



Our June 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.

George MKUCHIKA



Year of matriculation: 1970

Year of graduation: 1973

Degree: B.A, University of Dar es Salaam (1973)

More info:

- **Company Commander/Captain, TPDF/JWT (1978);**
- **Military honours: ‘Nishani ya Vita’, Kagera War (1978)**

UDSM’s search for its ‘Alumnus of the Month’ for June 2022 landed on George Huruma Mkuchika, a man who over a considerably long period of six decades has been associated with several fields and niches of public service in Tanzania. Currently one of the senior and ‘elder’ officials in government, Mr Mkuchika is a retired army captain and a career ministerial ‘fellow’. Throughout his career, he has combined qualities of a trained educator, a military cadre, and a government strategist for effective and morally-driven human resources for public deployment. He is known to have played these roles well and dutifully.

He was born on 6th October 1948 in Newala district, in the southern region of Mtwara. He had his early school education in the same district, first at Nambungu Primary School, for Standards I-IV from 1956 to 1959, and at Mnyamba Middle School, for Standards V-VIII from 1959 to 1963. In 1964, he entered St. Joseph College Chidya, in Masasi district, for junior secondary (or ‘O-level’) education of Form 1-4 after which he obtained the Certificate of Secondary Education Examination in 1967. On passing the ‘O’-level exams, he was selected for the-then Lutheran high school at Ilboru in Arusha, where he won his Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination (ACSEE) in 1969.

George Huruma was admitted to the University of Dar es Salaam in 1970 for undergraduate study in the-then Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. In combination with other social science disciplines, he took Education with a view to becoming a professional educator. He completed the three-year undergraduate programme in 1973, earning a B.A (with Education) degree. Upon graduating from the University, however, he got an appointment by the ruling party (Tanganyika African National Union, TANU/Chama cha Mapinduzi, CCM) as a TANU/CCM Youth League Secretary at the Head Office. He served in that position for five years (1973-78). In the wake of the outbreak of the 1978 war provoked by Idi Amin Dada Oumee of Uganda and on the favourable recommendation from the Party Mr. Mkuchika joined the national army (the Tanzania People’s Defence Force) to serve in the war. He performed so well in the ‘Kagera War’, rising to a Company Commander, for which he was awarded a national ‘Nishani ya Vita ya Kagera’ honour. After the war, in 1979, he returned to service with the Party as a District Executive Secretary (1979-1981). From that time onwards, he had a steadily rising career within the Party and Government. He rose to the position of Regional Executive Secretary in the Party (1981-1983) and then to District Commissioner within the system of Regional Administration and Local Government for four years from 1983 to 1997. In 1997, he was appointed Regional Commissioner for Tanga, where he served for eight active years from 1997 to 2005.

In 2005 he successfully contested for election to a parliamentary seat for the Newala constituency, after which he has had four consecutive five-year terms of parliamentary representation of his Newala Urban constituency, namely 2005-2010, 2010-2015, 2015-2020 and 2020-2025. As an MP, Captain Mkuchika has served on several parliamentary committees, including the Defence and Security Committee (2006-2008) as its Vice-Chairman, the Foreign Affairs, Security and Defence Committee (2015-2018) and the Privileges, Ethics and Powers Committee (2016-2017) as its Chairman. Previously, he had been appointed as Minister of Information, Culture and Sports, serving in this position from 13 February 2008 to 28 November

2010. From 28 November 2010 up to 7 May 2012, he had served as Minister in the PM’s Office for Regional Administration and Local Government and, subsequently, as Minister of State in the President’s Office for special duties (7th May 2012 to 7th October 2017). From 7th October 2017, Captain (Rtd). Mkuchika was appointed Minister of State in the President’s Office responsible for Public Service Management and Good Governance, serving in that position for four years until 2021. Since 2021, he has been appointed as Minister without Portfolio within the President’s Office, responsible for special duties.

Captain Mkuchika’s civil and political experience has been quite extensive, ranging from a TANU/CCM Youth League Secretary at Party headquarters (1973-1979), to CCM District Executive Secretary (1979-1981), to CCM Regional Executive Secretary (1981-1983), to Member of the National Executive Committee (2002-2017), to Deputy Secretary General of CCM on the Mainland (2007-2011) and finally Member of the highest-ranking National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Party (2002-2017). Throughout his political career, he has taken seriously the issue of political pluralism for national harmony and inclusive social development. As he put it back in 2012 at a good governance review forum in Arusha,

Although many African countries have met minimal democratic requirements, the main challenge they currently face is to strengthen democratic institutions so that they may be more effective, efficient and responsive while promoting democratic pluralism, competitive politics and tolerance.

The University of Dar es Salaam appreciates such a record of cross-field feats as he has demonstrated which serves to define the kind of sound political wisdom and counsel for men and women of dedicated service tomorrow. Bravo Captain Mkuchika!



In Arusha, on May 30–31, 2012. State Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office for Regional Administration and Local Government (responsible for Good Governance) (Rtd) Captain George Mkuchika speaking at a forum on “Democracy, Elections and the Management of Diversity in Africa”.



2020. In his portfolio as Minister of State in the President’s Office (responsible for Public Service and Good Governance), Captain George Mkuchika clarifying issues on work discipline and code of ethics for public personnel in the government’s public/civil service.

Source: <https://twitter.com/TheCitizenTZ/status/916631036116848640>

**George MKUCHIKA is Our June 2022 Alumnus,
and his great stories begin here!**

Get in touch with us through

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