

THE GOVERNOR'S LETTER



**“FOR ROTARY, LET’S DARE
TO DREAM BIG”**

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EDITORIAL TEAM

PUBLISHING DIRECTOR
DG Abou-Bakar OUATTARA

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF/DEPUTY
Yann AKPÉ
Raïma TIMITÉ

LAYOUT
Yann AKPÉ
Emmanuel KAMBOU

EDITORIAL TEAM
Arielle KALOUBOUÉ
Emmanuel KAMBOU
Mathy YAO

PROOFREADING AND
VALIDATION
Michel ASSEMIEN

ADVISOR
IPP Carlita-Rachel EKUE

TRANSLATION
Rtn Sira MAGUIRAGA
IPP Carlita-Rachel EKUE
PAG Adla Lima Barreto

EDITORIAL



Cel: (+225)0787874412
mail: yann.akpe@gmail.com
Rotaract Club Abidjan Cocody

As we launch this new edition of our magazine, we find ourselves at a crossroads a pivotal moment marked by the smooth transition from one leadership term to the next. This handover is far more than a mere administrative change; it symbolizes continuity and renewal, inviting us to reflect collectively on our commitment. It is an opportunity to build on our achievements and sharpen our strategies to meet tomorrow's challenges.

This new term heralds a bold, engaged, and globally minded Rotary, a vision clearly articulated by Governor Abou-Bakar Ouattara during the District Conference and Assembly (DAC) in Ouagadougou in May 2025: "We aspire to a Rotary without borders, one that breaks down prejudices and embodies a fresh vision of service and excellence."

This vision translates into a comprehensive strategic approach aimed at amplifying the visibility of our actions to maximize their impact, fostering constant innovation to address current challenges sustainably, forging strong partnerships with like-minded organizations, and strengthening the spirit of friendship and cohesion that defines our movement. Every initiative, whether improving the lives of the vulnerable or combating global inequalities, actively contributes to building a more just, compassionate, and humane future.

This inaugural issue marks the beginning of a series of regular editions designed to inform, connect, and inspire you. Here, you will meet the future leaders who will drive our mission: the Rotary International President, the District 9101 Governor, and the District Rotaract Representative.

We warmly invite all Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors to stay engaged with District 9101's activities, a dynamic platform for exchange and ideas, offering concrete ways to deepen your involvement and amplify our collective impact.

Together, let us uphold a Rotary of conviction and action: a borderless Rotary, pioneering innovative solutions, grounded in friendship, and relentlessly committed to doing good where every bold, compassionate, and excellence-driven effort counts.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

INTRODUCTION OF THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

FRANCESCO AREZZO

Francesco AREZZO, a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa (Italy), was selected by the Board of Directors to serve as Rotary International President for 2025–2026.

The Board convened an extraordinary session following the unexpected resignation of President-Elect Mário César Martins DE CAMARGO on June 8. In accordance with Rotary's policies, the Board selected the new President-Elect from the candidates previously reviewed by the Nominating Committee for the 2023 RI President selection process.

The 2025–2026 presidential theme, announced at the 2025 International Assembly in February, remains **People of Action: Unite for Good**, calling on Rotarians to be a unifying force in an increasingly divided world. Through service, Rotary brings together people of all backgrounds, faiths, and professions to create lasting change in their communities.

A practicing orthodontist, Arezzo is active in international professional associations and serves as Vice President of Italy's National Dentists Association for Ragusa Province. He is a Knight of Honor and Devotion in the Sovereign Military Order of Malta and a Rotary Foundation Benefactor, a Paul Harris Fellow, and Major Donor (Level 4).

A Rotarian for over 30 years, Arezzo has served as a Director, Vice Chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, and Training Leader. He and his wife, Anna Maria Criscione, a tourism entrepreneur have two children.

Source:

<https://www.rotary.org/fr/francesco-arezzo-of-italy-selected-to-be-2025-26-rotary-international-president>



FOR ROTARY

“DARE TO DREAM BIG”

@Yann.A



For the 2025-2026 term, District 9101 will be led by Ivorian Rotarian Abou-Bakar OUATTARA. Born on January 28, 1968, his commitment to Rotary has been profound and unwavering. Beginning his journey in Rotaract, he joined the Rotary Club Abidjan Atlantis in 2006, where he rose through the ranks to become Club President for the 2011-2012 term. His dynamic leadership and ability to mobilize others have been hallmarks of his career, culminating in his selection as District Governor during the 2022 Council of Governors meeting.

Professionally, Abou-Bakar OUATTARA is a respected chartered accountant, serving as CEO of Goodwill Audit & Consulting. His dedication to Rotary's ideals is further demonstrated through his active support of The Rotary Foundation as a Benefactor, Paul Harris Fellow, and Major Donor (Level 4). His exemplary service—both at the club level and through Foundation contributions—reflects his willingness and devotion to fully embrace his role as Governor of District 9101.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR

Dear Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Interactors of District 9101,

As we embark on a new Rotary year, I am filled with enthusiasm and hope for what we will achieve together. The vision of our RI President, *"Unite for Good,"* resonates deeply with the commitment each of you demonstrates daily.

Every project you lead—whether improving health, expanding education, promoting peace, or supporting communities in need—embodies this spirit of unity and service. This year, let us stand together in our diversity, united by shared values, and determined to amplify our impact.

It is vital that the world understands Rotary's true purpose. Misconceptions often overshadow our selfless work, so let us redouble our efforts to share our successes, stories, and the lives we touch. Effective communication is key to growing our impact and inspiring others to join our mission.

Let's share our successes, our impact stories, the lives we touch. Let's use every channel at our disposal to spread the word about what Rotary is really about: an organisation of passionate people, dedicated to serving and making a positive difference in the world.

By making our actions visible and explaining our philosophy and values, we will help to dispel misunderstandings and inspire more people to join us in our mission. Effective communication is a powerful tool for increasing our impact and strengthening our ability to "do good" together.

Thank you for your dedication, creativity, and perseverance. Together, let us build a world of hope, thriving communities, and unwavering solidarity.



I wish you all a rewarding Rotary year, full of success and positive impact. May the spirit of "United for Good" guide our every step, and may our stories inspire the world.

With all my Rotarian fraternity,

Abou-Bakar OUATTARA

District Governor 9101

Term 2025-2026

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT ROTARACT REPRESENTATIVE

Ange KOUAKOU

@Raima.Timité



Hailing from Côte d'Ivoire, Ange KOUAKOU serves as the District Rotaract Representative (DRR) for District 9101 during the 2025-2026 term.

A dynamic and dedicated professional in media and communications, she brings proven expertise in marketing, public image management, and event coordination to her leadership role.

Her Rotaract journey began in 2015 with the Rotaract Club Abidjan-Lagunes, where she progressively assumed greater responsibilities before being elected by her peers to lead the district.

Her distinguished service includes:

- **President, Rotaract Club Abidjan-Lagunes (2021-2022)**
- **Chairperson, Organizing Committee for the 2024 Bassam District Assembly and Conference (DAC)**
- **Advisor to the DRR at the National Coordination of Rotaract and Interact Clubs of Côte d'Ivoire**

Guided by the vision of "**Collective Emulation**", DRR Ange KOUAKOU and her district team will cultivate Rotaract as a space for excellence, fellowship, and professional development - fostering both personal growth and collective impact.

Key objectives for her term include:

- **Enhancing District visibility**
- **Recruiting 500+ new members**
- **Chartering 2+ new Rotaract clubs in emerging areas**

The term will feature significant initiatives beginning with an official launch in August, culminating in the District Assembly and Conference (DAC) scheduled for April 2026 in Bouaké.

We extend our warmest wishes to our friend Ange KOUAKOU for a successful and impactful term.



“ LOGOS AND PRESIDENTIAL THEMES “



Starting in 2025-2026, Rotary International presidential themes will no longer feature distinct logos. This decision, made by the RI Board in October 2023, aims to standardize Rotary's branding and align messaging with its Action Plan.

The primary reason for this change is to standardize Rotary's communications and brand identity. The new approach will feature a single annual presidential message aligned with Rotary's Action Plan, rather than introducing different themes and logos each year.

It was found that when clubs and districts used these themes and logos to promote external events, it sometimes created confusion about Rotary's core message.

July: Maternal and Child Health Month

July is designated as Maternal and Child Health Month in Rotary. This encompasses Maternal health from pregnancy through postpartum care and Child Health from infancy through adolescence.

To protect these vulnerable populations, multiple programs have been established to provide support, particularly for those in underserved communities.

As part of its commitment to this cause, Rotary has made maternal and child health one of

its key strategic priorities (Area of Focus #4).

Rotary's initiatives in this area include:

- **\$172,500 in funding for medical equipment in Brazilian public hospitals**
- **A program targeting 25% reduction in maternal and neonatal mortality in specific regions**
- **\$30 million allocated to combat malaria, pneumonia,**

and diarrheal diseases in African countries

- **Telemedicine training for doctors to improve healthcare access in remote areas**

These represent just a few of Rotary's many interventions in this vital field.

For more information, please visit our website: www.rotary.org

DISTRICT 9101 AWARDS CEREMONY (2025-2026 TERM)

The District 9101 Awards Programme was created to encourage and recognise Rotarians and clubs that have made an exceptional contribution to Rotary's objectives. It is part of a dynamic of motivation, recognition and excellence to strengthen the impact of actions within the District. An awards committee has been set up for this purpose.

Objectives :

- To recognise the commitment and excellence of Rotarians and clubs in the District
- To encourage best practice and collective achievement
- To raise the profile and attractiveness of Rotary

Award Categories Include:

- Best Assistant Governor
- Best Club
- Best National Representative of the President of the Learning Committee
- Highest Net Membership Growth
- Best Membership Champion (Rotaract/Rotary Club)
- Best Membership Retention Rate
- Top Contributing Club to The Rotary Foundation (All Funds Combined) (Rotaract/Rotary)
- Top Annual Fund Contributing Club (Rotaract/Rotary)
- Top Polio Fund Contributing Club (Rotaract/Rotary)
- Top Foundation Contributor (Individual Member) (Rotaract/Rotary)
- Best Public Image Club
- Best Community Development Unit (UDC)
- Special Award: Most Dynamic Club Membership
- Special Innovation Award for Club Attractiveness
- Special Arch Klumph Award
- Best District Club Representation at DAC Outside Côte d'Ivoire
- Best Country Representation at DAC Outside Côte d'Ivoire



Award Types:

Trophies and certificates of recognition will be awarded to the top three performers in each category.

Evaluation Period and Presentation:

Awards will be based on data collected through March 31, 2026.

Winners will be honored during our upcoming District Assembly and Conference (DAC) from April 21-26, 2026 in Abidjan.

The District 9101 Awards Program for 2025-2026 reflects our commitment to motivation and positive emulation. Its success depends on the active participation of clubs and members. Thank you for helping make this recognition a special moment for our District.

The Awards Committee

MAIN EVENTS 2025-2026

Eventos	Location	Date
Handover	Sofitel Hotel Ivoire	12 july 2025
Leadership Training	Abidjan	22 - 24 july 2025
Seminar on foundation documents	Online	02 August 2025
Symposium with the press	By Country	Sept - Oct - Nov 25
Membership seminar	By Country	20 September 2025
Institute Fusion	Belgium	25 - 28 September 2025
Training Clubs Dynamics/Difficulties	By Clubs/countries	18 october 2025
World Polio Day	District-wide	October 2025
RYLA	Senegal, Guinée, RCI	October - November 2025
World Interact	District-wide	03 - 09 November 2025
West Africa Project Fair	Lomé (Togo)	05 to 12 Nov 2025
Rotaract Africa Summit (RAS 25)	Cotonou (Benin)	20 to 23 November 2025
Foundation Seminar	District-wide	22 november 2025
Council of Governors	Abidjan or surrounding area	December 2025
Public Image Seminar	District-wide	24 January 26
World Rotaract Week	By Country	09 - 15 March 2026
ACD Rotaract 2026	Bouaké	08 - 12 April 2026
ACD Rotary 2026	Abidjan	21 - 26 April 2026
International Convention	Taiwan	13 - 17 June 2026

DISTRICT TEAM 2025-2026

COMMITTEE



District Governor

DGAbou-Bakar OUATTARA
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Atlantis
+225 07 07 05 78 79
aboubakarouattara@icloud.com



Deputy District Governor (DDG)

PDG Christopher FORSTER
Sierra Leone-RC Freetown
+232 76 655811
christoforster@hotmail.com



District Conference Chair

PDG Christophe KOREKI
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Lagunes
+225 07 07 02 95 94
christophekoreki@yahoo.fr



District Governor-elect (DGE)

DGE Baidy DIENG
Sénégal-RC Dakar
+221 77 819 60 98
baidydieng@yahoo.com



District Governor Nominee (DGN)

DGN Abdrahamane DEMBELE
Mali-RC Kati
+223 66 74 76 21
abdoudembele@yahoo.fr



District Secretary

PAG Djémis Ange-Noguès KOUAME
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Daloa Centre-Ouest
+225 07 07 07 09 71
secretaire2526@rotary-district9101.org



District Treasurer

PP Aka Benoît Michel Elie TANO
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Atlantis
+225 07 07 01 33 67
tresorier2526@rotary-district9101.org



District Rotaract Representative

DRR Yah Ange KOUAKOU
CI-RTC Abidjan Lagunes
+225 07 57 61 35 39
angepascalekouakou11@gmail.com



DAC Committee Chair

PAG Magloire N'DAKON
CI-RC Abidjan Cocody
+225 07 07 02 22 53
jbmn234@msn.com



District Rotary Foundation Chair

PDG Sunny AKUOPHA
Mali-RC Bamako Ouest
+223 65 74 74 77
aad52@hotmail.com



District Learning Committee

PDG Abdoulaye SANOGO
CI-RC Abidjan Golf
+225 05 04 00 97 97
asanogob@gmail.com



District Chief of Protocol

PP Marcel GNEBA
CI-RC Abidjan Atlantis
+225 07 07 00 95 77
marcel.gneba@gmail.com



Master of Ceremonies

PAG Carmen MERHEB
CI-RC Abidjan Golf
+225 07 08 30 52 27
merhebcarmen.cican@gmail.com



District Awards Chair

PP Audrey GANDJI
CI-RC Abidjan Excelsior
+225 07 08 99 91 90
audreygandji08@gmail.com



District Chief of Staff

PN Djénéba LY
CI-RC Abidjan Atlantis
+225 07 07 75 57 26
lydjeneba@gmail.com



District Fundraising Chair

RTN Kassoum Kodan COULIBALY
CI-RC Abidjan Atlantis
+225 05 05 44 44 10
k.coulibaly@kodann.ci

Advisors



Special Adviser

PDG Marie-Irène RICHMOND-AHOUA
CI-RC Abidjan Biétry
+225 07 07 02 82 80
mirarichmond@gmail.com



Adviser

PP Habib SANOGO
CI-RC Abidjan Atlantis
+225 07 07 85 12 30
habibsanogo@yahoo.fr

COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE



District Rotary Foundation Chair
PDG Sunny AKUOPHA
Mali-RC Bamako Ouest
+223 65 74 74 77
aad52@hotmail.com



District Learning Committee
PDG Abdoulaye SANOGO
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Golf
+225 05 04 00 97 97
asanogob@gmail.com



ACD Support Committee
PDG Thomas SOME
Burkina Faso-RC Ouagadougou
+226 70 25 37 01
thomas.some@yahoo.fr



District International Service Chair
PDG Christopher FORSTER
Sierra Leone-RC Freetown
+232 76 655811
christoforster@hotmail.com



District Membership Chair
PAG Mamadou TOURE
Mali-RC Bamako Koulouba
+223 76 12 84 85
madoutoure@gmail.com



District Rotary Public Image Chair
Rtn Michel Assémien KOUADIO
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Atlantis
+225 07 58 99 99 79
michel@dreammaker-ci.com



District Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Chair
PAG Adama SORO
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Golf
+225 07 07 90 70 39
adama712003@yahoo.fr



Intercountry Committee Chair
PAG Abroulaye FOFANA
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Bietry
+225 07 07 05 84 94
abroulaye.fofana@gmail.com



**District Paul Harris Society
Coordinator Endowment/Major Gifts
Subcommittee Chair**
PAG Dramane KONATE
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Deux
Plateaux
+225 07 07 07 17 11
konate.d01@gmail.com



Clubs in difficulty Support
ADG Maury TIMITEY
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Atlantis
+225 05 05 75 80 80
maurytimset@gmail.com



District Rotaract & Interact Chair
Rtn Ange Stéphane GBONIKAN
Guinée-RC Conakry
+224 613339779
gikannobs@gmail.com



District Youth Protection Officer
PP Moussa BANCE
Burkina Faso-RC Ouagadougou Arc-En-
Ciel
+226 78 88 69 23
bancem69@gmail.com



**District Youth Exchange
Chair/District Scholarship
Subcommittee Chair & Rotary Peace
Fellowships Subcommittee Chair**
PP Marcellin ZINSOU
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Cocody
+225 0103285373
marcuszins@yahoo.fr



District RYLA Chair
PP Abdoulaye KONATE
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Koumassi
+225 07 07 07 27 60
abdoulayekonate54@gmail.com



The Governor's Letter
Rtc Yann Maxence AKPE
Côte d'Ivoire-RTC Abidjan Cocody
+225 07 87 87 44 12
yann.akpe@gmail.com



Thematic conferences
IPP Georgette Marina ALLOU
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Atlantis
+225 07 07 03 35 20
georgetteallou@yahoo.fr



District Webmaster
PAG Rachidi SOULE
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Cocody
+225 07 59 07 87 48
rachidisoule@gmail.com



District Alumni Chair
PAG Françoise Yah KOUAME
Mali-RC Bamako Blue
+225 07 07 96 56 97
mohayeet@gmail.com



Rotary Positive Peace Activator (RPPA)
ADG Omar Junaidi JALLOW
Gambie-RC Brusubi, Serrekunda
+220 759 4539
omarjallow217@gmail.com



Translation and Interpretation
Rtn Sira MAGUIRAGA
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Atlantis
+225 07 07 49 33 68
mimsmaguiraga@gmail.com



**District Rotary Community Corps
Chair**
PAG Marcellin QUENUM
Sénégal-RC Dakar Millénium
+221 77 184 28 36
gamquenum@gmail.com



**District Hepatitis Subcommittee
Chair**
PAG Aliou Abdoulaye MAIGA
Mali-RC Bamako Alassane Kanté
+223 76 46 46 67
aliouabdoulayemaiga@gmail.com



Malaria Subcommittee Chair
Rtn Emma BRUCE
Gambie-RC Bijilo
+220 72 22 23 45
ebruce2014@gmail.com



**Rotary Leadership Institute
International**
PAG Nahim Akanmu SUTI
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Adjamé
+225 07 08 07 08 07
snahim@yahoo.fr

COMMITTEE AND SUB-COMMITTEE



District RI International Meetings Promotion Chair

PP Jean-Pascal OUEDRAOGO
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Les Perles
+225 07 07 08 94 96
jpascal65@yahoo.fr



District Environnement Committee Chair

PP Bertin OUEIKO
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Cocody
+225 0707909333
dahiservice02@gmail.com



District Governor's Installation Ceremony

ADG Maury TIMITEY
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Atlantis
+225 05 05 75 80 80
maurytimset@gmail.com



Regalia

PAG Cathy Achabi ATTIOGBE
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Deux Plateaux
+225 07 07 47 35 82
attcathy@yahoo.fr

SUB-COMMITTEES



District new club development chair

PP Juste Ephrem Zennimouri ZIO
Burkina Faso-RC Ouagadougou
Arc-En-Ciel
+226 61 25 07 97
ziojuste@yahoo.fr



District Member Engagement Chair

PAG Nouhoum Allaye DIALL
Mali-RC Bamako Avenir
+223 63 68 51 00/22371300639
diallnouhoum@gmail.com



District Member Attraction Chair (Prospective members Chair & Membership Society Coordinator)

PAG Arnedo HOUETO
Guinée-RC Conakry
+224 622 11 19 51/22951767777
arnedohoueto@gmail.com



District Subcommittee Fundraising Chair

PAG Facourou DIANKA
Mali-RC Bamako Alassane Kanté
+223 66 78 53 28
facouroudianka@yahoo.fr



District Grants Subcommittee Chair

PP Fabrice Kanyi ABOUSSA-FOLLY
Burkina Faso-RC Ouagadougou Elite
+226 65 56 20 50
faboussa@hotmail.com



District Stewardship Subcommittee Chair

PP Decontee KING-SACKIE
Libéria-RC Sinkor Montserrado
+231 88 656 0806
deekaysack@gmail.com



District PolioPlus Subcommittee Chair & PolioPlus Society Chair

PP Diane Mélissa Amenan YAO
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Ebène
+225 07 08 44 40 81
ydmacool@hotmail.com

OTHER STATUTORY COMMISSIONS



District Finances Chair

ADG Hamidou Yacouba MAIGA
Mali-RC Bamako Ouest
+223 76227524
yacoubahmaiga@gmail.com



Committee of electors (District representative at RI level)

PDG Thomas SOME
Burkina Faso-RC Ouagadougou
+226 70 25 37 01
thomas.some@yahoo.fr



Nominating Committee Chair

PDG Marie-Irène RICHMOND-AHOUA
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Biétry
+225 07 07 02 82 80
mirarichmond@gmail.com

DISTRICT TEAM 2025-2026

REGIONAL MANAGERS



Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator (RRFC)
PDG Christophe KOREKI
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Lagunes
christophekoreki@yahoo.fr



Rotary Coordinator (RC)
PDG Dorothé Hosseu GOUNON
BENIN-RC Abomey-Calavi
dgounon@yahoo.fr



Rotary Public Image Coordinator (RPIC)
Bineswar (VINO) SOOKLOLL
Ile Maurice-RC Phoenix, Mauritius
vbs@intnet.mu



Endowment & Major Gifts Advisor
PDG Marceline Enganalim
Cameroun-RC Douala Joss
enganalim@yahoo.fr



End Polio Now Coordinator (EPNC)
PDG Marie-Irène RICHMOND-AHOUA
Côte d'Ivoire-RC Abidjan Bietry
mirarichmond@gmail.com



CONTACTS

Facebook: [Rotary Clubs District 9101](#)

Linkedin: Rotary District 9101

Instagram: [rotarydistrict9101](#)

