

# Rotary boss visits Kawempe hospital

BY NELSON KIVA

The Rotary International President, Francesco Arezzo who arrived in the country on Friday morning, visited Kawempe National Referral Hospital, where he launched a children life-saving project as part of his two-day official visit to Uganda.

At the hospital, he was briefed by the hospital director, Emmanuel Byaruhanga, who reported that on a daily basis, they handle about 550 women daily. These include 400 outpatients and 140 inpatients. He explained that the hospital handles at least 250 children daily.

“On average, we deliver 60 babies everyday. A third of them are delivered by caesarean section and we use equipment. So, the breakdown is very high, we need support,” Byaruhanga said.

Arezzo, accompanied by his wife Anna Mariacriscione Arezzo, was received by the health minister Dr Jane Ruth Aceng, the Rotary International Director designate, Emmanuel Katongole, Christine Kawooya and Geoffrey Kitakule, the Governors for Districts 9214 and 9213 respectively, among other leaders.

Arezzo launched the child health lifesaving project (Oxygen of Life) before proceeding to Makerere University Rotary Peace Centre.

He also met Rotary leaders at Speke Resort Munyonyo before attending the Rotary Foundation (TRF) recognition dinner for donors at BCF Courts in Muyenga on Friday evening.

On Saturday, Arezzo was set to visit Nakasero Blood Bank and grace a mega health camp organised by Rotary Club medical stars (of National Medical Stars) in Kajjansi, before meeting with Rotaractors at Lweza. His schedule also involved a visit to the Joint Clinical Research Centre-Bone Marrow Transplant Unit at Lubowa and conclude with a membership Gala dinner at Speke Resort MUYONYO.

Arezzo, in the Rotary annual statement, has emphasised the importance of high vaccination coverage as a critical factor in achieving the total eradication of polio globally. He has called for the immunisation of 90 to 97% of children under five years to eradicate the illness.

Arezzo has also highlighted the significance of peace as a vital element for sustainable development and growth, stating that without it, no country can function properly. His commitment to long-term global health initiatives in the continent is evident in his efforts to eradicate polio and promote peace and development.

Rotarians, under their primary motto, *Service Above Self*, focus on promoting peace, fighting diseases such as polio and malaria, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, growing local economies and protecting the environment.