

CIBD Africa Section AGM Chairperson's Report

Greetings to my fellow Brewers and the Africa Section Committee!

As I begin to write this report, I cannot help but nostalgically reflect upon my life and journey in the Institute of Brewers and Distillers, now the Chartered Institute of Brewers and Distillers.

Joining Diageo – Kenya as a budding Engineer and Brewer as a young Graduate, I had the opportunity to work with and under great Brewers who introduced and exposed me to the Brewing Community, first Locally, and then challenged me to grow my experiences, networking and scope beyond Diageo, to other fellow Brewers beyond the Borders.

And that is where my journey in the Africa Section started, rallying my fellow colleagues to the benefits of the then IBD Membership, myself having been challenged to attain my Dipl. Brew qualification within my first 3 Years in Diageo. It was blood, sweat and tears, so to speak!

Consolidating learnings from my experiences and mentorship from my Senior Brewers gave me the motivation to build Membership both within and outside Diageo, working with fellow like minded Brewers within the East Africa Section. It was exhilarating to say the least! Seeing a growing Network, individuals invested in Learning and Continuous Personal Development (CPD).

And here really began my exciting journey in the Africa Section Committee, as a young Brewer amongst Seasoned and Senior Brewers. It was daunting, but definitely a worthy experience.

What exciting times – I cannot dare forget the many Africa Brewing Conventions I attended and the camaraderie that came from these. I have made some life-long friendships from these interactions. I cannot forget my first Paper Presentation in Maputo...once in a lifetime experience.

And the Africa Section Committee sessions, where I learnt a great deal about Leadership Across Borders, amazing stuff!

Which all these gave me the courage to meet fellow Brewers internationally, Drinktecs, Oktobafests, doing the Master Brewer at the VLB Institute; there are some amazing stories from these, great collaborations.

These were definitely buzzing and exciting times for our beloved Section.

As they say, Change is Constant – and the Policy changes within the Major Africa Brewers and the IBD HQ, around major topics such as Membership Fees, Examination Adjudication, and CPD Support greatly affected our Section, considering how sensitive the Continent is to both micro and macro shifts.

The last few years, towards the end of the Past Chairperson's Tenure, into mine, have been challenging. Dwindling, no, alarmingly declining Section Membership, slow down in CPDs uptake, lack of alignment with IBD HQ on how the Continent could be supported, amongst other challenges, sometimes seemed like a lost cause, almost leading to dissolution of the Section.

However, as Africans we are known for our Agility and Resilience. We still want to and will make this work again. We continue to navigate our ways of working with HQ, learn from other Sections, and reviving our relationships with Continental Brewers to invigorate the Section.

More importantly, be out there, meeting each other, building networks, rebuilding the Section, bit by bit. We can learn from one Apiwe, with her now globe-trotting adventures touring the Brewing world.

Special mention goes out to Alastair, who in between country moves has navigated the most difficult of times, transitioning from IBD to CIBD. And on the journey to rebuilding the Section Committee, which, from the growing activities I have got knowledge of, the intention is in the right place.

It is Progress Over Perfection. Failing forward.

Having transitioned from Diageo to now a Supplier who serves multiple Brewers across the Region, I see an opportunity to continue serving in my capacity as Past Chairperson, as a CIBD Ambassador, introducing and selling the Section to the many and budding Brewers out here. Please hold me accountable to this promise.

Once a Brewer, always a Brewer.

To the incoming Committee, please continue with the zeal to growing the evident green shoots currently being seen, and accelerate growth back to the buzzing yesteryears.

I stand here thanking all of you for your resilience, good will and support of the Section.

Let us not waver, let us cheer ourselves, onwards and upwards.

Thank you.

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IBD Africa Chairperson and Member of CIBD.