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KVTC SINCE 1992

## From Irvine's desk

**COVID 19 KILLS. WASH HANDS REGULARLY**

It's been a while since you received our Newsletter. Better late, than never. KVTC turns 30 years this year. 30 years later, the green field project is now a successful member of the sustainable forestry industry with a solid client base in five different countries and more than 600 hundred direct and indirect employees.

Now, that is worth celebrating.

**Chirag Builders Ltd**  
**(www.chiragbuilders.co.ke)**

By Irvine Kanyemba & Niral Fatania

Chirag Builders Ltd is a Kenyan based construction and building services company that has been in business for more than 30 years. It offers a full interior design service across various industries including office, medical, and hospital sectors.

Chirag Builders is moving towards use of teak in most of its projects. That teak is being supplied by KVTC



## KVTC Donates Passengers Shelter to Ifakara Airstrip

By: Kennedy Haule

Ifakara air strip is among 58 airports which are owned by the Government of Tanzania (GoT) and managed by Tanzania Airport Authority (TAA). The airstrip was established in 1956 before independence.

The road distance from Dar Es Salaam to Ifakara is about 320 kms. It takes ten-hours to drive from Dar Es Salaam to Ifakara while by airplane it is a one-hour flight.

The runway is 1480 meters long, 40 meters wide with a gravel surface. The airstrip can accommodate 14 Caravans and 3 ATR42s at once.

Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Tanzania Wildlife Authority (TAWA), Auric Air, Pelican Air, Frankfurt Zoological Society, Jambo Aviation are main airline users of Ifakara Airstrip. Most passengers are connected to Kilombero Valley Teak Company (KVTC), Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), St Francis Hospital, GoT, TANAPA - for Tourism and TAWA.

The airfield did not have facilities for sheltering passengers and their belongings. KVTC stepped in mainly through the efforts of its Board of Directors' Ambassador Ami Mpungwe to build a shelter that includes a resting area, toilet facilities and water bore hole.

The facility also accommodates firefighting equipment.



Esther Mwiguna TAA Morogoro Regional Manager who received the donation on behalf of the Director General of TAA appreciated the donation and invited other stakeholders to step in with support

**Cleria Atilio Kahemela**

**(Assistant Nursery Manager)**



In 1993 in Iringa Municipality, the Kahemela family had the privilege of receiving a new member in the name of Cleria . Her passion to study forestry started when she was young since her parents had been growing trees.

Cleria is a professional forester with a Bachelor of Science degree in Forestry from Sokoine University of Agriculture. She conducted her special project on the role of Sao Hill Forest plantation to the livelihood of adjacent communities at Mafinga-Iringa in partial fulfilment of her Bachelor of Science in Forestry.

Cleria joined KVTC in October 2020 as a trainee, and has acquired skills in nursery management, tree planting, thinning, pruning, soil analysis, road designing, layout, construction, and maintenance. Cleria is now employed as the Assistant Nursery Manager

She wants to work hard for the development of KVTC and also play her part in combating global warming. Over exploitation of forest resources due to increase of human population all over the world has contributed towards global warming. As a forester she will educate people on the need to plant more trees and conserving of natural forests..

Cleria likes reading inspirational books and stories, traveling, listening to music, and helping the needy

## KVTC- An Active Citizen of Ulanga District.

By Jeremiah M. Gumadi

### Uhuru Torch Relay



The 2021 Uhuru Torch lighting and relay was graced on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021 by President Hussein A. Mwinyi in South Unguja Region of Zanzibar, the birthplace of President Samia S. Hassan. The theme for the relay was “*Tehama ni Msingi wa Taifa Endelevu; Itumike kwa Usahihi (Information and Communications Technology is the Basis of a Sustainable Nation; It should be Used Appropriately)*”.

Ulanga District was one of the 150 administrative districts that the Torch covered. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 the Torch arrived in Ulanga District from Kilombero District

The District Commissioner for Ulanga, Hon. Ngollo N. Malenya led the Torch delegation headed by Col. Josephine P. Mwambashi to the Nursery. A brief speech about the activities undertaken at the nursery was read by the Nursery Manager, Jeremiah Gumadi.

After the speech the delegation took a tour of the Nursery to appreciate the production of clones, seedlings, and stumps. The head of the delegation issued teak seedlings to 4 schools and 5 villagers to symbolise environmental conservation before she planted a memorial teak tree.

The event closed with a congratulatory message from the head of the delegation on the work KVTC was doing. KVTC management presented a teak wood carving engraved with the Uhuru Torch to the head of the delegation and 6 teak wood cell phone holders.

## Ulanga Iherepa Business Exhibition

KVTC as an active member of the business community in Ulanga District participated in the Investment Opportunities Promotion Exhibitions named **Ulanga Iherepa (Amazing Ulanga)**. The District Commissioner, Hon. Ngollo N. Malenya organized the two days event from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021. The Guest of Honour was Hon. Doto M. Biteko, Minister for Minerals.



The exhibitions were coloured by various activities including sports like athletics, traditional dances, and Nyerere National Park tour by boat and vehicles.

Investment opportunities in Gemstone and Graphite Mining, Agriculture, Commercial Forestry and Tourism sectors were showcased.

KVTC participated and showcased its value chain from nursery activities, tree improvement through to production of its finished products e.g., sawn board, doors, panels, decking and T & G flooring. The Out-

grower Support Program under its new model was explained to visitors.

## Value Adding Mill (VAM)

By Gustav Sahlertz

KVTC prides itself with manufacturing of high value and quality products such as Tongue and Groove (T&G) flooring, decking edged on 4 sides (E4E), edge glued panels (EGP) and doors (solid & panel). When introduced into the market these products were received positively and demand has been increasing steadily especially for flooring and decking. With guaranteed customer satisfaction and due to the intensive seasoning of KVTC timber, customers can rest assured of product stability and durability. The golden aesthetic glow of teak comes out perfectly when the timber is well-seasoned.

KVTC's products are increasingly becoming popular in the luxury lodge market in both Kenya and Tanzania.

KVTC is very proud to showcase local talent collaborating with the company by working on special assignments. Some artworks were required for the 2021 Uhuru Torch festivities as gifts to dignitaries and VIPs. Specially seasoned laminated teak panels were made in VAM and were then engraved and decorated by our very own Ifakara born, Mr. Sabinus Uelele with the KVTC logo as well as the Uhuru Torch *neumbo* (sign).

