



**UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI**

CITATION ON

**MR. JOHN PETER NYANGERI SIMBA**

ON HIS CONFERMENT OF

**THE HONORARY DOCTOR OF LAWS (LLD)**

(HONORIS CAUSA)

OF

THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

AT NAIROBI, KENYA

**DECEMBER 2012**

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MR. JOHN PETER NYANGERI SIMBA  
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Mr. John Peter Nyangeri Simba was born in Kisii County, on May 27, 1945. He is the son of Mr. Joseph Abere Simba and Mrs. Trufena Nyangau Simba.

He started education in 1954 when he was admitted to Kebirichi Primary School. He sat for his Common Entrance Examination in 1961, after which he joined Kisii High School for his 'O' and 'A' levels between 1962 and 1967. To his credit, his academic record in both primary and secondary school was exemplary. He obtained two A+ and one B in the Common Entrance Examination, Division 1 in Cambridge Overseas School Certificate and 3 Principals and 1 Subsidiary at 'A' level.

He proceeded to the University of Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania, where he studied law between 1968 and 1971. On attaining his Bachelor of Laws degree (LLB), he joined the Kenya School of Law and passed his bar examinations in 1972, qualifying to be admitted as an advocate of the High Court of Kenya.

Mr. Simba has had a varied and distinguished career in the public and private sectors. He was first employed in the Attorney General's Office, where he worked between April 1972 and August 1974. Then in September 1974, he was employed by the Nakuru Municipal Council as an advocate and legal advisor. He was promoted to the position of Deputy Town Clerk and acted as the Town Clerk between 1976 and 1977.

From November 1978 to October 1991, he worked for the Industrial and Commercial Development Corporation (ICDC), where he held different positions including: Deputy Corporation Secretary and Chief Legal Officer; Corporation Secretary and Chief Legal Officer; Executive Director and, finally, Chief Executive Officer. In these various capacities, he sat on many company boards and assisted in the restructuring

of those with problems. Above all, he developed policies for industrial and commercial investments for guiding ICDC's operations.

In November 1991, the government appointed Mr. Simba as the Executive Director of the Executive Secretariat and Technical Unit of the Parastatal Reform Programme Committee, a job he held until April 1993. In this capacity, he spearheaded Kenya's privatisation process by leading a multi-disciplinary team that developed proposals for divestiture.

In May 1993, Mr. Simba was appointed as the executive Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the National Bank of Kenya (NBK) where he worked up to December 1998. At NBK, he successfully presided over the transformation of the bank from a wholly owned government financial institution into a public company quoted at the Nairobi Stock Exchange.

Between January 1999 and February 2000, he served as the Chairman of the Retirement Benefits Authority (RBA). Once again, he was instrumental in formulating policy as well as developing rules and regulations that now govern the pensions industry in this country. In appreciation of his contribution, RBA recognised him during its tenth anniversary celebrations.

The other two public responsibilities that Mr. Simba has held deserve to be mentioned. In 2006, the Kenya Government appointed him as the Chairman of the Tea Industry Task Force. The Task Force reviewed the tea industry and made extensive recommendations for improving the industry. Some of these have been implemented which largely account for the healthy state of our tea industry, one of our country's main foreign exchange earners. Additionally he has been serving on different committees of the Kenya Revenue Authority.

For these and the other illustrious endeavours, spanning 40 years, the Government of Kenya has honoured him with the award of the Order of the Grand Warrior (OGW) in 1991, as well as the Moran of the Burning Spear (MBS) in 1995.

Mr. Simba also has vast experience in the private sector. These include having served the Federation of Kenya Employers for eighteen years as a member of its

management board, Vice Chairman and Chairman, for which he was recognized during its fiftieth anniversary. He has also been Chairman of the Kenya Bankers' Association, Director of ICDC Investment Company, Director of AoN Minet Insurance Brokers, Director of Rift Valley Bottlers, Chairman of Kisii Bottlers, Chairman of APA Insurance, Chairman of Pan Africa Insurance Holdings, Chairman of Choice Tea Brokers, Chairman of Mather and Platt Kenya, Member of the Executive Board of the Centre for Development and Industry (CDI) and Member of the Commonwealth Business Council. At the same time, from January 1999 he has been a partner and legal consultant of a thriving legal practice, Simba and Simba Advocates.

The responsibilities and appointments so far highlighted reveal that Mr. Simba has been a versatile public servant and astute businessman. But this is not surprising. It is the fruit of dedication, hard work, patriotism and proper training. Over the years, he has honed his skills by attending many seminars and workshops locally and overseas.

In the professional field, he is a member of local and international professional organizations including: the Law Society of Kenya, Institute of Directors of Kenya, East African Law Society, Commonwealth Lawyers Association and International Bar Association.

Truly, the University of Nairobi has been fortunate to have such a distinguished and dedicated Kenyan serve as the Chairman of its Council and the University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services Limited (UNES). From April 2005, he has been at the forefront of transforming the University of Nairobi by introducing the best private sector practices and good corporate governance in the University.

During his tenure as the Chairman, the University has experienced exponential growth, for instance Ksh.3 billion has been spent towards infrastructural improvement, the annual budget of the University has grown from Ksh.4 billion to Ksh.15 billion, the student population has risen from 32,000 to 62,000 while the number of graduating students has risen to about 10,000 annually from 4,500 in 2005. Indeed, in the 2011-2012 Academic Year, a record 2558 masters and 61 PhDs graduated from the University of Nairobi.

In terms of academic ranking among universities, the University of Nairobi, under the stewardship of Mr. Simba has maintained top position nationally, regionally and

no 14 in Africa out of over 800 universities. This leadership is equally felt in the Public Performance Evaluation by the government, where the University has maintained a top-three finish in the process which ranks public agencies. Currently the University of Nairobi holds the national record of being the only public entity to achieve an 'Excellent' performance in the Public Sector Evaluation. This impressive contribution by Mr. Simba has gone a long way towards our Vision of becoming a World Class University.

Mr. Simba's interest in education is not confined to the University of Nairobi. He at one time served as Honorary Treasurer and Vice Chairman of the Kenyatta University Council. He is also actively involved in assisting the needy and supporting several primary and secondary schools in Kisii and Nyamira Counties.

It is therefore in recognition of Mr. Simba's distinguished contribution as the Chairman of the University of Nairobi Council, where he has promoted transformative leadership, change management and best practices, and for his corporate leadership skills and advancing business growth in Kenya, where he still serves on various boards contributing to the social welfare of humanity, that the University is proud to confer the Doctor of Laws (LL.D) (Honoris Causa).

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I am greatly privileged to request you to honour Mr. John Peter Nyangeri Simba by conferring him with the degree of Doctor of Laws (LL.D) (Honoris Causa) of the University of Nairobi.

**LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, JOHN PETER NYANGERI SIMBA.**