

## BIO DATA

### RAMESH C. MEHTA, SS Ost.J

Ramesh C. Mehta was born in Bhanvad, India and had his primary and secondary education in Kisumu. Later he obtained ~~diploma~~ in Business Management and in his spare time he pursued an Interior Decoration course as his hobby. (Diploma in Business Management)



Ramesh C. Mehta was unanimously elected the District Governor for Lions International District 411 (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Ethiopia) at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual District Convention held in Dar es Salaam in April 1994. He is an active member of Lions Fraternity for past 40 years.

### SPECIAL RECOGNITION (MILESTONES)

He has earned many awards both locally & at International levels; some of the notable ones are:

- During his year as District Governor he enrolled 111 Melvin Jones Fellows – the highest so far our District has recorded. (Each member contributed US \$ 1000.00 for Lions Clubs International Foundation – charitable arm of Lions club International).
- He is decorated with 100% District Governor's Award & District Governor's Excellence Award from the International Association of Lions Clubs. *This is a very distinguished Award earned by less than 16% District Governors worldwide during 1994-95. (total 810 District Governors)*
- In July, 1996, Minister for Health Government of Kenya, Hon. J.M. Angatia, appointed him to the Management Board of Nyanza Provincial General Hospital for a period of three years. Re-appointed 2005 – 2008.
- Kenya Posts and Telecommunications launched 4 postage stamps in different denominations of Lions activities on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1996. The 6/- (six shilling) stamp is a replica of his District Governor's logo "*Spreads Smiles Over Miles*" and the other 3 stamps also represent the main activities of the year. A total of 3M (three million) stamps were printed and circulated worldwide, thus promoting Kenya and Lions Clubs International.
- In January, 1997-The Nyanza Provincial Commissioner appointed him on a Special Committee of 11 people to look into Terms and Conditions of Service for Police, administration Police, Prison Officers and The National Youth Service, for Republic of Kenya. He was also appointed the Secretary of this Committee.
- On 16<sup>th</sup> June, 2002, His worship The Mayor of Kisumu presented Lion Ramesh with a special Memento in a public function in recognition of meritorious services rendered to the Kisumu community.
- Hindu Council of Kenya, Kisumu presented him with a special Award during the Silver Jubilee celebrations in November 2000 for his services in the past years.
- Hon. Mwai Kibaki, President and Commander- in – Chief of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Kenya conferred the honour of "The Silver Star of

Kenya" to Ramesh Mehta on Jamhuri Day- 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006 in recognition of outstanding and distinguished services rendered to the nation in various capacities and responsibilities.

- Her Majesty The Queen, the Sovereign Head of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem has granted the dignity of an Officer Brother of the Most Venerable Order to Ramesh C. Mehta of Kisumu for his services to mankind. The presentation was made on 05<sup>th</sup> December, 2013 at All Saints' Cathedral Nairobi in the distinguished presence of H.E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, C.G.H. President of the Republic of Kenya by the Lord Prior of the Order of St. John Prof. Anthony Mellows, OBE, GC, St, J.,TD who had travelled all the way from London.
- Chairman of proposed Lions Eye & Medical Centre in Kisumu – April 2017

#### ADDITIONAL MILESTONES

- He was instrumental in acquiring financial aid from Lions Clubs International for the following notable projects during his year of Governor;
  1. Lions Eye hospital at New Nyanza General Hospital - US \$ 50,000.00
  2. Lions Eye hospital at District hospital, Kericho - US \$ 50,000.00
  3. Lions Eye and Blood Bank in Mombasa - US \$ 60,000.00
  4. Lions Diabetic Centre. Addis Ababa - US \$ 190,000.00
  5. Through his public relations programme he managed to bring two ambulances (Mercedes Benz) from Lions of U.K "free of cost". One of them was donated to St. Johns Ambulance, Kisumu and the other was presented to Lions Club of Mwanza.
- He was also instrumental in bringing Sabatia Eye Hospital project from Lions of Germany, who contributed 30M Shillings for construction and equipping (made contacts with Lions of Germany when he met them in Phoenix, Arizona, U.S.A during Lions International Convention in 1994. Later at their invitation attended Europa Forum in Vienna, Austria and Berlin, Germany where the project of the Eye hospital was given the blessings).
  - He hosted a "Free Eye Surgery week" at Sabatia Eye Hospital in September 2000. More than 1000 patients were given eye treatment and medicines, 96 cataract surgeries were performed. This activity was held to mark the completion of 25 years of his business (Western Emporium (1975) Ltd.). Another Eye Camp was held at the Bhayani Primary School in June 2001 where 700 patients were treated and 70 cataract surgeries performed
  - He has also rendered services in many other Medical and Eye camps sponsored by Lions Clubs.
  - He has presided over a number of Harambees and raised funds for various needy projects in Kenya.



### SEMINARS

- He was invited by Lions International to conduct a membership seminar in Harare during 1989 and a similar seminar on Leadership in Johannesburg in 1998.
- He has presented a number of papers in seminars and conventions on Leadership – Membership, Motivation, Youth Exchange, Leo Club activities etc.
- The Kenya Institute of Bankers invited him twice during their Annual Dinner Gala Nights as Chief Guest and he talked on the role of “Sound Leadership” and Change in the banking industry on introduction of IT.

### SERVED AS:

- Trustee of Kisumu “ Hot Stars football Club”
- Committee Member, Nyanza Table Tennis Association
- Executive Member and Trade Judge, Agricultural Society of Kenya, Nyanza Branch
- Secretary “Million Minutes of Peace” Project (U.N Sponsored)
- Member of Hindu Council of Kenya, Kisumu
- Trustee- Kisumu Education Society for 15 years
- Reappointed on the board of management of Provincial General Hospital for a period of 3 years ending 2008. Appointment by the Minister for Health, Republic of Kenya
- Member of the board of governors of Lutheran church school for mentally handicapped children.

### PRESENTLY SERVING AS:-

- 1) Regional Council Chairman St. Johns Ambulance, Kisumu County (serving for last 15 years)
- 2) Trustee – Hindu Council of Kenya 2006 – 2016 *and 2016-2021*
- 3) Trustee – Lions Sight First Eye Hospital, Nairobi 2013 – 2018 *and 2018-22*
- 4) Trustee – Jalaram Academy 2015 – 2020
- 5) Chairman KIFA- Kenya India Friendship Association, Kisumu Chapter – Appointment from the High Commissioner of India, His Excellency R. Bhatia (Also Life Member).
- 6) Board Member- Sabatia Eye Hospital from 1996 till date.
- 7) ~~Member of the Executive Committee and Treasurer of the Asian Foundation Kisumu Chapter.~~
- 8) Project Chairperson – Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) Sight First grant to finance surgeries for cataract-blind patients living in extreme poverty in Kenya
- 9) Member of the Board of Uzima University of Medical Science – Appointment from 2014.
- 10) *Non-Executive Director of Bank of Baroda (Kenya) Ltd. Appointed in June 2017.*

Ramesh is a man of tremendous zeal, enthusiasm and devotion. He has travelled widely, and has been able to make friends, develop fellowship and establish business contacts from many corners of the world.

Ramesh Mehta is happily married to Harsha, and they are the proud parents of two daughters- Reena and Urvi, and one son - Kunal.