

## **Citation Award of Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa* of Makerere University to Hon. Justice Frederick Martin Stephen Egonda-Ntende**

Hon. Justice Frederick Martin Stephen Egonda-Ntende is being awarded a Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa* of Makerere University in recognition of a distinguished career spanning over 40 years in legal practice, international adjudication and mediation and academia.

He was born in 1956 and educated at Makerere University where he received a Bachelor of Laws degree, with honours. His postgraduate qualifications include a Post Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice from the Law Development Centre; and a Master of Laws degree in Information Technology and Telecommunications Law from the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom.

As one of the few advocates practicing in Jinja district in the 1980s and 1990s, he rose to become Vice President of the Uganda Law Society. He is the immediate past Chairperson of Law Council and has been a Judge and Justice of the following courts: Chief Justice, High Court of the Seychelles (2009 to 2014); Acting Justice, Supreme Court of Uganda (May 2008 to Jan 2009); International Judge, United Nations Mission in Kosovo (2002-2004); Judge, Court of Appeal of East Timor (2000-2001); Justice, Court of Appeal/Constitutional Court of Uganda (2000 to date); and Judge, High Court of Uganda (1991-2000).

He contributed to the reorganization of the Uganda Law Society, following several years in which the Association was either banned or handicapped in operation. He has lectured Law at Makerere University and was the Chairperson of the Law Reporting Committee of the Judiciary.

As Chairperson of the Judicial Training Committee (1996-97), he set out a broad framework, still in place today, for the design and delivery of programs on judicial education which were intended to develop and enhance knowledge & skills for new and serving judicial officers.

Well known as a Technology “geek”, he pioneered the establishment of the Uganda Legal Information Institute (ULII) – a free online legal information database, that publishes and provides the public with primary legal information including decisions of courts of record in Uganda.

As Chairperson of the Working Committee on the Computerization of the Registries in the Uganda Judiciary (1996-97) and the first chairperson of the Technology Committee of the Judiciary of Uganda (1997), he was instrumental in the development of the Technology and Automation Plan for the judiciary and the design and implementation of the Computerized Case Administration System, which culminated into the adoption of the now-indispensable Electronic Court Case Management Information System, which has improved court efficiency.

His judicial imprint has been felt in virtually all areas of the law, from constitutional law and contract law to family law, human rights and international law. In *Osotraco v. The Attorney General of Uganda*, he rejected an age-old barrier to remedies against government based on the new constitutional dispensation. In *Fredrick Kato v Ann Njoki*, he invalidated a discriminatory colonial-era statutory provision which barred Africans from accessing the High Court in divorce matters. In *Salvatori Abuki and Another v Attorney General*, he explained that the right to life

under the Constitution included a right to a livelihood. In *Major General David Tinyefuza Munungu v. The Attorney General of Uganda*, he highlighted the importance of the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy as a guide to the contextual interpretation of the Constitution. Furthermore, in *Re: Nicholas Mwanja*, he called for the reform of the systems of adoption and guardianship which eventually found their way into the Children's Act of 2016, and in *Attorney General v Susan Kigula and 417 Others* he charted a pragmatic path towards the use of international legal norms in the construction of the national legal framework.

Throughout the breadth and depth of his jurisprudence, a consistent thread is to be found: an expression of views without fear or favour; unquestionable belief in the independence of the judiciary, coupled with a commitment to increasing access to justice for common people.

At the international level, he has distinguished himself as not only an international judge of repute but also a development practitioner who turns dysfunctional judicial institutions to productive and efficient systems. To this end, he has contributed to the administrative growth of different judiciaries around the world.

In Seychelles, where he served as Chief Justice (2009-2014), he started a judicial program for judges and other judicial officers and introduced digital recording technology in the judiciary which together with his strong and efficient oversight, turned around the productivity of judicial officers in the country. He also pioneered the establishment of the Seychelles Legal Information Institute.

In East Timor, he was appointed Judge of the Court of Appeal (2000-2001) at a time the province had just broken away from Indonesia. He was involved in the setting up of an independent judiciary.

As an International Judge in Kosovo, he made great contribution in the fight against serious crimes including war crimes, genocide, and terrorism. He also played a critical role in strengthening the Kosovo judiciary and establishing the rule of law that country.

As an international civil servant, Justice Egonda-Ntende has been true to the highest creeds of humanity – integrity, excellence, discipline, passion and, above all, service above self. His record of international service paved way for many Ugandan judicial officers to be sought after in many countries.

He has carried out his task as a judge and justice with humility, utmost incorruptibility and unwavering fealty to the cause of justice and equality embedded in the judicial oath.

For his professional achievements and significant contribution, Makerere University is proud and honored to confer upon Justice Frederick Martin Stephen Egonda-Ntende the Doctor of Laws, *Honoris Causa* of Makerere University and all the rights, duties and privileges pertaining thereto.