



Our March 2022 UDSM Alumnus

This is a “light corner” on the UDSM portal intended to feature for one month in turns two among many of the University’s graduates—alumni—since its foundation in 1961. The corner is designed to inform the public and the University itself, without prejudice in terms of historical precedence but guided only by professional information search, on the past graduates of the University, their whereabouts, their current position or engagement, what is remembered of them as past ‘boys’ and ‘girls’ of their time and, finally, on what is reckoned about their contribution to their Alma Mater, their nation, the Africa region and/or the wider world.

James L. KATEKA



Year of Matriculation: 1967

Year of Graduation: 1970

Award: LL.B Hons (in Law), University of Dar es Salaam.

More info:

- **LLM in International Law (University of London, King’s College, 1974)**

James Luta Kateka is an alumnus of the University of Dar es Salaam, having graduated in the 1973 class. He is a lawyer and diplomat with a long-service period as ambassador to a number of foreign countries and subsequently as a judge on international jurisdictional panels for a number of international issues of arbitration.

James was born on 29th April 1945 in Nyakahanga village in Karagwe district, Kagera region, and attended Nyakahanga Native Authority Primary School (1952-1955), before moving on to Mugeza N. A. Middle School in Bukoba, from 1956 to 1959. From there, in 1960, he was selected to attend the then only territorial Government Secondary in Tabora for Form I-VI (1960-1965). He was among a few pupils selected from across schools in the Territory to undertake a full stretch of six years of residence (for ordinary O-level and A-level classes at a then only and best-facilitated government secondary school staffed by highly qualified expatriate teachers largely from the Commonwealth countries.

In 1966, he was among the best students who passed the Cambridge Higher School Certificate examination for entry into university degree programmes at the University of East Africa’s Dar es Salaam Campus, with the actual start-year was carried forward to 1967. He thus undertook his three-year undergraduate programme in Law at the Faculty of Law, from 1967 to 1970. His immediate posting for work was with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dar es Salaam, where, for three years from 1970-73, his work schedules concerned both legal and diplomatic matters. He then had an opportunity to undertake a two-year postgraduate study programme at the University of London, Kings College, from 1973 to 1974, where he earned an LLM in International Law. It was from this point upon returning from postgraduate study in U.K. that his portfolio of work and responsibilities began to grow fast, beginning with appointment as First Secretary and later as Legal Counsellor at Tanzania’s UN Mission in New York (1976-1980). He then became Minister-Counsellor and Head of the Legal Section within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Dar es Salaam from 1980 to 1983. This was followed by appointment as Director (Legal Adviser) in the Department of Legal Affairs and International Organizations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, from 1983 to 1989.

From 1989 to 1994, James was promoted to the position of Tanzanian Ambassador to Germany, with multi-accreditation to Austria, Poland, Switzerland and the Holy See (Vatican). In 1993, he was awarded a Papal Honour of the ‘Grand Cross with the Star of the Order of Pius IX’. For the next four years, from 1994 to 1998, he relocated to Russia as Tanzania Ambassador to the Russian Federation. From 1998 to 2005, he was appointed Ambassador to Sweden, with concurrent accreditation to the other Nordic States and the Baltic Republics. In Sweden, he served as the Dean of the Stockholm diplomatic corps, while he remained Dean of Tanzanian Ambassadors from 2004 to 2005. James Kateka, both as a lawyer and a diplomat, has also served as a member of various international conferences on the drafting of treaties under international law. These include the Vienna Convention on State Succession in International Treaties, the Statute of the International Seabed Authority, as well as that of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea.

While he gave enough share of professional services as indicated above, since 1995, James cared so much about the practice and intricacies of his profession that between 1995 and 2013, he ‘doubled’ as a Partner with colleagues in a law firm back in Dar es Salaam, South

Law Chambers, and this was driven by the fact that he wanted always not to lose any of his basic tools of his trade as a lawyer.

Currently, he is affiliated with the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), an inter-governmental legal organisation that was formed 25 years ago in October 1995 and which he joined in 2005, after being elected Judge by the United Nations State Parties to the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. He was re-elected to the same judicial body in 2014, for a similar length of service, charged with the task of adjudicating on international cases of disputes concerning seas. On this score, Judge Kateka has remained—and feels proud to remain—a busy and perpetual reader and student of papers not only in the academy of his institution but also in the ‘dedicated corners’ of specialised libraries and archives!

Over time, international scene as well as cross-nationally, Judge Kateka, is recorded as having played decisive roles in several cases of critical legal and diplomatic consequences. A few of these include as:

- Judge ad-hoc in the case concerning *Armed Activities on the Territory of the Congo [Democratic Republic of the Congo v. Uganda]* in the International Court of Justice (2001–2005);
- Arbitrator in arbitration between Mauritius and the United Kingdom (2011–2015);
- Arbitrator in arbitration between Malta and Sao Tome and Principe (2013–2016); and
- Judge ad-hoc in the case concerning *Immunities and Criminal Proceedings [Equatorial Guinea v. France]* at the International Court of Justice (2016 to the present).

Also resounding are not less than seminal 15 publications to which he is author, co-author or opinion contributor — *Human Environment* (1972); *Anti-dumping Convention* (1972); *Convention for the Protection, Management, and Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Eastern African Region* (1985); and *Rights of Landlocked Geographically-Disadvantaged States* (2012).

The University, his alma mater, feels proud of James’ achievements and for his contribution to both the development and the international exposure of his country Tanzania.



1991: Ambassador James Kateka in Germany (1989–1994), with his VIP guests, HE President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and HE [Ex-] President Julius Nyerere of Tanzania, at Frankfurt Airport in Germany.



October 2021. Judge Kateka, with fellow Judges of the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea (ITLOS, Hamburg, Germany), celebrating 25 years of the foundation of ITLOS in October 1996.

**James L. KATEKA is Our March 2022 Alumnus,
and his great stories begin here!**

Get in touch with us through

Directorate of Internationalization,
Convocation and Advancement.
P.O BOX 35091 DSM – Tanzania

Mobile:
0739-959545

Mail: alumni@udsm.ac.tz
www.udsm.ac.tz

Facebook / udsm.alumni
Twitter / udsmaalumni
LinkedIn/udsm