Muljibhai Prabhdas Madhvani, MBE
(18th May 1894 – 11th July 1958)
A tribute to celebrate the life and achievements of
the Founder of the Madhvani Group
Five decades after his death, his legacy and philanthropy in Uganda still live on.
On a sunny day in Kakira in the 1940s, on a hill overlooking the shores of Lake Victoria, Muljibhai Prabhudas Madhvani and his sons were having a heated argument. The senior Madhvani loved trees, and although many had already been planted on his sprawling estate, he wanted to plant yet another mile of them - the Kakira Sugar Works estate today. Following his instructions, his workers planted trees along estate roads, there wasn’t even a footpath running through the marshes to the southern edges of his estate. Muljibhai Prabhudas Madhvani : A Tribute

The Individual

“All obstacles disappear when faced with a determined mind.”

As his businesses prospered and grew, Muljibhai was keen to care for the well-being and welfare of his employees and the community at large. Muljibhai made good use of the wealth he earned by his entrepreneurship and strenuous work through many donations for the welfare of the community and society at large. He was always anxious to see the community in which he lived progress in education and he always gave encouragement to efforts towards that aim.

The Philanthropist

“Man must always have complete faith in religion and his community.”

Muljibhai

His Achievements:

• The Muljibhai Madhvani Cricket Stadium
• The Gangabul Muljibhai Madhvani Pavilion Hall, Hindu Cemetery
• The Gangabul Muljibhai Madhvani Memorial Ward, Nsamula Hospital
• The Muljbhai Madhvani Town Hall and Clock Tower (which is still used as Jinja’s town hall)
• The Muljibhai Madhvani Farm School
• The Waikara Agricultural College, both of which were built by Muljibhai and then handed over to the Government to run.

Some of these in Uganda included:
• Kampala
  • The Vithaldas Haridas Hall and Theatre
  • The Muljibhai Madhvani Commerical College (which was the first commercial college in Uganda, and was eventually shifted to Kandyborgo)
  • The Muljibhai Madhvani Cricket Stadium
  • The Gangabul Muljibhai Madhvani Pavilion Hall, Hindu Cemetery
• Jinja
  • The Vithaldas Haridas Pavilion
  • The Vithaldas Haridas Coronation Park

Kakira 1940
Kakira 1952
Kakira 1960

The numbers alone are quite staggering.
• 12,000 acres of land under sugar cane, with one third under sprinkler irrigation.
• 60,000 tons of sugar produced annually
• 12,000 employees
• 100 miles of the internal railway system with steam operated locomotives.

KAKIRA SUGAR
There is nothing Sweeter www.kakirasugars.com
Due to his extraordinary vision, personality and ability Muljibhai Madhvani was able to take a humble trading concern and create a business empire that would eventually account for 10% of Uganda’s GDP.

The Madhvani Group has now grown to become one of the largest diversified private-sector groups in East Africa, employing over 14,000 people. The Group’s current turnover in Uganda exceeds USD 200 million. The Group’s assets in Uganda are valued in excess of USD 300 million, with several units undergoing major expansion. That this success continues today has only been possible because of Muljibhai Madhvani’s untiring devotion to duty and by his unique vision and imagination all through his life.

The Group is the largest private-sector investor in industry in Uganda. The flagship of the Group is Kakira Sugar Works, which currently operates at a crushing capacity of over 6,000 tons cane per day (TCD) during a 10.5 month crushing season. Sugarcane is cultivated on the company’s own estate of 10,700 ha supplemented by cane from over 5,000 outgrower farmers grown on 20,000 ha. A confectionery factory produces a variety of sweets, lollipops, etc. In the 2009-10 season, Kakira crushed 1.66 million tons of cane to produce 153,000 tons of sugar, maintaining its position of Uganda’s largest sugar producer. Kakira has a large co-generation plant which produces a total of 22 MW of electric power of which 12 MW is supplied to the national grid.

This Company alone employs over 7,500 people and has been the catalyst for the socio-economic development of the rural area surrounding Kakira providing the means of livelihood to over 75,000 people in the South Busoga region. The Group is undertaking an extensive phased expansion to enhance Kakira’s crushing capacity to process 2 million tons of cane annually to produce 180,000 tons of sugar each year. The project includes expanding the co-generation plant to produce a total of over 50 MW of electric power of which 32 MW will be supplied to the national grid.

The Group owns and operates the only sugar complex in Rwanda – Kabuye Sugar Works. In Uganda, the Group owns two tea estates (over 500 ha) with a tea factory, and exports over 1,000,000 kgs of tea each year. The Group ventured into floriculture with Kajansi Roses – which has 9 ha under steel greenhouses, exporting over 19 million rose stems per year. This company has now established a separate unit - Chrysanthemums Uganda – to grow 12 million stems for export.

In the packaging sector, the Group has joint ventures in Uganda to produce crown-corks (Coleus Crowns) and cardboard cartons (East African Packaging Solutions). Coleus Packaging Pty. is a subsidiary of South African Breweries (owner of South African Breweries, Standard Bank Group).

The Madhvani Group also produces various consumer products – including confectioneries, soap and matches. Makepasi Match in Jinja is the largest producer of wax-safety matches in East Africa. Another focus area for the Group is tourism with activities centered in the main National Parks of Uganda. The Madhvani Group operates the three leading safari lodges in the country - Mweya Safari Lodge in Queen Elizabeth National Park and Paraa Safari Lodge and Chobe Safari Lodge in Murchison Falls National Park. Each of these lodges is located in a unique stunning destination for tourists to visit in the heart of Africa. In early 2010, the Group acquired Mara Leisure Camp in the world-renowned Masai Mara area in Kenya – to augment its tourism circuit. The Group is planning a beach resort in Zanzibar and is looking for opportunities for tourism investments in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and India.

In the services sector, the Group has interests in:
- **Insurance** - through East African Underwriters, which covers all commercial risks and medical needs, as well as Liberty Life Assurance Uganda, which is a joint-venture with Liberty Life of South Africa (which is owned by the Standard Bank Group).
- **Software** - Software Applications Uganda is the channel partner for Systems Union, Sun Systems, InspiroPeople and Advance One SAP and provides business solutions for accounting, payroll, human resources, enterprise resource planning (ERP), etc.

One of the Foundation’s primary objectives is to maintain and promote scientific and technical education among the people of Uganda. The scholarship programme is aimed at benefiting Ugandans pursuing either undergraduate or graduate studies at University level in Uganda and has been in operation since the 2003/04 academic year (after the repossessing of the assets by the Foundation) awarding over Uganda Shillings 530 million to a selected batch of graduates for each year until graduation.

In keeping with Muljibhai Prabhudas Madhvani’s foresight, the Foundation supports graduates with vision; individuals who are able to perceive the path to Uganda’s future and who not only want to travel the road but also actively participate in its development.

The Mukesh Madhvani Children’s Hospital (popularly known by its location as Nalufenya) was originally constructed in 1970 by the Group. Whilst it continues to be run by the Jinja District Administration since 1972, it was completely renovated by the Group in 2004 to provide much needed paediatric facilities in Jinja for the Busoga region.

**Muljibhai Prabhudas Madhvani : A Tribute**

**His Legacy**

“A broad outlook is the first step to progress.”

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**His Eternal Values**

**Simplicity and humanitarianism are the cornerstones of success**

Muljibhai Prabhudas Madhvani’s fundamental principle of a socially-responsible business enterprise that benefits all stakeholders and his core values of integrity and long-term commitment are ingrained in every aspect of the Madhvani Group’s activities. Half a century after his death, his vision and humanity still continue to have a positive effect in Uganda to this very day.