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Service Above Self: The Rotary Life of Chris Ndibe

A Rotarian's journey of leadership, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to humanity

For over two decades, Dr. Chris Ndibe, a proud member of the Rotary Club of Abuja, has lived and embodied the ideals of Rotary. A Second Level Major Donor, Chris's journey has been marked by service, leadership, and a consistent commitment to mentoring the next generation of Rotarians.

Armed with a Ph.D in Mass Communication and decorated as a Fellow of several professional bodies—including the Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, the Nigerian Institute of Management, the Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria, and the Institute of Administrators—Chris has brought depth, discipline, and professionalism into his Rotary service. Beyond Rotary, he has made a name for himself as a Free Trade Zones and Communication Consultant, contributing to both national development and global economic discourse.

Chris joined Rotary in 1997, and just a few years later, in 2004/2005, he rose to the position of Club President, guiding his club with vision and dedication. His Rotary story did not stop there. He went on to serve as Assistant Governor, working closely with four District Governors and later as District Editorial Chairman, serving under



Mbanefo Nnorka, Elvis Chukwu, Dr. Victor Onukwugha and Dr. Goddy Nnadi and was the editorial advisor to the Immediate Past District Governor, PDG Mike. In each of these roles, he not only strengthened Rotary's work but also ensured that the message of Rotary reached broader audiences.

Looking back, Chris reflects on his highlights with deep satisfaction: the opportunity to touch lives through impactful service projects, to mentor young Rotarians,

and to contribute to the growth of both his club and the District. For him, Rotary has always been about creating hope and inspiring service in others.

His advice to fellow Rotarians is both simple and profound: remain committed to Rotary's ideals and serve with sincerity of purpose. "Beyond meetings and fellowships," he says, "we must always remember that Rotary is about service above self, and the true joy comes when our actions bring hope, relief, and opportunities to others."

On the ever-relevant issue of membership, Chris believes that driving growth in Rotary depends on making the experience truly engaging and rewarding. He advocates for inclusiveness, fellowship, and showcasing Rotary's tangible impact in communities. "People are naturally drawn to join when they see Rotary transforming lives," he notes. He also highlights the importance of mentorship and personal invitations as effective ways of inspiring new members.

Outside the world of Rotary, Chris finds balance and joy in leisure. He is an avid player of tennis, chess, and scrabble—games that sharpen both mind and body. He also loves to read and write in his quiet moments, often immersing himself in novels and motivational books that fuel his spirit of continuous growth. He wrote and published the first two textbooks on the free trade zone in the continent and still writing. His main job now is reading and writing.

He is well travelled and has made annual Rotary International Convention City his place of yearly holiday.

Chris Ndibe's Rotary story is one of steadfast service, generosity, and mentorship. Through his journey, he reminds us all that Rotary is not just an organization—it is a way of life dedicated to changing the world, one

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act of service at a time.

A Historic Moment for Africa and Rotary

Reflecting on the recent nomination of a second Nigerian as Rotary International President, Dr. Ndibe is filled with pride and optimism. "This is not just a personal achievement for the nominee or a victory for Nigeria; it is a bold statement that Africa's voice in Rotary is strong, relevant, and growing," he notes.

Chris believes this development carries profound advantages for Africa. It positions the continent at the centre of Rotary's global agenda, opening doors for stronger investments in humanitarian projects, leadership opportunities, and youth empowerment programmes across African nations. With Africa being home to some of the world's fastest-growing economies and youthful populations, Rotary's visibility at this level will inspire more Africans to embrace service above self.

"This nomination is both a recognition of the past contributions of Africans in Rotary and a challenge for us to do even more," he adds. He sees it as an opportunity to showcase African ingenuity in solving global problems—from healthcare delivery and literacy to peacebuilding and environmental stewardship. More importantly, it is a chance to deepen Rotary's footprint on the continent, expanding membership and ensuring Africa plays a central role

in shaping Rotary's future.

For Chris, this moment affirms that service has no boundaries. "The rise of another Nigerian to this highest office reminds us that when we serve faithfully, with dedication and integrity, the world takes notice," he concludes.

Quick Facts about Dr. Chris Ndibe

Full Name: Chris Okwudili Ndibe, Ph.D

Rotary Club: Rotary Club of Abuja

Foundation Status: Second Level Major Donor

Year Joined Rotary: 1997

Leadership Roles: Club President (2004/2005), Past Assistant Governor, District Editorial Chairman

Professional Background: Free Trade Zones & Communication Consultant

Academic & Professional Honours:

M.A; Mass Comm, M.Sc; Public Admin & Policy Analysis, Ph.D. in Mass Communication Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR)

Fellow, Nigerian Institute of Management (NIM)

Fellow, Advertising Regulatory Council of Nigeria (ARCON)

Fellow, Corporate Institute of Administrators

Service Highlights: Mentoring young Rotarians, expanding Rotary's impact in the District, and promoting Rotary's image

Leisure & Interests: Tennis, chess, scrabble, reading novels, writing, and motivational books