

His Royal Majesty in the recent past graciously gave us audience when we went over to Manhyia to invite him to this occasion and he has magnanimously taken a slot out of his extremely busy schedule to come and grace the occasion.

Now this calls for a massive applause. May we kindly stand and applaud him deservedly.

**INTRODUCTION**

It is an absolute honour fellow Rotarians and our esteemed Guests to stand before you this morning.

It seems like just a week or two ago when I was invested as your District Governor by Rotary International Director Patrick and PRID Sam in the presence of H.E John Agyekum Kufuor to lead the District. We gathered together then with a shared purpose to explore how we can create hope in the world through our actions as Rotarians.

Today, we are gathered again. This gathering is of extraordinary individuals dedicated to Service above Self under the banner of Rotary. You are not just representatives of our communities. You, Rotarians are torchbearers of a timeless commitment to make our world a better place. Rotary is an organization possessed of no secret oath or obligation, no secret or mysterious initiation, with only one password….SERVICE.

Rotary International embodies the spirit of compassion, peace and dedication to humanitarian causes, here in Ghana, our district and the world over. From eradicating polio to providing clean water, all over our country to promoting peace, improving literacy, Rotary in our district impacts communities, transcends limits and is continuously touching countless lives.

We have convened here also to deliberate on the state of our district, to inspire you, my fellow Rotarians, to go on to deliver successful and impactful projects, exceeding all expectations.

**INVESTITURE**

On the 8th of July 2023, my investiture as the first District Governor of Rotary International District 9104 took place at the Grand Arena, Accra International Conference center. This was attended by more than 700 Rotarians from the district, Rotary leaders and Rotarians from district 9103 and Past District Governor Ken Mugisha from District 9212. There were also distinguished guests such as former President John Agyekum Kufuor, former Chief Justice Georgina Theodora Wood, Hon. Francis Asenso Boakye, Archbishop Nicholas Duncan Williams.

The investiture ceremony was carried out by Rotary International Director Patrick Chisanga and supported by PRID Sam Okudzeto. It was an evening of pageantry, fun and great proud Rotary moments.

A special thanksgiving ceremony was held in appreciation to God for the guidance of the leadership which resulted in the creation of the new district and to solicit His continual guidance in steering affairs of the district into a formidable and vibrant one.

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR’S OFFICIAL CLUB VISITS**

As required, the District Governor has completed official visits ended in February 2024 with all sixty-five (65) clubs having been attended to in the district.

**DISTRICT GOVERNOR’S INTERNATIONAL VISIT**

District Governor on his visit to Freetown attended the meeting of the Rotary Club of Freetown Sunset where he fellowshipped with Rotarians including two Rotarians from Ghana.

**MEMBERSHIP**

**Attraction & Retention**

The total number of Rotarians in the District stands at 1,849 members, an increase of 113 from the start of the Rotary year. Women constitute about 40% of the entire membership. The percentage of Rotarians under the age of 40 years is 25%, whereas the percentage of members over 40 years old is 63%. The remaining 12% have not reported their ages.

**New Clubs & Charter Ceremonies**

The charter ceremonies of the Rotary Clubs of Dunkwa, Accra-Airport Enclave Rotary Club of Accra-Achimota Grey City were held to officially welcome into the Rotary family.

**New Club Development**

In line with the district objectives to form five (5) new clubs, the New Club Development Committee has been working to ensure that our membership numbers grow appreciably. The following clubs which are at various formative stages are likely to be formed before the end of the Rotary year.

They include:

* Rotary Club of Navrongo
* Rotary Club of Kumasi-Premier International
* Rotary Club of Bogoso
* Rotary Club of Accra-Odade3 AOGA
* Rotary Club of Accra-Central

At this juncture, permit me to specially welcome the two clubs who have achieved provisional status and are here at this conference. They the Provisional Rotary Club of Accra-Odade3 AOGA and Provisional Rotary Club of Bogoso.

**Membership Seminar**

The membership seminar for this year was organised virtually to enable more participants attend and

**ROTARY FOUNDATION**

Rotary Foundation Giving is USD 139,221.91

Having recognised the large non-interest from clubs in contributing to the Polio Plus and to stem this tide, the District Governor decided not to accept any personal gifts that would have normally been given from clubs during his visits. Instead, he encouraged them to convert all such gifts into cash and these have been transferred to TRF in their names.

The outcome of this decision is an appreciable reduction in the number of non-Giving clubs.

**District Designated Funds (DDF)**

Amount available DDF = $99,460.66.

Maximum amount available for District Grants 2023-2024 = $35,895

**District Annual Fund**

In December 2023, the District Governor pinned 100 PHFs at a breakfast ceremony in Accra under a special promotion was extended for an additional month. To date, we have 120PHFs under this promotion.

**Foundation Seminar**

This year’s Foundation seminar took place in Koforidua in November 2023 and was very well attended with useful insights into the activities of the Rotary Foundation.

**Walk For Rotary**

Walk For Rotary this year as an avenue for raising funds for the Rotary Foundation and creating awareness, this event has been a popular one over the years. Rotarians in the other regions of the country also organised their walk to coincide with the same day.

**EVENTS**

**All White Rotary Foundation Musical Concert**

To create awareness, raise funds and highlight the achievements of the Rotary Foundation, an All-White Musical concert was held at the Accra International Conference Centre.

Three hundred and eighty-eight Rotarians, Rotaractors and Guests were treated to the music of Adina, King Promise, Afro Harmony Band, Rotary Choir, and performances from PP Amarkine, PP JK, Indian performers and Hy5. It was indeed a fun evening for a good cause.

**Rotary Day - InterCity Meeting**

This year’s intercity meeting was held on Rotary Day at Christ the King Hall. The speaker was Rotarian David Ofosu-Dorte of AB Walters delivered on the topic: “High Ethical Standards: An Endangered Trait in An Unethical Ecosystem”. The attendance was very encouraging and it is hoped that Rotarians will champion causes of sound ethical practices in tandem with its core values.

**Reproductive Maternal and Child Health**

Together with Rtn Martina Mollers from Rotary E-Club of Bodese Int., the District Governor launched the Reproductive Maternal and Child Health as an Action Group for Rotarians in Ghana.

**CELEBRATION OF ROTARY IN GHANA @ 65 YEARS**

As part of the activities to commemorate sixty-five years since Rotary found footing in Ghana, leadership appeared on GTV’s Breakfast Show to talk about Rotary in Ghana and celebration of World Polio Day. Those on the show were Past Rotary International Director (PRID) Sam Okudzeto, District Governor David Osei Amankwah and District Governor Nominee Nana Yaa Siriboe.

**WORLD POLIO DAY**

This year’s World Polio Day was celebrated in Koforidua with a walk through the principal streets. The Omanhene of New Juaben Traditional Area, Omanhene, Daasebre Kwaku Boateng III joined Rotarians in the walk. A billboard with the picture of the Omanhene was unveiled and mounted at the Galloway Junction.

**LEARNING AVENUES**

**District Learning Seminars**

Two learning Seminars for officers of the next Rotary year were held. The first, District Team Learning Seminar and were taken through Rotary International theme and goals, District goals and calendar of events.

The Club Leadership Team Learning Seminar had club officers from all over the country in learning and preparing for next Rotary year.

**Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)**

Rotary Leadership Institute held part 1, 2, 3 and Graduate class courses. During the sessions, participants delved into various aspects of Rotary, gained insight into Rotary’s structure, ethics and community service objectives.

**COMMUNICATION & MEDIA**

**District Website**

We launched a new district website ([www.rotarydist9104.org](http://www.rotarydist9104.org)) which is regularly being updated with current and relevant news. Thus far, all editions of the Rotarian, District Governor’s newsletter, District Governor’s monthly message (print and video) have been uploaded to the website.

**District App**

A district app was commissioned at the start of the year and has functionalities such as serving as a directory of all Rotarians in the district with their classifications, clubs, etc., registering and paying for district events seamlessly including the All-White Musical concert, Intercity meeting and DISCON.

**District Governor’s Monthly Message**

As a novelty and in welcoming Rotarians to new months, the District Governor shares a message both via flier and video which briefly narrates activities of the previous month and outlines expectations for the ensuing month.

**District Newsletter**

The editorial team has successfully produced the monthly editions of the district newsletter (Kokrokoo) and features very informative materials about the district and other external news. This has been from July 2023 to March 2024 as the latest edition.

**PUBLIC IMAGE**

The objective of our Public Image as we started the new Rotary year was to ensure that Rotarians adhere to Rotary’s Public Image and branding guidelines. It was also to inculcate the culture of creating a consistent branding culture, send the right perception to the outside world and tell our Rotary story with one voice in a more impactful manner through multiple channels.

**District Public Image Seminar**

The virtual District Public Image Seminar took place with a good number of Rotarians and Rotaractors. The variety of speakers took the participants through a wide range of topics related to public image and publicity.

**Media Relations**

The District continues to maintain a core press corps within the media space to help publicize the activities of the District as well as the various clubs. Support has consistently been extended to Rotaract as well.

**Social Media and Online Presence**

Month by Month the resolute team in charge of social media continue to expand and improve on the various social media for both the District9104 and District Governor’s social media handle. Currently, Facebook, Instagram, X, LinkedIn and YouTube are of key focus and stories are churned out within this media.

**DISTRICT INITIATIVES**

**District Documentary Video**

The district has produced a 20-minutes professional video documentary titled “***Charting a new course: Rotary Ghana’’***.

The documentary captures the history of District 9104 dating from when Rotary was first introduced to the shores of Ghana with its primary objectives as follows:

* Project what the organisation Rotary is about.
* Get new members to understand the core of Rotary and the origin of District 9104.
* Provide some enlightenment to existing members who may have lost sight of Rotary's evolution and new direction.
* Have the general public appreciate what Rotary stands for and gain traction for potential membership growth.
* Increase positive public image and awareness of the Rotary brand.

A YOUTUBE channel was activated and the documentary uploaded there.

**Environment**

We embarked on an initiative dubbed “Rotary Greens Ghana”. This initiative seeks to transform the idea and task of ‘greening’ our environment by planting trees from being just a physical activity to an ingrained social and behavioural change.

We are working towards meeting our target of 100,000trees by World Environment Day in June 2024.

**Solar Vaccine Shelter Project**

One of the district's flagship projects is the Solar Vaccine Shelter Project. It aims at providing identifiable health facilities with more reliable and consistent source of power to store vaccines. Presently, there are about 2,223 facilities across the country without Cold Chain Equipment (CCE). This includes 326 requiring Solar Direct Devices (SDDs comprising panel, invertor and fridge.

The full cost of sponsoring a site is estimated at USD 9,000.00.

**Rotary District 9104 WASH Activities**

We will continue to advance WASH initiatives within our district through collaborative efforts, strategic partnerships, and sustained advocacy, aimed at making a significant impact on the lives of communities by ensuring access to clean water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities.

**PRIP Shekhar Mehta’s Heart Surgery Offer**

On a visit by Past Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta to the President of the Republic of Ghana, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo in March 2022, he offered Fifty (50) heart surgeries to be performed in India for children from Ghana for free. Subsequently, we took up the challenge and have been able to secure all the approvals from the Presidency to get the project underway.

We are about sending the first batch of children to India for the surgery.

**District Mental Health Support Project**

The District Governor used the occasion to launch the District’s Mental Health Support project with a helpline to address concerns Rotarians their families may have with respect to mental health. This also synchronises with the goal of Rotary International President Gordon McInally to handle the issue of mental health more seriously.

**District 9104 Speakers Series**

The district initiated a new program – Rotary Speakers’ Series. This programme aims at highlighting and promoting the core values of Rotary and is impact on Ghana. It brings topical and relevant matters to the currency of people’s mind in order that actions will be taken.

The first one was held at the AFTCTA Secretariat under the broad theme: ***Mitigating The Impact Of Disasters - Rotary's Contribution*** mainly as a result of the disaster suffered by the Akosombo dam spillage. It was a very successful event.

**Rotary Networking and Business Fair**

The first Rotary Networking and Business fair took place on December 9, 2023. The primary objectives of this fair were:

* To foster business networking among Rotary business and professional members and the Ghanaian business community.
* To generate new leads and to build brand awareness.
* To raise funds to support the Rotary International District 9104 Foundation and initiatives.

Several Rotarians attended with their families and some exhibited their goods and services. Overall, the objectives of the initiative were achieved and it is hope that this will be institutionalised on the district’s calendar.

**NEW GENERATIONS SERVICE EXCHANGE**

The first of its kind in the new district took place with a total of 20 Rotaractors, 2 Interactors and 4 Rotarians participating hosted by District 9103. The participants undertook French lessons; went on a vocational tour at an industrial hub which housed several businesses including a garment making factory and soya beans oil production factory’ attended an intercity meeting with counterparts from D9103 amidst other sightseeing and social events.

**ROTARY FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE**

A multi-District Rotary Friendship Exchange Program played host to Rotarians from District 9142, District 9110 in February. Activities included a tourist visit to Cape Coast. The group participated in a project by the Rotaract Club of Accra-Ring Road Central at Accra Girls SHS followed by a farewell cocktail at the District Governor’s residence.

**OTHERS**

**Donation Towards Volta Basin Disaster (Ghana Red Cross)**

The utilisation of GHS 100,000.00 from the District Reserve Account towards disaster relief efforts occasioned by the spillage from the Akosombo dam was approved under emergency. The funds were donated through the Ghana Red Cross Society. An MoU was duly signed with the Ghana Red Cross Society to this effect.

**Rotary Zone Institute**

An impressive attendance of about 60 Rotarians from the District attended the 5th All Africa Rotary Zone Institute in Lusaka, Zambia from the 5th – 10th September 2023. At the institute, all districts signed the Inter Country Committees (ICC) in Africa pact.

**CONCLUSION**

The essence of our calling – is to serve humanity with passion, purpose and perseverance.

The world today is beset with many challenges. There are major issues with economies around the world, responsible for the growth of socio-economic disparities. There are disturbing concerns on environmental degradation, and so our mission under our banner of the seven areas of focus has never been more critical!

Let us remember that behind every project, every donation and every act of kindness lies a story of promise, - a story of transformation. Whether it is a child undergoing surgery for heart disease, or for eye treatment and for cleft lip repair, whether it is a family gaining access to clean water, or a community benefitting from a water, sanitation and hygiene project, these transformative projects fuel our passion and remind us of the profound difference we can make when we come together with purpose and determination.

And so, Create Hope in the World, the theme set out by RI President Gordon, engenders the theme of our district conference; **ROTARY: CREATING HOPE IN GHANA.**

If Rotary’s meaning is to give, I am proud to belong to it. Giving is just not money. The best we can give is our time, commitment, care and effort. And as it has been said, **Giving is Living**.

Remember what the following says about Wealth and Giving;

Money can buy almost anything, - but it cannot buy our most basic values

Money can buy beds, but not sleep

Food but not an appetite

Medicine but not health

Books but not intelligence

Luxury but not beauty

A house but not a home

Companionship but not fellowship.

My family of Rotary, I have over the last nine months of my tenure, found a sense of belonging, I have renewed my sense of purpose and invigorated my passion to make a difference as set out at my investiture. My last nine months have been filled with meaningful experiences and shall strengthen my resolve towards more cherished friendships.

If the desires of Rotary are mere words to you, fellow Rotarians, they count for nothing but if you will study Rotary, practice it, you will find that the directives of Rotary are pregnant with meaning. For me, through Rotary, I have been directed, encouraged and uplifted. I am so very proud to be a member of this great procession, this honor roll of Rotary leadership, as Primero of District 9104, our new district.

My dream, fellow Rotarians, is that you will come along with me and the successive District Governors to Create Hope in Ghana, and in the world. We must look to the future. Compassion must thrive over indifference and Rotary’s legacy of service must continue to inspire generations to come.

Thank you for your kind attention and enjoy the rest of the conference.

Long live Rotary International, Long Live Rotary District 9104.

God Bless us all!

**David Osei Amankwah**

Governor, Rotary International District 9104

2023/24