



# **SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY**

## **CITATION**

**AWARD OF HONORARY DEGREE**

**Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D),**

**Honoris Causa**

**Dr. Titus Tukero Naikuni**

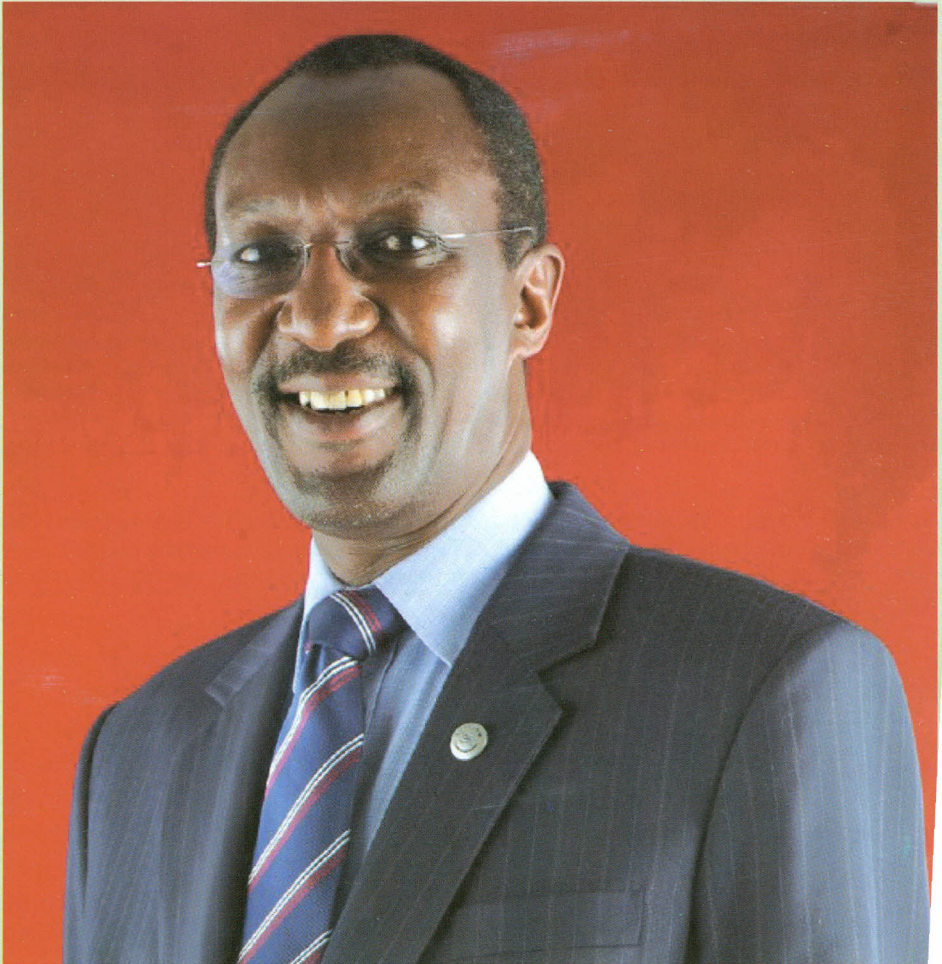
During the  
***2nd Graduation Ceremony***

**Friday, April 10, 2015**





## **SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY**



Dr. Titus Tukero Naikuni  
**Chancellor**



# SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY

## Vision

To be a globally competitive Centre of Excellence in Teaching, Research, Innovation and Service.

## Mission

To provide quality education through teaching, research, extension, innovation and entrepreneurship with emphasis on dryland agriculture, natural resources and environmental management.

## Quality Policy Statement

South Eastern Kenya University is committed to providing quality education and services that meet the needs of its customers and stakeholders through quality and relevant teaching, research, extension, innovation and entrepreneurship. The University is committed to quality work and a learning environment based on intellectual and academic freedom, teamwork, pursuit of excellence, professionalism, integrity and continuous improvement of its products (programmes/activities) and services to satisfy clients/customers.

To be able to realize this commitment, the University shall ensure effective communication and continually improve on the effectiveness of the Quality Management Systems based on the ISO 9001:2008 Standards. The University shall review this policy and established quality objectives from time to time for continued relevance and suitability.

## Core values

- Professionalism
- Innovation
- Integrity
- Freedom of Thought
- Teamwork
- Respect and Conservation of the Environment

# Honorary Degree Citation

## TITUS TUKERO NAIKUNI

### *Doctor of Humane Letters (L.H.D.), Honoris Causa*

After your birth on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1953, you spent your early life in Kajiado, where, like any other Maasai boy at that time, you looked after the cattle of your father. You later pursued primary education in the then Kajiado District and proceeded to Kisii High School in Nyanza for your secondary education. After successful completion of your secondary education in 1976, you were admitted to the University of Nairobi to pursue an undergraduate degree programme in mechanical engineering. In 1979, you graduated with a Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Nairobi. You also attended the Harvard University School of Business in 1996 where you trained in Management Development. In July 2008 you were awarded a Doctorate of Science, *honoris causa*, by Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya, in recognition of your contribution to development.

You have had an exemplary career spanning almost four decades. You joined Magadi Soda Company in 1979 as a trainee engineer at a tender age of 26 years. Through hard work and determination during the training you were appointed as a Dredges Manager in 1981. In 1984, after undergoing an engineering design and workshop training in the UK, you were appointed as a Plant Maintenance Manager, reporting to the Chief Engineer of the Magadi Soda Company. Your talents and sheer determination were noticed early and for that reason you rapidly rose through the ranks from the position of Plant Engineer in 1988 to the position of Chief Engineer in 1990. In 1991 you were appointed as the Manufacturing Engineer. Your rapid rise through the ranks at Magadi Soda Company did not stop at the position of Manufacturing Engineer, but you went on to become the General Manager, a position you held for a period of 2 years before being appointed as the Managing Director in 1995, and serving in that capacity for a period of 4 years.

Your fast elevation in managerial positions at the Magadi Soda Company enabled you to contribute immensely towards increasing the output of the company, making the company and the country one of the leading exporters of soda ash in the world. You definitely proved yourself in a foreign owned company in an era when Africans were not assigned key engineering responsibilities. You demonstrated to the world that indigenous Kenyan Mechanical Engineers could perform just as well as, or better than, Engineers trained in the western world. It is believed that it is through your contribution that doors opened for many other Kenyan Engineers trained in Kenyan Universities to take positions of key engineering responsibilities in multi-national corporations, operating not only in Kenya, but also in other regions of Africa and the world at large.

Your service to humanity did not stop at Magadi Soda Company. The recognition of your talents was demonstrated when you were appointed in the Public Service between August 1999 and March 2001 as a member of a team of World Bank sponsored Kenyan technocrats known as the "Dream Team" who were engaged by the Government to turn around the economy. In this capacity, you served as the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Communication and as a member of the Board of Kenya Airways. At the Ministry of Transport and Communication, you contributed immensely in the formulation of the transport and communication strategy of the Kenya Government and also oversaw the implementation of key projects that helped the economy turn back onto the growth path. As a member of the Kenya Airways Board of Directors, you made immense contributions that enhanced performance and made Kenya Airways one of the leading airlines in Africa.

After your exemplary service as the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Communication, you returned to Magadi Soda Company in April 2001 to continue serving as the Managing Director. Your work in the Public Service, and particularly as a member of the Board of Kenya Airways, must have been impressive because in February 2003 you were picked to be the Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Kenya Airways. Your long service of 11 years in the Kenya Airways Corporation is proof enough of your great abilities. It is during your tenure that the Kenya Airways transformed to become a consistent profit-making corporation and one of the leading airlines on the African Continent. In fact, your exemplary leadership abilities have enabled

Kenya Airways to continue performing well while many other airlines in Africa have collapsed.

Your vast experience in both the public and private sectors in Kenya has meant that your advice is much sought after by many private and public sector corporations. For this reason, you have been invited to serve on various company boards, not only in Kenya but also in other countries in Africa. You have previously held directorship of more than 10 public and private corporations. Among these, you served as a member of the Board of Brunner Mond (South Africa), member of the Board of East Africa Portland Cement Company, Chairman of Kenya Power and Lighting Company, Chairman of the Housing Finance Company of Kenya, member of the Board of CFC Bank, member of the Board of Heritage Insurance Company, member of the IATA Board of Governors, member of the University of Nairobi Council, and member of the Unilever Africa Advisory Board. It is through some of these important managerial roles that you received the Manager of the Year Award in Kenya in 2002.

You are currently a board member in a number of companies and organizations including the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust, Access Kenya Ltd, Great Lakes Ports Ltd, Lafarge International Advisory Board, Precision Air Tanzania, and Servair France. You also hold several other positions including Chairman of Rift Valley Railways, Deputy Chairman of Magadi Soda Company, and Chairman of Airtel Kenya Ltd. With all these roles, you can appropriately be described as a man with the mind of an engineer but the heart of an entrepreneur.

Additionally, you have contributed a great deal towards the development of your Maasai community. You have continued to play an important role in the conservation of the Maasai wilderness through your membership in the Maasai Wilderness Conservation Trust. You are also a serious defender of the Maasai culture and tradition.

Following the granting of a Charter to the then South Eastern University College (SEUCO) in 2013, you were appointed the Chancellor of South Eastern Kenya University (SEKU). As the Chancellor, you have continued to play a major role in the rapid expansion of the university. It is during your watch that the student population has grown from about 2,000 to 6,000 within a period of less than three years. You have also contributed in providing strategic guidance to the University Council and Management,

ensuring that the university stays focused on the attainment of its long-term vision of becoming a globally competitive Centre of Excellence in Teaching, Research, Innovation and Service; not only in Kenya but also in the entire African region and the world. The road to achieving this vision has been demonstrated recently when SEKU, under your watch, became ISO 9001:2008 certified, positioning itself to becoming a university of choice in Kenya.

Apart from your excellent leadership skills, you have demonstrated the importance of ethics in management and decision making in every institution you have been involved with. This must be the main reason for the successes achieved by all the corporations and organizations you have served.

The Senate saw it fit to bestow upon you the honour of becoming the first to be awarded an honorary doctorate degree of South Eastern Kenya University on the basis of the following:

1. Exemplary long-service to the nation in both the private and public sectors.
2. Exemplary contribution towards effective and efficient management and performance of both public and private sector corporations leading to their effective contribution to the national economy.
3. Dedication and commitment to various responsibilities assigned to you in both private and public sector corporations.
4. Demonstration of your capabilities and talent as a member of a minority community in Kenya.
5. Demonstration of your ability as a locally-trained engineer to contribute effectively in the management of engineering-focused corporations.
6. Commitment and dedication to serve and build your country, Kenya.
7. Dedication to education and your rise from a humble background to become a true son of your country.

According to the South Eastern Kenya University Charter Part II (9), the University may 'Confer honorary degrees or any other academic distinction to a person who has rendered distinguished service to the advancement of any branch of learning or who has otherwise rendered service in any field of human endeavour worthy of such a degree or academic distinction as may be provided for under the Statutes'. The procedure for identifying persons for the award of the honorary degree is stated in the University Statute XXII.

**Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me, I have the honour to present you, Dr. Titus Tukero Naikuni, for the award of the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, of South Eastern Kenya University, with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities thereunto attached to this degree.**



*Congratulations.*

South Eastern  
Kenya University

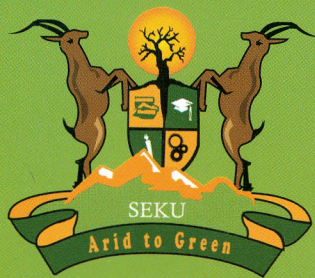


*The Chairman of Council, the Vice-Chancellor,  
Senate, Staff and Students of  
South Eastern Kenya University*

*Congratulate you*

*Dr. Titus Tukero Naikuni  
for being awarded Doctor of Humane Letters  
(Honoris Causa)*

*of  
South Eastern Kenya University*



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