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Kakira Outgrowers
HAVE THEIR SAY TOO

Brian Lara visits Mweya
East African Distributors Ltd: Brand Building cocktail
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Rwanda International Trade Fair
New Rotary International President visits Kakira

Madhvani GROUP
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Proprietors
Muljibhai Madhvani & Co. Ltd. Plot 25 Main Street, P.O.Box 54, Jinja, Uganda

Correspondence
All correspondence should be addressed to:
The Editor, Group Magazine P.O.Box121 Jinja, Uganda Tel: +256 - 41 - 4444000 E-mail: editor@kakirasugar.com Registered at the GPO as a Newspaper

Contacts
Jinja: Muljibhai Madhvani & Co. Ltd. Plot 25, Main Street, P.O.Box 54, Jinja Tel: +256 - 33 - 2342100/200

Kakira: Kakira Sugar Works (1985) Ltd. 10 Kms Jinja - Tororo Road Tel: +256 41 - 444333/6

Kampala: Plot 96 - 98, 5th Street Industrial Area, Kampala Tel: +256 - 41 - 4259390/4/5

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Editor’s Note

In this second issue of the Madhvani Group Magazine for 2009 we share some of the developments and activities taking place within the Group. Despite the global events affecting some of our business including the floriculture, we continue to grow from strength to strength.

In this issue we put the spotlight on Kakira Sugar’s outgrowers who share their sweet success from being such important stakeholders to the business. This edition of the Group Magazine has been made with input from the following individuals who, I would like to acknowledge:

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Director Madhvani Group

Maanan Madhvani
Director Madhvani Group

Farhan Nakhooda
Projects Director Madhvani Group

Raju Sareen
Corporate Marketing Manager Kakira Sugar Works

Pamela Atim
Kakira Sugar Works

Tharan Patnaik
General Manager East African Distributors

Mahesh Kamath
Executive Assistant to Directors

I would like to thank all the above and any others whom we may have missed out and please keep sending your input for future publications.

Enjoy reading!

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Enjoy reading!
EADL Design Centre is one of Uganda’s leading suppliers of locks and ironmongery, air conditioners, sanitaryware, lights and light fittings and brings together all the best building materials and some of the world’s biggest names under one roof.

EADL is looking to make choosing the perfect fitting easier for everyone, be it a contractor, consultant, builder or customer. Diverse product categories give the option of mixing, matching and creative experimentation, which is what the company is striving to promote.

East African Distributors Ltd (EADL) organized a brand building cocktail at Serena Hotel on 29th April 2009 for Architects, Consulting Engineers, Construction Companies, in Uganda. Hon Omara Atubo, Minister for Land, Housing and Urban Development was the chief guest and a few of our principals flew into Uganda especially for this event. This function was attended by Gavin Van Steaden who is the VP-Sales and Marketing Africa for Assa Abloy; Fred Wamiki, Managing Director, Assa Abloy EA; Humphrey Kinaua, Export Manager, Assa Abloy; Martin Itotia, Marketing Manager, Assa Abloy EA; and Manish Vij, Head of International Sales, Hindware, India.

International brands such as Union, Yale, Tesa, Bessam, Inhova, Lockwood (Assa Abloy), Panasonic Hitachi and Trane Air conditioners, LEDS-C4 lights and lighting systems from Spain and sanitaryware from Hindware are available with their assurance of world class quality and choice. This opens up a whole new world of choices and concepts, which will suit all budgets and cater to different ideas.

Design sensibilities of cosmopolitan, authentic or contemporary are easily found, with LEDS-C4 lighting possibilities that can be mixed and matched. Union and Yale, the iconic brands, provide a wide range of locking solutions for residential housing, commercial building and industrial application markets. Yale also has fire equipment and systems and is considered a pioneer in their field and operates on a global level.

Trane Air conditioners serve customers with energy efficient and reliable products with better cooling and assure longer service life of their equipment.

Sanitaryware from Hindware, India’s leading manufacturer of sanitary ware, are world-class and are already being considered for a few projects due to their price, design and durability.

The Brand Building Cocktail event received good media coverage and, more importantly, allowed the people who matter to our business to learn more about the brands EADL represents. This should go a long way in EADL’s transacting business.

Our Principals, Assa Abloy, fully funded this function and were happy to see the response and the way in which the event was organized. Gifts for each invitee were provided by Hindware and Assa Abloy, together with CD-Catalogues of all the brands that EADL represents.
Kakira Sugar Works Ltd entered into an agreement with Amity Information Technology to implement a state-of-the-art software package called Agricultural Management Software (AMS).

The objective of the AMS is to improve the timing of services to Outgrowers, to have better accountability for all the services and inputs provided to farmers by Kakira, to improve the quality of work and to enhance the satisfaction of all the stakeholders as well as internal users (Kakira staff). The project is expected to go on line very soon.

In this connection, there was a presentation made to the Busoga Sugarcane Growers Association (BSGA) council members on 13th March 2009 on the AMS package with specific references to the Outgrowers Section. The Chairman and advisors of BSGA and farmers representatives from 17 sub counties participated.

Mr. Ojwang David, Chairman of BSGA, welcomed all the delegates and advisors. The meeting was presided over by Kakira’s Agricultural Manager, Dr. M. R Reddy, who explained the need for computerization in view of the expansion of the Outgrowers cane area, the number of Outgrowers and accordingly the quantity of cane supply. Mr. J.P. Samuel Jayakumar, Senior Outgrowers Superintendent, presented the details of the AMS package benefits and the expected process changes.

Farmers’ queries were addressed by the Agricultural Manager and the Outgrowers Manager. The BSGA council has welcomed the AMS package and appreciated the initiative of the Kakira Management in focusing on timely services.

Mweya and Paraa Safari Lodges Donate To Watoto

On 13th May 2009, Mweya and Paraa Safari Lodges donated various goods to the Watoto Ministries.

“The donors and visitors of Watoto Ministries who come to Uganda are amongst our best customers. Most of them spend some time at Paraa and Mweya Safari Lodges” said Ms Rukia Mwai, Assistant Sales and Marketing Manager, Marasa Holdings.

Spearheaded by Gary and Maryln Skinner, the Watoto Ministry is a huge organization that provides for the less fortunate children with holistic care in a bid to give them hope for a brighter future. Four homes viz. Suubi, Bbira, Bulrushes (babies home) and a home in Gulu were set up for this purpose.

Representing the two lodges, Ms. Rukia Mwai and Ms. Joy Kaberinde handed over the various goods to the senior mother, Mama Robinah, who was overwhelmed with happiness. The goods donated included rice, posho, sugar, soap, tea bags, cooking oil and wheat flour. “I really thank the management of Mweya and Paraa Safari Lodges for their generosity and for thinking of Watoto in such a big way. May God bless and reward you all abundantly,” she said.

Under the guidance of Mr. Apollo Karugaba and Ms. Esther Agwang, the team learnt that Suubi also has a Kindergarten, a Primary School, Secondary School and a Technical Institute sponsored by Global Fund, for the children who can not make it to University. “We are also thinking of setting up our own University since the children are many and the tuition is high these days,” said Apollo, who was pleased with the amazement that showed on the faces of his guests. A modern hospital is also being constructed in the village for the children.

Two hours later the Marasa Holdings team left Suubi children’s village, content that their trip was a great success. “We didn’t expect all this; we had imagined a small place with very few houses for the children. We were definitely stunned!” said Joy Kaberinde.
Cricket Legend

BRIAN LARA

Visits Mweya

On Heroes Day, 9th June, 2009, Mweya Safari Lodge hosted the Cricket Legend - Brian Lara. An exclusive itinerary was arranged to provide him a true African experience.

He loved the traditional dancers and thought they were wonderful. He went for a morning game drive with the Maraala Director of Operations, Mr. Khan and the Mweya General Manager, Mr. Richard Hodgon. After the game drive they went for a boat cruise on the Kazinga Channel in our luxury boat.

Mr Lara was bowled over with the magnificent views and commented that his short visit did not do justice to our unique site. He spent two nights in the luxury

“Nature at its best! Thank you to everyone for making my stay at the Mweya Lodge a special one. Will definitely be back. Look forward to seeing all again. Best wishes”

Brian Lara’s comments in the Mweya Guest book

Queens Cottage, where he was very impressed with the facilities. He promised to come back in the near future to get the complete feel, not only for Mweya and Queen Elizabeth National Park but all aspects of Uganda.

On the last day of his visit, he requested a pasta lunch similar to the dinner he had on the 9th June (the day he arrived) and he was visibly impressed that this was immediately arranged by the Lodge staff.

He entertained staff by taking group photographs and bought African carvings as souvenirs of his visit to Mweya.

He signed our Visitor’s book with the comments. “Nature at its best! Thank you to everyone for making my stay at the Mweya Lodge a special one. Will definitely be back. Look forward to seeing all again. Best wishes”

It was a great honor and a memorable occasion to host the Cricket Legend at the Lodge.
The construction of Chobe Safari Lodge has been in full swing. Here is the latest update of what has been achieved so far.

The main Lodge building is nearing completion. Windows are being installed in most areas. The limestone tiles have arrived for the general public areas, the dining and bar areas, and are being laid so that the built-in items can then be installed. The timber external dining deck is progressing well and the timber hand railings are being erected.

Bedroom units are being fitted out with wardrobes and free standing units but cannot be completed until the floor tiles arrive, the original tile shipment having been hijacked by Somali Pirates. Sliding patio doors are being manufactured. The VIP Suite is also progressing well.

The new Gate House Entrance is almost completed. The road system has been laid out and progress is well in hand. The paved entrance is complete and the car parking areas are 90% complete. The service road has been set out and is being cut and murram placed.

The Landscape Architect has started to place the materials for the bunds. Trees are being planted and grass seeding in non trafficked areas is being done.

The Staff Quarters construction is complete and only awaits the electrical and water supply connections so that they can be put into use. The water tower is almost completed and the water tank has arrived in Kampala for shipment to the site for erection. The water treatment plant has been shipped from India and delivery on site is expected shortly.

We all await the official opening at the end of the year.
People with Disabilities (PWDs) tend to be one of the most marginalized groups in Uganda today. They are often neglected and are not considered productive members of society. The simple ability to be mobile in itself generates some form of independence and self-worth.

A few months ago the Madhvani Group was approached by Mr. Eric Naveed, a Catholic Volunteer who has worked on various projects around the world including in Sri Lanka during the aftermath of the tsunami, in Pakistan when the recent earthquake took place, and also in Thailand, Malaysia and Kenya for short periods. He is also a presenter of Smart FM in Jinja and is currently working as a volunteer with Fr. P. G. Picavet, who has been working in Uganda as a missionary for almost forty years and is well known to the Madhvani Family.

Mr. Wilfred Pacoto, Process Manager Kakira, handed over the fourth wheelchair to baby Marium Haider. Born 7 years ago to Mr. Waseem Haider, little Marium unfortunately has a brain condition. Hence, she cannot stand for long; she needs support and physiotherapy. Her left hand also cannot function.

On 23rd April 2009, the second wheelchair was handed over by Ms. Jaya and Ms. Shifa, daughters of Mr. Kamlesh Madhvani to Ationo Sarah, a young disabled girl who goes to the Factory Primary School in Kakira. Sarah was born in 1998 to Mr. Ekolu Alex; in 2002 she lost her mother. She had been having difficulty going to school and would always get a lift on a bicycle from her father. Jaya and Shifa also distributed sweets to all the children in the school. Above all, the pupils were pleased that one of them had been assisted in such a munificent way.

The third wheelchair was donated by Mr. Richard Orr, General Manager Kakira, to Isiko Kasim, 31, a resident of Buyala village, Jinja District. Isiko was born crippled and even his hands are abnormal.

The basic concept of the programme was to give wheelchairs on a case-by-case basis to various individuals who are immobile and unable to access other forms of assistance.

The first wheelchair was donated by Mr. V G Modi, Executive Director – Finance to Mr. Benon Idadha, a taxi driver from Mayuge District who had lost his leg due to an accident in the previous year.

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The fifth wheelchair was handed over to 3 year old Sharon Aketwa by Dr. MR Reddy, Kakira Agricultural Manager. Sharon and her family come from Kitgum District. Sharon was born with a disability and finds it hard to use her legs. Most of the time she is taken care of by her grandmother when her parents are away.

The thinking behind the programme is for Kakira to donate on average one wheelchair per month. The recipients will be identified by Mr. Eric Naveed using various criteria with priority to be given to children. The beneficiaries will be not only from Kakira but also from the wider community including Jinja.

Although donations of this type only help one individual at a time, the ability to become mobile should not be underestimated and the programme will make a significant impact on the lives of the recipients.
Squash players in Jinja have a cause to smile after Excel Construction refurbished their main courts, turning them into world-class facilities.

The upgraded squash court was officially handed over to Jinja Club chairman Jim Kabeho (also a Group Director) by the Joint Managing Director of Excel Construction Company, Mr. Malkit Singh Saini.

The Company repaired the cracked walls, changed the roof, put up the pavilion and constructed a new wooden floor. Mr. Malkit said Excel Construction spent over UShs 20 million for the rehabilitation and Jinja club contributed about 10% of the money.

“We are pleased that our efforts have succeeded and now we can start and host serious competitions,” said Mr. Maanan Madhvani, a keen squash player and who was present at the ceremony.

Excel Construction Ltd., as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility towards the local community recently aided a project involving the construction of rumble strips (speed breakers), zebra crossings and fixing of sign posts for Nkondo Primary School, situated along the Jinja-Kamuli highway.

Excel was approached by the Jinja District Local Government, Uganda National Road Authority and Save the Children Fund to aid this project in order to reduce accidents which had claimed the lives of six school children in the last five months.

The completed project was handed over to the Headmistress of Nkondo Primary School by Mr. Malkit Singh Saini – Joint Managing Director, Excel Construction Ltd., in the presence of local district authorities including the LCV Chairman of Jinja District, Mr. Hannington Basakana.
The 6th Uganda Manufacturers’ Association Eastern Regional Trade Fair in Mbale, which started on 28th May 2009, ended on 4th June 2009 at Mbale Municipal Stadium.

The Madhvani Group of Companies participated with the following companies: Kakira Sugar Works, East African Packaging Solutions, Kakira Sweets and Confectionery, Industrial Security Services, Kajjansi Roses, Chrysanthemums Uganda, Steel Corporation of East Africa, Coleus Crowns, Mwera/Nakigalala Tea Estates, Makepasi Match, and East African Distributors.

The opening ceremony was presided over by the State Minister for Industry, Hon. Rev. Fr. Simon Lokodo, and a number of Mbale District Officials. The closing ceremony was presided over by the LCV Chairperson of Mbale, Mr. Bernard Mujjasi. Also in attendance of the closing ceremony was the General Manager of Kakira Sugar Works, Mr. Richard Orr.

All chief guests for both the opening and closing ceremonies visited the stall and they were impressed by both Group products and the display. The making of bottle tops from Coleus Crowns came as a surprise to the guests who assumed that they were only imported from Kenya. They also took a lot of interest in the flowers from Kajjansi Roses and Chrysanthemums Uganda, which they said were very beautiful. The visitors were impressed with Madhvani Tea as well.

The turn out by both the exhibitors (287) and showgoers (70,000) was very good and was way above that of 2007 and our products on sale were sweets, sugar and tea. Members of the public bought large quantities of all 3 categories.

The bottle tops from Coleus Crowns were also of interest to the showgoers who liked the display board. The people who are dealing in the making of juice and wines had a cause to smile since they will be able to get their product covers from within Uganda. A number of businessmen expressed interest in buying sugar on large scale.

Among the exhibitors were those from Kenya, Zambia and Tanzania. The UMA Executive Director, Mr. Gideon Badagawa and the UMA Chairman, Mr. Kaddu Kiberu, visited the stall and both commended the Madhvani Group of Companies for continued participation in the Eastern Regional Trade Fair.
Half a Billion Shillings has been made available by the Madhvani Foundation for Ugandan students pursuing University Education in a Ugandan University in the 2009/2010 academic year.

In a statement the Chairman of the Scholarship Committee, Mr. Henry Kyemba, said, “This figure (UShs 516 Million) represents by far the largest amount ever released by the Foundation in its annual contribution to the education sector; the money will allow hundreds of gifted but financially challenged students to complete their university education”.

The Madhvani Foundation was established in 1962 on the eve of Uganda’s Independence to honour the vision of the founder of the Madhvani group, the late Muljibhai Prabhudas Madhvani. In 2003 the Board set up the University Education Trust with the principal objective being the promotion of scientific and technical education for the betterment of the people of Uganda.

Since 2003, the trust has educated over 540 University students and has already provided scholarships worth over 1.3 Billion Uganda Shillings.

“The recent policy adopted by Government has seen the redirection of funding in the education sector towards Primary and Secondary learning; as a result the number of Government scholarships available for University students has dramatically reduced. The Madhvani Foundation aims to help fill in that ever-increasing gap, which is the primary reason why we continue to make such a significant contribution,” said Mr. Henry Kyemba.

Dr Susan Akello, a former recipient of a foundation grant said that the Madhvani Foundation helped her to achieve her dream of becoming a doctor. "The scholarship allowed me to focus on my studies without fear of being discontinued because of the lack of fees. I advise any Ugandan who fulfills the academic requirements and has the desire to study to apply because the Foundation offers you a real opportunity to empower yourself with the skills needed to help develop this country," she said.

Commenting on the criteria for selection, the secretary of the Foundation, Mr. S.K Iyengar, said, “We are looking for talented Ugandan students, both undergraduates and post graduate, of sound character who are facing difficulties paying for their studies”. He stressed that the selection process itself is very stringent yet transparent.
The Kakira PRO, Ms. Anita Vanessa, on behalf of the Madhvani Group donates food items (sugar, rice, soap and sweets) in Iganga, Jinja, Lugazi, Mukono and Kampala worth over Shs3,000,000 in for the month of May and June 2009. Pictured here also donating a cheque of Shs1,000,000 to Mama Jane Orphanage and Iganga Babies Home.

This donation was made by the Family Directors.

Directors Nikesh Madhvani (R) and Rickin Madhvani (L) during the Hindu Pooja Ceremony which took place on 22nd June 2009 for re-opening of the Kakira factory for the new season.

East-African Distributors officials take a group photo after their cocktail at Serena Hotel.

Kakira General Manager, Mr. Richard Orr, in a tête-à-tête with Mr. S.C. Khanna, CEO SCOUL, during the USCTA Conference at Colline Hotel in Mukono.

Visitors in Kakira on 21st April 2009 together with Kakira Top Officials. From left to right: Mr. Toni Tsolakis and Mr. Peter Botha from Liberty Life, South Africa, Mr. Mayur Madhvani, Joint Managing Director Kakira, Mr. Suresh Parmar, Director Software Applications (U), Mr. Kamlesh Madhvani, Joint Managing Director Kakira, Ms. Shifa K. Madhvani and Mr. Barrie Cambridge, General Manager, East African Underwriters.

Members of the Eastern Africa Association together with Kakira Officials during their visit.

Visit of the new Chairman & Managing Director, Bank of Baroda (U) Ltd., Mr. Pramod Kumar Gupta and his wife (centre) together with BOB and Kakira Officials.
Traditionally the Kakira Off-crop Season marks the end of the old and beginning of the new crop. On 13th June 2009, Kakira Sugar Works celebrated the 20th Annual Off-crop party. Taking place at the Kakira Main Hall, the ceremony was well attended with over 1,000 guests, mainly the management staff and their spouses.

Clad in their best evening clothes and walking hand in hand, the guests were in high spirits, obviously expecting a lot from the party. In attendance also were Mrs. Meenaben Madhvani and Mr. and Mrs. Amit Madhvani.

The MCs of the night, Mr. Andrew Lubaale and Mr. Bob Obetti together with Mr. P. Kumar made the occasion lively. Nile Beat, a cultural group from Jinja, also electrified the guests with their dancing skills.

The Kakira General Manager, Mr. Richard Orr welcomed the guests and thanked them for gracing the occasion. “This is the occasion when we traditionally celebrate the achievement of the previous crop and encourage ourselves to perform even better in the New Year ahead,” said Mr. Orr. He continued, “Well tonight we have another very good reason to celebrate as Kakira Sugar not only crossed the magical 100,000 tonne sugar production level during the season just completed but in the process recorded a 40% increase on sugar production to 144,000 tonnes of sugar made, and, of course, all this sugar has been sold as well. This is another new record for the unit. The Agricultural Department also achieved a record for cane delivery of 1,582,200 tonnes of cane. Congratulations to all employees - whether in management or in the Union - in the Factory, Agriculture, Finance, Marketing Administration and Support Service Departments and Sweets, Tea and CPD all included. We must also record the achievement of our Outgrower Farmers who supplied 66% of all the cane that was milled. We also managed to export over 12MW power and we made more sweets than ever before.”
OFF CROP MESSAGE FROM THE JOINT MANAGING DIRECTORS

"On behalf of the Joint Managing Directors, we apologize for not being present to celebrate this important off crop party for the season 2008-2009.

Congratulations on yet another season of great achievements!

Our company produced a record 144,360 tonnes of sugar at a recovery of 9.12% and crushed a total of 1,582,200 tonnes of sugarcane from the company and outgrower farmers.

We also generated a record 147,612 MWh of electrical power and sold 91,368 MWh to the grid during the season. This is the first time in history that Uganda has benefited from electrical power being channelled to the national grid from a private company’s bagasse-based cogeneration facility. This is indeed a marvellous achievement.

These results have only been made possible as we have a team that works in close harmony with each other.

We must now focus on the operational side of sugar production. If our efficiencies are improved, our factory and plantation can give much better sugar production. If our efficiencies are improved, we look forward to another season.

Finally, may we wish you all for making the special effort this year to achieve record production levels. ‘Asante sana’.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank you all for making the special effort this year to achieve record production levels. ‘Asante sana’. We therefore urge you to work as a team to this end for the next season. Improved efficiency is the way forward for our company during the forthcoming season.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank you all for making the special effort this year to achieve record production levels. ‘Asante sana’. Finally, may we wish you all success in the coming season and we look forward to another season of records broken and efficiencies improved throughout our company’s operations.

May you all enjoy this well deserved evening.

Thank you.”
Mr. Edward Mutunga, 55, a resident of Mutua village in Busiika Sub County in Jinja. Mutunga started cane farming in 1990 with only three acres but now has 40 acres of cane. He has 12 children with five of them still in school in the region. “I have benefited a lot from this business, since I can now manage to educate my children with a lot of ease,” he says. All his children have completed universities and are now working. Mutunga proudly says that besides his residential house in the village, he has four permanent commercial buildings located in trading centres and one eight-room factory that helps him transport cane and other local products. “I urge the rest of the farmers to grow more and sell it to Madhvani because it’s the Madhvani Group that educated them on cane farming,” Mukwana says.

Mr. Patrick Lwaido, 50, a resident of Kiboga village in Busiika Sub County in Jinja. Lwaido doubles his work as an outgrower and a transporter, a business he ventured into in 1994, with only four acres of cane farmland but right now he has 40 acres full of cane. Lwaido as a successful farmer has purchased for himself 20 more acres of land using the cane proceeds that he gets out of selling to Kakira. He says that educated them on cane farming,” Mukwana says.

Mr. Mawazi Mukwana, 60, a resident of Namasa village in Busiika Sub County says that he started cane farming in 1990 with only three acres but now has acquired up to 45 acres of cane. Mukwana says that he has built a permanent house in his village and another 50 acres of land that he is soon putting into active usage. “I have a lorry, six head of cattle and I do diversify my farming,” he says.

“Farmers in Busoga region should grow cane and sell it to Madhvani because it’s the Madhvani Group that educated them on cane farming,” Mukwana says.

Mr. Fred Lubega, 34, also from Magamapa village in Buyanya County, says that he dropped out of school in 1991 from Kakira Secondary School. “Since I had been to Kakira, a brilliant idea of starting cane growing was germinated in my mind, so I gave it a try. From three acres, I have now acquired 250 acres of cane,” he said. “I have built three permanent commercial houses in Magamapa trading centre, with one residential. I also deal in molasses and even transporting cane for other farmers as well as the factory,” says Lubega, who also adds that he has acquired four lorryes and two tractors that he uses for ploughing.

Mr. Malik Kaddu, 35, hails from Kyomama village in Bubende Sub County in Kagera District. Kaddu started cane farming in 1992 with only two acres but now possesses 75 acres of cane. He has two permanent houses in Muzali, and is more in Magamapa trading centre. “I have also got four lorryes, one tractor and one saloon car for my transport,” Kaddu added.

“I urge people to grow more cane and sell it to Kakira and they need to get advice from Madhvani first before they venture into other business,” he concludes.
The Madhvani Group of Companies emerged the Best Overall Large Scale Exhibitor this year during the 17th Source of the Nile Agricultural and Trade Fair in Jinja, which started on 20th July 2009 and ended on 26th July 2009.

The exhibition was organised by Uganda National Farmers Federation (UNAFFE) with the theme “Promoting Value Addition in Agricultural Production for Poverty Eradication.” The opening ceremony was presided over by the President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, and a number of Cabinet Ministers and Members of Parliament from Busoga Region were in attendance. In his speech, the President advised the farmers to follow the footsteps of the Madhvani Group by irrigating the crops so as not to have drought as an excuse for hunger.

Mr. Mayur Madhvani, and Ambassador Nimisha Madhvani were present for the ceremony. In attendance also were the President of UNAFFE, Hon. Frank Tumwebaze, and UNAFFE board members. Hon. Tumwebaze commended the Madhvani Group of Companies for their persistent support to UNAFFE and the Show Board.

It is the second time in a row that we have won the Best Large Scale Exhibitor and this is attributed to the hard work of the organising team led by Executive Director Jim Kabeho, the KAKIRA Chief Agronomist Dr. D N V Raju and the staff at the stall during the show, not forgetting the support from the Projects Department - Kakira, the marketing team and the other participating companies.

We were privileged to have had the Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Hon. Hope Mwesigye and the two State Ministers for Agriculture, Hon. Aggrey Henry Bagiire and Hon. Bright Rwamirama, who commended the good work that the Madhvani Group of Companies is doing for the economy of Uganda. The show-goers, especially the schools, liked our display and explanations to the students, which they noted were very educative and commended the Group for their contribution to the education development in this country.

UNAFFE organised an exhibitors’ dinner where we got to share with the organisers our concerns about the organisation. It was an opportunity to dialogue and pave the way for better organisation next time. The organisers promised to work on erecting a wall fence around the show ground by the time we have the next show which was warmly welcomed by the exhibitors. At the closing ceremony, the President of Uganda National Farmers Federation, Hon. Frank Tumwebaze, recognised the continued contribution of the Madhvani Group of Companies toward smooth preparation of the Source of the Nile Agricultural and Trade Fair.
For a number of years now, the Board of the Madhvani Foundation has been looking at the possibility of launching an Alumni Association. However, due to logistical challenges, they were not able to achieve this. But this year, when the number of Foundation-supported graduates passed 500, the Board deemed it necessary to immediately launch the Association.

A dinner was organised at Hotel Africana on 9th July 2009 to launch the Madhvani Foundation Alumni Association. A number of graduates, beneficiaries of the Foundation’s scholarships attended. Ms. Maria Kiwanuka, Managing Director, Radio One and H.E. Nimisha Madhvani, Uganda’s Ambassador to India, were also present for the occasion. Both ladies inspired the alumni by motivating them to stay focused and strive to be on top, with many helpful pointers.

Mr. Henry Kyemba, Chairman of the Foundation welcomed all guests to the launch and congratulated the alumni upon successfully completing their studies. He also said that Madhvani Foundation Alumni Association would be the point of reference for all the former students and it would also provide networking opportunities, educational initiatives and social activities for its members. “As a Board, we will provide the leaders of the Association all the support and direction they require to make the organisation successful,” said Mr. Kyemba.

Radio One’s Maria Kiwanuka, the Chief Guest, delivered a talk on starting and managing a successful business in modern day Uganda. She also spoke of the challenges and how to overcome them. “Understand your market. Be an entrepreneur not a gambler. Take courage. Be honest with yourselves. Be patient and do not forget the market. Research is an important aspect,” Maria advised.

H.E Nimisha Madhvani spoke about Muljibhai Madhvani’s Vision 50 years on. “The challenge for us today is to strengthen this partnership and together we can build this centre of excellence in Uganda for the whole of Africa. It’s a competitive market place but, with dedication, the legacy must continue to grow. The lives of men, women and children must be uplifted and continue to integrate into the globe. We become Universal Ugandans and influence development with a strong voice. The challenge becomes the opportunity.” Nimisha said.

Elections for the Chairperson and Secretary of the Madhvani Foundation Alumni Association 2009/10 were carried out and overseen by Mr. S.K. Iyengar. Nominees were introduced and given two minutes to speak. Kokasi Roland, a former Law student of Makerere University, was elected Chairman of the Association and Mr. Jonathan Muwaganya, a Resident State Attorney, was elected Secretary. Hon. Kyemba handed over the Charter to the Chairman who then gave an acceptance speech and promised to guide the Association to great heights.

Mr. S.K. Iyengar gave the closing remarks. He congratulated the Alumni Association chairman and wished him well. He also thanked all the invited guests and alumni for coming. As the guests left, they were given compact discs with information about the Foundation, the Alumni Association and the Foundation’s page on face book.
On 20th May 2009 Kakira had the privilege and honour to welcome the Rotary International President elect, Mr. Ray Klingsmith, accompanied by his wife Judie and a number of Rotarians from the Kampala and Jinja Rotary Clubs.

During the luncheon which was hosted at Kawempe Hill, the Kakira General Manager, Mr. Richard Orr, welcomed the incoming Rotary International President and his wife to Kakira. He went on to explain how the Madhvani Group is involved in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) such as offering sponsorships to students for University. “This was founded by the late Muljibhai Madhvani. It was previously called philanthropy instead of CSR. The principal objective of this Foundation is to promote scientific and technical education for the socio-economic betterment of the people of Uganda,” said Mr. Orr. He went on to inform the guests that Kakira has managed to produce 144,000 tonnes of sugar this year. “I hope that you have seen a little bit of Texas here,” concluded Mr. Orr as the guests smiled and nodded in agreement.

In his speech, Mr. Henry Kyemba said, “It is a great honour for me on behalf of Rotarians to welcome the incoming President of the Rotary Club to Kakira. It is not common to have a visitor come all the way from U.S.A to Kawempe to share with us this pleasant moment.” Mr. Henry Kyemba went on to inform the visitors that the sponsorship programme in Madhvani as part of CSR is well known country wide and that he has been the Chairman of the education foundation for the last 6 years.

Mr. Ray Klingsmith is an attorney in Kirksville, Missouri, USA. He works in the areas of commercial and corporate law, real estate and estate planning. He retired in 1995 as General Counsel and Professor of Business Administration for Truman State University (formerly North East Missouri State University) in Kirksville after 22 years of service. His wife Judie is a former elementary school teacher in Macon and Kirksville and a former child development consultant.

While addressing the gathering at Kawempe Hill, Mr. Klingsmith said that he was happy to learn more about East Africa, to see the Source of the Nile and the large estate at Kakira. “I will tell the people back home that I have seen something bigger than Texas,” he said.

Later the guests were led to the Kakira Boardroom where the General Manager, Mr. Richard Orr, gave a presentation on the activities of the Madhvani Group of companies.

In his speech, Mr. Henry Kyemba said, “It is a great honour for me on behalf of Rotarians to welcome the incoming President of the Rotary Club to Kakira. It is not common to have a visitor come all the way from U.S.A to Kawempe to share with us this pleasant moment.” Mr. Henry Kyemba went on to inform the visitors that the sponsorship programme in Madhvani as part of CSR is well known country wide and that he has been the Chairman of the education foundation for the last 6 years.

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