

## From the Chairman

It's been a busy period for the D&S Group since the last Newsletter as we celebrated our annual **Founders Day** that marked our **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** as well as holding our annual **Mid-Year Strategy Review**, an important event in the Group calendar. May also marks the middle of the financial year and I am pleased to report some growth from last year, though many of our markets remain muted as the effects of Covid continue to be felt. It is a most pernicious pandemic that recurs with a vengeance once some progress appears to have been made!

The **Founders Day** celebration was muted in deference to Covid protocols though in the circumstances was well marked with a small physical gathering at Head Office where the main celebrations were held including presentation of Service Awards, though there was wide participation throughout the Group as all staff logged in virtually, a benefit of the digital age! The various branches then enjoyed a celebratory lunch and several decked out their premises to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary achievement. Many staff awards were presented that are detailed elsewhere, though I particularly mention the retirements of **Joab Mak'Ongul**, **Joseph Njunguna**, **Jacob Mbithi** and of course Executive Director **Dr MAS Waweru** who between them had over 100 years of service, all having had exemplary careers making a huge contribution to the creation of the modern D&S. **28 Ten-year Awards** and **5 Twenty-five year awards** were also presented, of particular mention being CFO **George Mbugua** and D&S Zambia MD **Jonathan Mainga**, both of whom have made and continue to make exceptional contributions to the Group.



Group Chairman Alec Davis, Christine Davis and the executive team are pictured with award winners at the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The **Mid-Year Strategy Review** was also a success with many good ideas generated. It was held physically at Head Office though virtual meetings have enormously improved communication, especially in these covid times, there's nothing like being physically together! Participating at the meeting were the Group's two new Advisers, who we are most fortunate

to Board deliberations. They are Prof **Bitange Ndemo**, a highly respected academic, former ICT PS and noted writer on management topics who will be of particular value assisting with developing our digital presence and **Deepak Shah**, a longstanding consultant to D&S whose specialisations are finance and family business. They will join long serving Director **Mike Eldon**, all of whom will help guide D&S in achieving its corporate objectives.

It has been a month of milestones, another one recently marked being the ground-breaking for construction of a new **2000m<sup>2</sup> Distribution warehouse in Lusaka** for D&S Zambia. Not quite the scale of Tatu, but an important development that will substantially contribute to the growth of the Group's Central African business initiated by MD Jonathan Mainga, I look forward to its completion.

I conclude by again mentioning my pride in D&S achieving its **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**. Not many organisations achieve this milestone and the Company is now a major regional institution that is **Improving Lives** through our various commercial and philanthropic activities. However, it is only one step on a long journey and we look forward to making an ever increasing contribution as we continue investing in people and resources for the future.

## Supplier Focus - Hach

The D&S Group is pleased to announce a new and exciting partnership with the **Hach Corporation** USA, a global leader in water testing analysis whose unique and innovative range of products will complement the existing range of solutions offered by D&S' Water Treatment Division. The Group is now offering a wide selection of quality water testing equipment including lab instruments, meters, kits and spectrometers for accurate and reliable screening and detection of contaminants in water samples. D&S now also offers its own laboratory services using Hach equipment that provide a range of water analysis focused on adding value to partner and customer



A view of the Hach Corporation's main site in Colorado, USA.

activities in the region. A company of over 500 staff and sales in excess of \$100m, Hach is present globally through distributors with D&S becoming its partner in the African markets it operates in.

Founded in 1947 in Loveland Colorado USA, Hach shares a common vision with

D&S of working to improve people's lives through the provision of safe and clean water with charismatic founder, CEO and notable aviator Kitty Hach-Darrow (1922-2020) saying "doing something good for people and being a part of something like water analysis for the betterment of mankind is not a bad goal in life."



# 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations



D&S Uganda



D&S Rwanda



D&S Kisii



D&S Westlands



D&S Zambia



D&S Kakamega

D&S' founding in 1946 is traditionally celebrated in May with '**Founders Day**' but this year being the **75 year Anniversary**, the occasion was marked by a special groupwide digital event with the main activities taking place at Head Office in Nairobi under strict COVID-19 compliance. Hosted by incoming D&S Kenya MD **Edward Davis**, the event was screened live to all other business units across the region, who participated virtually and congregated at their respective locations. The fun filled and interactive program included a digital quiz, staff entertainment including dances, songs and anthems, retiree speeches as well as the traditional addresses

by the Chairman and CEO. The occasion also marked the inaugural **D&S Altiora Peto Awards** which are a series of peer selected prizes for staff who most embody the spirit of the company's famous value, Altiora Peto (Latin for 'I seek higher things'). In addition to this, special customer competitions and a new advertising campaign were launched as well as two new commemorative videos, one examining the company's long history and another focusing on the **#ImprovingLives** initiative both of which can be viewed at [davisandshirtiliff.com](http://davisandshirtiliff.com) or the D&S YouTube channel.



Mrs Christine Davis cuts the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cake.



D&S HO



D&S HO



D&S HO



Dr. Moustapha-Pedrollo



# Staff News

## Appointments



**Peter Gachuhi**



**Rahab Wainaina**



**Daisyve Ng'anga**



**Bashir Ouma**



**Martin Indasi**



**Micheal Odera**

D&S is pleased to welcome **Peter Gachuhi** (HO Internal Audit), **Rahab Wainaina** (HO Human Resource), **Daisyve Ng'anga** (HO Logistics), **Bashir Ouma** (HO Call Centre), **Martin Indasi** (HO Solar) and **Michael Odera** (HO Research & Development). They are all wished long and successful careers with the Group.

## Commendations

Commendations were recently awarded to **Edward Davis** (HO Executive), **Stephen Angila** (HO Human Resource), **Tianinah Manei** (HO Internal Audit), **Faith Kamau** (HO Pools), **Henid Kiritu** (HO Finance), **Fredrick Chege** (D&S Kitengela), **Dennis Thige** (DSR Nakuru), **Felista Maina** (DSR Downtown) and **Elijah Kimenye** (DSR HO). Their special efforts are greatly appreciated.

## 10 Year Awards

Congratulations to **Alex Githinji**, **Edna Wekesa**, **Gideon Achoki**, **Mary Kimani**, **Peter Ngugi**, **Samson Makori**, **Simeon Kirwa**, **Sospeter Onyancha** and **Stephen Mbatia** (HO Supply), **Ken Chomba** and **Mohamed Athman** (HO IT), **Kennedy Nyagaya** (HO Service), **Lucy Kinyanjui** (HO Executive Office), **Amos Mutunga** (D&S Kitengela), **Arthur Kioni** (D&S Thika), **David Maingi** (D&S Meru), **Shadrack Langat** (D&S Lodwar), **Simon Runo** (D&S Nakuru), **Titus Macharia** (D&S Eldoret), **Amru Mbajja**, **Hadijah Lunkuse**, **Jonathan Luyeera** and **Teddy Kaskende** (D&S Uganda), **Crispin Sikasibi**, **Kalimba Theodore**, **Lilian Nyirongo** and **Suzgo Mhango** (D&S Zambia) and **Innocent Dushimimana** (D&S Rwanda) on achieving 10 years of loyal service.

## 25 Year Awards

Congratulations to **Joseph Ng'angá** (D&S Eldoret), **Jonathan Mainga** (D&S Zambia), **George Mbugua** (HO Finance), **John Mbatia** (HO Supply) and **Paul Muigai** (D&S Westlands) on achieving 25 years of loyal service.

## Altiora Peto Awards

**Industrial Area**  
**Nairobi**  
**Western Coast**  
**Eastern Tanzania**  
**Uganda**  
**Zambia**  
**Rwanda**  
**South Sudan**  
**DRC**  
**Zimbabwe**

Fred Andango  
 Eng. Benjamin Ochelle  
 Abraham Werunga  
 Mohamed Farook  
 Rose Magomere  
 Maimuna Kirumbi  
 Tina Tile  
 Aaron Nkhata  
 Aline Sine  
 Samson Mondiri  
 Edward Mwakio  
 Tabitha Nhunzi

# Staff Profile - Benjamin Ochelle



**Benjamin Ochelle**, who joined D&S in 2012 and who was an inaugural winner at the recent Altiora Peto Awards, has spent his career working in the increasingly important area of the Branch Network, having initially joined D&S Thika before founding D&S Embu and then being promoted to serve in the Branch Management team under Executive Margaret Kuchio at Head Office.

Hailing from Homa Bay, Benjamin rose from humble origins and has achieved much despite surviving a snakebite while herding cattle as a child. He schooled initially at Rabuor Koguta Primary School, where he was a Prefect, and then attended Homa Bay High rising to the ranks of School Vice-Captain before heading to Moi University where he achieved his degree in Mechanical and Production Engineering. He attributes his keen business acumen to his experiences as a boy assisting his Mother hawking along the shores of Lake Victoria.

He first heard of D&S whilst he was editing a student magazine and struggling to find sponsorship and was impressed when D&S agreed to support the publication and decided to apply having initially worked for the Italian Space Agency in Malindi. Of D&S he mentions that he appreciates the structured environment and strong leadership of the company.

The 14<sup>th</sup> of 17 siblings, Benjamin is a man of faith who is particularly close to his Father, Ochelle senior, a former Chief and Teacher and he is blessed with wife Emma and boys Sankara and Samora. Outside of work he now focuses on giving back to the village of his birth through fundraising for CSR projects.

Of life Benjamin has learnt that when you're humble and respectful, you become teachable thus putting you on a good platform of growth. He also places a very high value on integrity, a key D&S attribute that most likely explains the considerable success he has enjoyed at the company!

## Improving Lives



D&S Machakos under Branch Manager Christopher Muli have donated hand washing stations to Tala Girls High in Machakos county in order to promote hand washing among students. The stations will benefit over 500 people in the school and local community. Pictured are teachers and students during the handover ceremony.



# D&S Pictorial

## D&S Zambia Distribution Center



Inspired by the ultra-modern new Distribution Center recently unveiled at Tatu City Kenya, D&S Zambia has broken ground on a similar project in Lusaka on Luanshya Road near the existing D&S premises. Pictured is D&S team led by MD Jonathan Mainga, contractor Zhou Wei and Architect Mofya Kumisuku at site.

## D&S Zambia Cheshire Homes Donation



D&S Lusaka under MD Jonathan Mainga recently participated in the annual Cheshire Homes Fundraising Walk, an event held to raise funds and inclusion to promote empowerment of persons with disabilities. Pictured is the team with some Christian sisters after the walk.

## D&S Hola Solar Project



D&S Coast under Mombasa Manager Yusuf Siraj has supplied and installed a floating solar powered submersible pumping system for the Holy Ghost Fathers in Tana River that will supply an irrigation system for local community farms. Pictured is D&S technician Walter Matasa and local stakeholders as they complete the raft installation.

## D&S Mwanza Solar Project



D&S Mwanza under Branch Manager John Lubango has supplied and installed a series of solar pumping systems to 9 villages in Geita. The new infrastructure will transform access to clean water in the area and will enable long term sustainable supply. Pictured is D&S technician Kaji Mabrouk and community members as one of the installations is commissioned.

## D&S Nakuru Westside Mall RO Project



D&S Nakuru under Branch Manager David Ngure have supplied and installed a Dayliff 5m<sup>3</sup>/hr Reverse Osmosis plant fitted with iDayliff remote monitoring and control capability at Westside Mall. The plant will provide pure water for the facility. Pictured is David Ngure handing over the plant to Directors CK Patel and Prina Patel.

## D&S Wote Water Treatment Project



D&S Wote under Branch Manager Rebecca Mwende has supplied and installed a 12m<sup>3</sup>/hr RO plant to Makueni Fruit Processing Plant, Kalamba. The plant will be used to purify river water to meet international standards for processed juice and bottled water. Pictured is Rebecca handing over the plant to the team led by CEO Julius Maithya on site.

## D&S HO Nairobi Gate Fireset



D&S HO under Commercial Manager Moses Kitheka have successfully supplied and installed a range of equipment including fire sets, booster sets, sewage and borehole pumps to Nairobi Gate Industrial Park, a mixed-use scheme that comprises of industrial, commercial, residential and public amenities. Pictured is D&S Engineer Muthee Maina inspecting a fire set on site.

## D&S Voi Water Treatment Plant



D&S Voi under Manager Michael Wajwanga supplied and commissioned a Dayliff 5m<sup>3</sup>/hr Reverse Osmosis to St. Joseph Shelter of Hope Hospital in Voi to cater for the rising demand of purified water for the recently expanded hospital. Pictured is Michael together with D&S technician Hussein Mayabi handing over the equipment to sister Genoveva Maashao.