

100 YEARS OF SUGAR CORPORATION OF 2024 - THE CENTENARY YEAR OF SCOUL



PART V

BY MS RADHA MEHTA
(Granddaughter of N.K.Mehta)

Nanji Kalidas Mehta would often say that the most valuable assets for a young man who wants to achieve something extraordinary in life are "hard work, self-restraint, and strength of character."

He would have been immensely proud to have seen all his children, not least his youngest son Mahendra, display exactly these qualities.

In the darkest of times of the Amin era, Mahendra was one of the 60,000 Asians who had to leave their homes with nothing. Yet he never gave up, rose to every challenge and dedicated his entire life to carrying forward his father's dream.

By 2004 the total debt hanging over

the Sugar Corporation had been repaid. This would not have been possible without the invaluable contribution of Mr S.C Sharma, Regional Director of the Mehta Group. By 2009 SCOUL, as well as UGMA and Cable Corporation Ltd had been privatised.

Uganda's first sugar factory established in 1924 on an area of 2000 acres of land first produced 30,000 bags of sugar. Today, on an estate spread over 40,000 acres, the factory has a sugar-cane crushing capacity of 1.2m tons per annum.

Since 2010 both Cable Corporation and UGMA (now known as Cable Corporation Engineering Division) have been operating successfully under the able leadership of Mr Hemnabh Khatau, the maternal grandson of Nanji Kalidas Mehta.

Between 2012 and 2014 the construction of a state-of-the-art distillery, the very first to produce potable alcohol in Uganda, and an extension of the cable factory were carried out as part of a major expansion and modernisation program.

In 2015, a CO2 plant, again a first in Uganda, was set up to capture and purify the emissions (impure CO2) produced as a by-product of the fermentation process in the distillery. 3500 tons of food grade CO2 are produced annually.

In 2023 a cogeneration plant producing 25 MW of electricity was



President Museveni inaugurating the SCOUL CO2 plant

constructed. The Group is also involved in insurance and floriculture.

Nanji Kalidas Mehta found his greatest joy in business, but for him money was not an end but rather, in his words: "a means to a better and kinder life... Commerce was the field where I could seek the means for this end and be charitable and helpful to my brethren whose love had blessed me so much."

The underlying ethos of "service to humanity" was the foundation upon which Nanji lived his life. A prolific philanthropist and great humanitarian, he built numerous schools, libraries and community centres; he instituted scholarships, donated land, helped countless small businesses to open and thrive, and strove for the economic development of Uganda. During his lifetime he was awarded an MBE by the British Government for his service to Uganda.

Nanji Kalidas Mehta passed away in 1969 in India. On the same day, Uganda's flag flew at half-mast. The President of Uganda at the time, H.E Milton Obote,

paid his tribute with the following words:

"In the passing away of Mr. Nanji Kalidas Mehta, Uganda has lost a true friend and a man who made tremendous contributions in laying the foundations

of our economy. It is sad to see the passing of a man of Mr. Mehta's stature, but he will, I am sure, be long remembered for his charitable acts, not only in Uganda and East Africa but also in India."

The Mehta Group, continues to embody the noble ideal of its founder. SCOUL's 9000 employees are provided with free housing, electricity, water and one

cooked meal a day. Together with their families, totalling 36,000 people, they receive free medical treatment at the Mehta Hospital, and their children, numbering over 6000 are given a subsidised education at 17 schools spread over the estate. The Group also maintains 4000 km of roads, most of which are also used by the public. SCOUL has planted 500 hectares of forest, which it also maintains, as part of its ongoing commitment towards

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UNBS certified international quality cables manufactured in Cable Corporation of Uganda Limited

UGANDA LIMITED – LUGAZI



Foundry plant in Cable Corporation Engineering Division



Sugar mill rollers manufactured in Cable Corporation Engineering Division

IN 2023 A COGENERATION PLANT PRODUCING 25 MW OF ELECTRICITY WAS CONSTRUCTED. THE GROUP IS ALSO INVOLVED IN INSURANCE AND FLORICULTURE

with success, the dedication and loyalty of my workers, and the honours bestowed on me by the Government.

Like my father before me. I feel I owe a debt of gratitude to this country and to its warm and loving people, who accepted me, gave me their support and trust and helped me fulfil the dreams I had for myself,



The greenhouses of Uganda Hortech Ltd- Uganda's first rose farm

sugar production process goes to waste. The molasses produced as a byproduct of sugar is used to produce all types of alcohol in the distillery. The distillery effluent is converted into manure and used in sugar fields, thus making SCOUL a zero effluent plant.

The bagasse, which is residual fibrous material left after extracting juice from the cane, is used as fuel for the boilers of the cogeneration plant to produce electricity.

About 10 MW of the electricity produced is used to power the sugar plant, with the balance being exported to the National Grid.

These and other waste management practices have earned SCOUL carbon credits, underlining the company's dedication to the global effort to combat climate change.

Nanji Mehta's devotion to his brethren and his beloved Africa, is echoed in the words of his son, Mahendra Mehta:

"I have spent most of my life in Uganda and feel a deep affection for this land of my adoption. Lugazi is the place I call home; it is the place I yearn to return to after my travels...."

Through the years my efforts to assist in the economic development of the country have been rewarded

my family and the country I love."

The year 2024 marks the 100th year of SCOUL. The first sugar factory in Uganda, it has stood the test of time, taking birth from the dream of a 13-year-old boy with very little formal education; a dream which brought him from a small village in India all the way to Africa. It has seen presidents come and go, lived through wars, political turmoil and financial crises.

Through it all, it has continued to stand out as a shining example of growth and resilience. It has contributed to the country's economic progress, providing a livelihood to over 9000 workers and their 36,000 dependants. A proud pioneer of sustainable and environmentally conscious practices, it is playing its part in ushering in a greener future.

The story of SCOUL is a great testament to hard work, resilience, aspiration and an unwavering faith in God. Most importantly, it is a story of a coming together of two nations, brought about not only by a crossing of physical boundaries, but also boundaries of colour and creed; it is the symbol of a unity based on mutual cooperation, trust, respect and love; a unity which truly "makes life sweeter."

conservation.

The Group is committed to nurturing sports talent amongst children, and provides a variety of sporting facilities including football pitches, a cricket stadium, a basketball court and baseball pitch. In 2012 history was made when the Mehta Little League under 12 baseball team made it through to the World Baseball Series held in Pennsylvania. They were the first team to represent Africa in the 66-year-old history of the Little League. They won over many fans

including President Obama himself!

In the same year a Golf Academy was established. This gives free intensive golf training and equipment to over 60 children annually. Several children from the programme have represented Uganda in the boys, girls, ladies and men's national golf teams, and 4 graduates from The Mehta Golf Academy have received golf scholarships to universities in the USA.

SCOUL is also a pioneer of sustainable energy practices, where no part of the

100 YEARS OF SUGAR CORPORATION OF UGANDA LIMITED—LUGAZI

NOTABLE OUTSTANDING DONATIONS AMONGST OTHERS MADE IN UGANDA BY NANJI KALIDAS MEHTA

- Kampala Town Hall
- Sheraton Gardens (Jubilee Gardens)
- Girls school in Kamuli
- Santkoben N. K. Mehta Arya Samaj Girls High School
- Mehta Library in Kampala City Council
- Library of Gayaza High School
- Lugogo Stadium
- Community Centre in Mukono where District Council meetings are held
- Land for Lugazi Municipality
- Land for Lugazi Police Station
- Land for UEB/UMEME offices in Lugazi
- Land for Central Division office in Lugazi
- Land for Kawalo Hospital in Lugazi
- Land for taxi park in Lugazi
- Scholarships for hundreds of students

OTHER MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS BY THE MEHTA FAMILY

- National Theatre
- Nsambya Hospital
- Covid-19 relief contributions including pick-up cars, temperature guns and sugar



KCCA Town Hall Council Chamber



Santkoben N. K. Mehta Arya Samaj Girls High School



Mr SC Sharma donating pick-ups, temperature guns and sugar to Mary Karooro Okurut, the Senior Presidential Advisor on Public Relations and Dorothy Kisaka, former KCCA Executive Director during the COVID-19 period



The Mehta Library at Gayaza High School



Sheraton Gardens (Jubilee Gardens)

THIS MONUMENT AND THE PARK IN WHICH IT STANDS WERE PRESENTED TO THE PEOPLE OF KAMPALA BY NANJI KALIDAS MEHTA ESMBE IN MEMORY OF THE GLORIOUS REIGN OF HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V 1910 - 1936