125-YEARS AND COUNTING…

As important as it is to look to the future sustainability and prosperity of our business, it is equally as important to reflect on our past history and acknowledge the benefits our proud heritage has gifted us.

The origins of our African business extend back to the late 20th Century and underscore the formation of Illovo Sugar Africa: a company alive with potential, awake to opportunity and benefitting from the support of committed, engaged employees.

Today our business is:
- vibrant, growing, diversified and innovative;
- consumer-focussed with products of trusted quality;
- strong, with deep African roots.

Registered first in KwaZulu-Natal as a single company in 1891 under the name of Reynolds Brothers Limited, Illovo, as we know it today, has grown into a significant African business. It is the continent’s leading sugar producer, operating across six southern African countries, with its headquarters located in the South African province of its original founding, KwaZulu-Natal.

Now wholly-owned by Associated British Foods plc (ABF) in the United Kingdom, and through AB Sugar which manages ABF’s global sugar businesses, Illovo is a significant part of the world’s biggest sugar producing organisation boasting interests in the UK, Europe, China and Africa.

The benefit of access to international insights and global support, combined with core African DNA, provides a platform for our ambitions that is unparalleled. Our focus is steadfastly aimed at African sugar and delivering world-class downstream production businesses that secure commercial success while serving the needs of vibrant African markets.

The past has shaped our present and we are grateful for the lessons learned. The world has changed and with our eye firmly on future expansion, we knew it was time to update our brand too. Our newly originated logo which, under the name of Illovo Sugar Africa, underlines our African inheritance and future focus, also embodies our spirit and ambition of a long-term and sustainable future within Africa’s Thriving Community.

We invite you to join us on our journey over the next 125-years…. 

THRIVING AFRICAN COMMUNITY

Through Illovo’s continuing African business operations, we annually make considerable contributions directly to the economies of six southern African countries – at the last count, around R1 billion over the past three years. Our positive social impact across this region on rural communities is substantial, and through direct and indirect employment, Illovo impacts the livelihoods of around 500 000 people annually.

On a continent where companies are widely thought to be prospering at the expense of their communities, Illovo is prioritising its efforts to bring business and society back together for the benefit of all.

We believe that to be a successful company on the African continent, we must be an invested citizen in each of the countries in which we operate. Our focus therefore, is on creating an environment in which both our businesses and our communities thrive in a mutually-beneficial partnership. Most importantly, by keeping to our “shared value creation” mandate, we are committed to ensuring these thriving communities are able to sustain themselves well beyond our direct presence.

Building on Illovo’s legacy of community contribution, our vision is to create circles of growth in our communities by sharing expertise, working with multiple partners and key stakeholders and providing the foresight to reconceive needs and products that assist local communities through the execution of existing and new, mutually-owned, shared value projects.

It is our intention to utilise our personal and business skills, talents and resources in order to leave the legacy of a Thriving African Community that prospers well beyond our time.

“Business cannot succeed in a society that fails.”
Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the United Nations