



**Davis & Shirliff group
CEO George Mbugua
featured on**

**Top 25 most influential
CEO's impacting business**

Founded 76 years ago in Westlands, Nairobi, Davis & Shirliff is the leading supplier of water and energy-related equipment in the Eastern African region, with a footprint in 12 countries. Davis & Shirliff is particularly focused on increasing its presence and impact in the green solar energy business, where it is already a market leader. The firm's operations include supply of equipment and solutions for surface and borehole water pumping, water treatment, swimming pools, solar power and heating, irrigation, as well as industrial chemicals and building management systems. Davis & Shirliff distributes numerous water and energy products under its own brand, Dayliff, in addition to stocking other international brands of equipment.

With George as the Group CEO, working under Chairman Alec Davis, Davis & Shirliff is very active in Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). One such example is the donation and installation of a Dayliff 5.5 kilowatts pumping system which produces over 40,000 litres of clean water daily for Kyatune Special School in Kitui County.

The school had previously been relying on a communal dam for their drinking water. The installation, which was completed in August 2022, not only provides clean potable water for the community, but fed by 36 solar panels of 275 watts, it runs at zero cost to the beneficiaries. This makes it sustainable, as it fulfils its purpose of improving people's lives by providing water and energy.

Mbugua boasts over 30 years of experience in the accounting profession, having worked in external audit, internal audit and over 25 years as Chief Finance Officer (CFO) at Davis & Shirliff, where his responsibilities also covered the ICT function.

Under his leadership as CFO, a world class finance and information management system was developed, contributing significantly to the organisation's growth into a decentralised operation spread over the Eastern Africa region and beyond. In the same position of CFO, he oversaw the activities of the Board's Audit, Risk and Compliance committee. The increasing array of activities involved in audit, risk and compliance have become more and more central to the wellbeing of any organisation, Davis & Shirliff included.

George's experience in leadership and project management, mainly in the Finance and ICT areas, coupled with his outstanding communication and people skills, as well as a commercial aptitude and a decent sense of curiosity and humility, is instrumental as Davis & Shirliff navigates its ongoing digital transformation and regional spread.

Previous to joining Davis & Shirliff, George was Internal Auditor for the Lonrho Africa Group. In this position, he was in charge of the development, review and improvement of Business Risk Management practices for Lonrho's subsidiaries in the Eastern Africa Region.

Mbugua launched his career as External Auditor with Deloitte East Africa, where he was exposed to diverse businesses and systems, laying an excellent foundation for his accountancy career. George holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree in Marketing from the University of Leicester in the UK.

He is a Certified Public Accountant Kenya (CPA-K), a qualification he obtained from Strathmore University's School of Accountancy. He is a proud alumnus of the Njiiri Boys High School located in Murang'a County, and of Nyeri High School. Mbugua is a long-serving Rotarian, a role that has enabled him to spearhead the design, fundraising and implementation of major projects impacting lives throughout East Africa.

He has served as President of his Industrial Area Rotary Club and since then, has served in various positions in the Rotary District (that includes Ethiopia, Djibouti and South Sudan) for instance, as District Project Stewardship Officer. George has been instrumental in forging a partnership between Rotary Clubs and Davis & Shirliff, for joint community projects.

His exposure within Rotary greatly accelerated the development of his leadership, project management and communications skills. A proud father of four daughters, Mbugua is a fitness fanatic, and it is not unusual to find him indulging in Zumba and aerobics. He enjoys winding down through meditation and various spa therapies. George loves to listen to different genres of music and watches adventure documentaries and football.

He also enjoys travelling and appreciating wildlife. For his personal development and improvement, Mbugua listens to audiobooks, his main interests being philosophy and psychology. George draws spiritual guidance from his devout Catholic practice, which enables him to pursue his triangle of purpose: life—here and hereafter, excellence and charity.

Being a second born in a family of ten, six boys and four girls, he feels that living with his large family was like being in a school of management and leadership, providing him the opportunity to acquire these skills from a very young age. Mbugua is now embarked on the next stage of his life, as he becomes yet more familiar with the company's products and stake – holders. But that's George, always expecting to expand his comfort zone.