

MARGARET SEKAGGYA

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Date of Birth: Kampala 23rd October 1949

Status: Married

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

1990 University of Zambia, Lusaka.

Master of Laws (LL.M) Degree.

Subjects: Constitutional Law, Comparative Family Law, International Law and Jurisprudence.

Dissertation in the area of Evidence entitled “The Law of Corroboration with Special reference to Zambia”.

1970-1973: Makerere University, Kampala.

Bachelor of Laws (LLB.) Hons. Degree (Did 12 law courses)

1973-74: Law Development Centre, Makerere

Post-Graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (Dip. L.P).

1975: All African Law Reports, Oxford U.K.

Course in Law Reporting- prepared in producing law reports.

1977: High Court of Uganda, Kampala.

Enrolled Advocate of the High Court of Uganda.

1997: Danish Centre for Human Rights,

Human Rights Course – Trained in the International Instruments.

1998: The Commonwealth Secretariat, Kampala Uganda.

Training in Human Rights

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

A lawyer of longstanding who has worked with the Governments of Uganda, Zambia and also with the United Nations. Taught law in various institutions, worked in the Judiciary and finally appointed a Judge of the High Court of Uganda. Administrative experience acquired through setting up of the Uganda Human Rights Commission, which is one of the strongest Commissions in Africa and has a staff of 153 members. Represented the Commission at both local and International fora, including the annual representation at the United Nations Human Rights Sessions in Geneva. Accredited by the Human Rights Watch as a person who provides capable leadership to the Uganda Human Rights Commission. Presented several position papers on Human Rights and Constitutionalism and officiated at different conferences both local and international. Has been Chairperson of the Coordination Committee of the Africa National Human Rights Institutions and currently Chairperson of the Ugandan Human Rights Commission. Now also the Chairperson of Commonwealth National Human Rights Forum. Appointed UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders in 2008.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

<u>Year</u>	<u>Employer</u>	<u>Posts held</u>
1996-Present	The Uganda Government	Chairperson, The Uganda Human Rights Commission.

The position is held by a judge or a person eligible to be a judge. Appointed to establish the Commission. Set it up in 1996 while on a contract of six years. In 2002 November the contract was renewed for another period of six years. The Commission investigates all violations of human rights in Uganda. It visits prisons and places of detention, monitors government's compliance with International Treaties and Conventions. It also carries out civic Education, teaching on human rights and constitutionalism. The Commission has six regional offices and a staff of 153 staff, one Chairperson and six Commissioners. Fundraised for the Commission and now the Institution has bought its own building. It has also been chosen to coordinate all the civic Education Programmes in Uganda.

Other Responsibilities:

- Chairs and sits on Tribunal Hearings.
- Guides the various departments in both the Kampala and Regional Offices.
- Responsible for the direction of the affairs of the Commission.
- Chief Spokesperson of the Commission.
- Responsible for thematic issues which include the United Nations, the Economic Social and Cultural Rights. National Human Rights Institutions and the East African Community.
- Chair of the commission meetings.

- Fund raising.
- Giving advice and direction to Commissioners and staff on issues of human rights.
- Submit Annual Reports on the situation of Human Rights in Uganda to the Speaker of Parliament and the Executive.

1995 The Uganda Government Appointed Judge of the High Court of Uganda

1995-1996 The Uganda Government Commissioner, Interim Electoral Commission.

After being appointed a Judge of the High Court of Uganda, I was requested to be a Commissioner of the Interim Electoral Commission.

Responsibilities:

- Charged with conducting elections in Uganda.
- Advised the Commission on legal matters involving elections.
- In charge of the Legal Department and the logistics Department.
- In charge of the Eastern Region of Uganda, which comprised of 9 districts. Elections were successfully conducted in 1996.

1995 Constituent Assembly Researcher/Advisor

The assembly debated the 1995 Constitution. It consisted of delegates from all over Uganda including representatives of special interest groups.

Responsibilities:

- Advised the Chairman of the Assembly and of the Legal and Drafting Committee.
- Studied the constitutional provisions to be debated so as to provide the Delegates with information for their debates.
- Made a comparative study of the Constitutions of other countries.

**1990-1995 Law Development Centre Principal Lecturer
Acting Head of Department of
Research, Law Reporting and
Publications**

Responsibilities:

- Lectured both Bar students and diploma in Law Students.
- Prepared students from the University to engage in legal Practice.
- Carried out research on various aspects of Law for use by the Government.
- Publishing the Uganda Law Reports and the High Court Bulletin.

1982-1990 United Nations Institute for Namibia, Zambia Lecturer

Worked in the United Nations for seven years preparing Namibian Students to take up positions at Independence.

Responsibilities:

- Assisted the Course Coordinator to establish the course for the magistrates and worked out a curricula.
- Through the magistrates' course, prepared Namibians under the common law system in different subjects.
- Assisted Namibian Women of SWAPO to understand their rights under the Liberation Struggle.

1978-1982 Zambia Judiciary, Lusaka Resident Magistrate

Responsibilities:

- Editor of the Zambia Law Reports and Secretary to the Council of Law Reporting
- Produced 13 volumes of Zambian Law Reports and Cumulative Index.
- Handled Civil and Criminal Cases.

1976-1978 Law Development Centre, Makerere Lecturer

Responsibilities:

- Trained Bar Students and Magistrates.
- In charge of Publications Department
- On return from Oxford, started the High Court Bulletin and produced several volumes.

**1975 Uganda Judiciary Magistrate Class I
Mengo Magistrate's Court**

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for hearing civil and criminal cases.

PUBLICATIONS/CONSULTANCIES:

- (a) The Review of the Constitutional Making Progress in Kenya- Consultancy sponsored by Ford Foundation (2001).
- (b) Needs Assessment for Stocking Law Libraries in Uganda – World Bank (1995).
- (c) Role of Civil Society in the Democratisation Process – Foundation for Human Rights Initiative (1994).

- (d) Review of Legislation related to Wetlands Conservation and Management In Uganda – World Bank Sponsored Consultancy (1991).
- (e) Natural Resource Management Policies and Legislation in Uganda – World Bank Consultancy (1991).
- (f) Written and presented several papers on Human Rights and Constitutionalism which have not been published.
- (g) Assisted in looking at the Legislation to establish the Malawi National Human Rights Commission, Sierra Leone Human Rights Commission, Kenya Human Rights Commission.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. May 2008 – Appointed by the UN Human Rights Council, Geneva as Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders
2. 2007-2009 Chairperson – Commonwealth Forum for National Human Rights Institutions.
3. 2006 – 2008 – Member of the UN High Level Task Force on the Right to Development.
4. October 2005 – Awarded a Vocational Service Award in recognition of meritorious achievement and contribution towards promotion of human rights in Uganda by the Rotary Club of Makindye.
5. 2004 – 2007 member of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions (ICC).
6. 2004 – 2008 Board member of the International Service for Human Rights (ISHR).
7. 2002-Nov. 2005 - Chairperson of Coordinating Committee of African National Human Rights Institutions. The committee organises collaboration between different African Human Rights Institutions.
8. 2002 - Appointed Chairperson of the Civic Education Steering Committee – Uganda.
9. 2002 - Nominated Member of the International Coordination Committee (ICC) of National Institutions. (UHRC membership)
10. Helped to review Legislation and set up National Human Rights Institutions in Malawi (1999), Liberia (1998) and Sierra Leone (2000).

11. 2001 – Selected as a member of a team of experts who reviewed the constitution making process in Kenya.
12. 2001 - Accredited by Human Rights Watch as a person who has produced capable leadership to the Uganda Human Rights Commission, an institution which is a watch dog for government and fearlessly takes it on where human rights are violated. (Human Rights Watch, *Protectors or Pretenders*, 2001).
13. 2001 – Nominated Chairperson of the Project Advisory Committee of the European Commission Programmes Support to Human Rights Democratic Principles, Rule of Law and Good Governance – Uganda.
14. 1996 - Successfully conducted national elections and declared the winning candidate, His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.
15. 1995 - Appointed Judge of the High Court of Uganda
16. 1990 – 1995: Editor of the Uganda High Court Bulletin.
17. 1994 - 2006: Founder Member of the Uganda Network on Law, Ethics and HIV
18. 1978-1982: Secretary to the Council of the Law reporting and Editor in Chief of the Zambia Law Reports.
19. 1976-1978: Editor of the High Court Bulletin.

Countries Visited on Invitation of Their Governments:

- The United States of America – 1999
- United Kingdom - 2001
- Germany - 2002
- Iran - 2002
- Japan - 2003

Areas of Interest:

1. Human rights
2. Modalities of establishing National Human Rights Institutions
3. Constitutional Law and Constitutionalism
4. Environmental Law and Environmental Protection
5. Criminal Justice System