



**JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

CITATION ON

HIS EXCELLENCY UHURU KENYATTA C.G.H,

**PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES**

ON

HIS CONFERMENT OF

THE HONORARY DOCTOR OF SCIENCES

(HONORIS CAUSA)

OF

JARAMOGI OGINGA ODINGA

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

ON

14th December, 2018



**H.E. HON. UHURU KENYATTA C.G.H.,
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCES**

H.E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta C.G.H

Mr. Chancellor Sir, I have the honour to introduce H.E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, whose pragmatic work transcends the borders of individual spheres of academic disciplines and finds diverse and far-reaching practical applications. At the core of all the works is the integration of scientific thinking and methodology in analysing societal problems and generating well thought out solutions for the advancement of humanity and contribution to global development. Most notable of these are biodiversity, food security, spatial management of human settlement, world peace and security, promotion of the blue economy, improvements on human health, creation of wealth among all citizens and respect for all gender.

A “Man of The People”

Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta was born on October 26, 1961, in Nairobi, Kenya, to Mzee Jomo Kenyatta, the founding father and first President of the Republic of Kenya, and Mama Ngina Kenyatta, the strong pillar of the Jomo family. He received his early education from the St. Mary's School, Nairobi. After completing 'A' levels he was enrolled at the Amherst College in the United States, where he studied political science and economics. H.E graduated in 1985. After completing his education in the USA, he returned to his homeland and started a number of companies, including operating a successful horticulture export business through a company he started called 'Wilham Kenya Limited'.

Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta is the fourth and current President of Kenya. Prior to this, he served in various portfolios. In 1997, he was appointed the chairman of his hometown branch of the ruling party, KANU, which his father had led in the past. In 1999, he was appointed the Chairman of the Kenya Tourist Board. In 2001, he was nominated to Parliament and later appointed Cabinet Minister for Local Government. In 2002, he was nominated the presidential candidate to run for elections under the KANU ticket.

Under the coalition government in 2008, Hon. Uhuru was appointed as the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Trade. In January 2009, he was moved from the post of Minister of Trade to the Minister of Finance, a post he served in until January 2012. In 2011, Kenyatta tweeted to his followers, asking them to give their views on the country's national budget via the microblogging service. Hundreds responded within hours in an exercise which was praised by tech-oriented politicians as extending inclusivity

and empowering democracy. He won praise for his Economic Stimulus Programme as Minister of finance, investing in food security and boosting entrepreneurship and innovation.

Later, Hon. Uhuru left KANU and formed a new party TNA which later became JUBILEE, a part of a multiparty alliance. He was nominated as the party's presidential candidate and won the 2013 elections, becoming the fourth President of Kenya, the post he currently serves in.

Hon. Uhuru's 2017 inauguration speech after winning the hotly contested elections highlighted on reaching out to his opponents in the NASA camp for co-operation in building the country. He rallied for nurturing of peace while at the same time castigating the role of international observers who seemed to conform to the narrative of the opposition. The president insisted that elections should not divide people and create hostility.

For all his noted privilege, Hon. Kenyatta quickly established himself as a "man of the people" with an easy-going popular approach, seemingly comfortable socialising with Kenyans of any class or ethnic background.

The Digital President

H.E President Kenyatta's assertion that he is a digital president was not only a metaphor for his youth, but also a political strategy to reach out to Kenya's young population and embrace the country's ambition to become the Centre of digital innovation on the continent.

By leveraging on technology, Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta's Government has revolutionized how citizens access its services making it much easier to bring services closer to the people, cutting delivery time and securing revenues paid for such services. Huduma Centres now offer one-stop shops for government services while a number of government services can now be accessed remotely through the online portal, eCitizen.

Kenyans can now file their tax returns and apply for passports, drivers license, ID cards and access other government services online, cutting hours spent queuing for these services. Over 3 million Kenyans have successfully paid to access these public services through the portal.

His administration also set up an online portal to track government projects and another to report corruption directly to him.

Through the Presidential Digital Talent Programme, the Government has provided internship to ICT and engineering graduates. The trainees

undergo mentorship in private and public institutions including county governments for a period of one year. The first batch of 100 interns have graduated and another 400 have been admitted into the program.

This programme has provided high impact ICT jobs to our graduates and has helped improve Government's digitization efforts.

The Government embarked on digitization of the 57 land registries across the country which have been keeping manual records since 1895. The Nairobi registry is fully digitized and 13 registries are at various stages of digitization. The Ministry of Lands in collaboration with National Land Commission launched the National Land Information Management System (NLIMS) which has automated land administration and management processes.

Awards

H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta was voted Africa's President of the year 2014/2015 for his outstanding leadership. The Head of State was picked for the prestigious Africa Education and leadership Awards for his ability to build consensus locally and abroad, efforts to change policies for the better and supervise solutions that address Kenya's pressing issues.

President Uhuru Kenyatta was awarded the top democratic award by the Paris based Mandela Institute. He was crowned the prize for reflecting a true spirit of democracy when he accepted the Supreme Court decision that nullified his August Presidential win in 2017.

H.E Kenyatta was declared this year's winner of the African award on transport and road infrastructure. The Africa Road Builders awarded President Kenyatta the 2018 Babacar Ndiaye award in a ceremony which took place in Dakar, Senegal, in recognition of the Jubilee government's projects in railway, road, air as well as a nationwide street lighting.

Recently, President Uhuru Kenyatta received a special award from the African Union Commission (AUC) for his role in hosting the world's first blue economy conference. Hon. Uhuru was honored for mobilizing and bringing the world together for a successful and historic conference attended by more than 18,000 delegates from 170 countries.

Achievements

In 2013, a majority of Kenyans were not connected to power. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta's Government embarked on an aggressive last mile connectivity campaign to accelerate connectivity of households to electric power with the aim of achieving universal access to electricity in the country.

The Government consolidated multiple intervention programmes into "'Inua Jamii' – a cash transfer programme for the vulnerable in society" to enhance efficiency and effective co-ordination. The programme covers the elderly, persons with severe disabilities, orphans & vulnerable children across all constituencies.

Using the National Youth Service (NYS) infrastructure and personnel, the Government introduced the Youth Empowerment Project (YEP) that has since engaged over 93,000 youth in development works within informal settlements across 90 constituencies. These comprise: environmental management (e.g. cleaning of rivers, clearing garbage, tree planting), construction of ablution blocks, road construction (405.6Km), Water storage (213 small water dams & water pans and 56 boreholes), clinics, vector control (mosquitoes), setting up businesses such as posho mills, fish ponds and fish tanks, and huduma kitchens.

A Government directive issued by H.E Kenyatta, on the 1st of June, 2013 declared that maternal health services would be offered at no charge in all public health facilities. The provision of high quality maternal delivery services in public health facilities for free, coupled with access to world class facilities under the Managed Equipment Services (MES) programme, was aimed at reducing maternal, infant and neonatal mortality and to increase the rate of child vaccination.

The Government is the biggest procurement entity in the country. The aim of the Access to Government Procurement Opportunities Program is to facilitate the youth, women and persons with disability-owned enterprises to be able to participate in government procurement. This was made possible through the implementation of the Presidential Directive that 30% of government procurement opportunities be set aside specifically for these enterprises. It is an affirmative action aimed at empowering youth, women and persons with disability-owned enterprises by giving them more opportunities to do business with Government.

H.E Uhuru Kenyatta's Government undertook to radically improve the health sector by providing Kenyans access to uninterrupted quality healthcare services nationwide by equipping 2 hospitals in each county and the 4 referral hospitals with specialized medical equipment under

the MES Programme.

The Government has to date disbursed KSh. 10.7B. to the counties for mothers to access maternity services and safe delivery. This initiative has seen an increase in deliveries taking place in public hospitals with over 2,515,051 deliveries taking place in public health facilities since the programme started.

In an effort to bring services closer to the people, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta's Government set up Huduma Centers across the country. Huduma Centers are integrated government service centers that have enhanced accessibility of government services. This has led to improved efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery with 95% Customer satisfaction rate. It has reduced corruption in the access to Public Services, improved the ease of doing business and increased access to government services at a reduced cost.

H.E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta has supervised the implementation of a new government administrative unit of Counties, which replaced the previous unit of Provinces. He has also tactfully dealt with the complaints of poor governance, corruption, and insecurity. Further, he has spearheaded various development projects as defined in the Vision 2030, notably the LAPSSET Corridor Program, Standard Gauge Railways (SGR), national road networks, housing projects and the Big Four Agenda, which have spurred a new paradigm of development in the country.

H.E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta rekindled public administration and governance through initiating various policies and declarations which have brought new directions and revived the zeal for a new order of doing things. Head of this is the Mwongozo code of governance which has provided a framework within which government officers are accountable in the delivery of services to the public.

During his inaugural speech, Hon. Uhuru promised economic transformation through Vision 2030, unity among all Kenyans, free maternal care in all public health facilities, and that he will serve all Kenyans. He also promised to improve the standards of education in Kenya. He has lived up to his promise.

Mr. Chancellor Sir, for the show of exemplary patriotism, dedicated service to this country and the world of humanity, on behalf of the University Senate, it is my privilege and honour to present **H.E. Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta**, for the conferment of Doctor of Sciences (**Honoris Causa**) of Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology.



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