



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

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on his conferment of

The Honorary Doctor of Laws (LLD)

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DR. ANDORNICO ODUOGO ADEDE

BA (Juniata College); LLB (Boston, Mass, USA), MA (The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts Univ, Medford, Mass, USA); 0 MALD (The Fletcher School), Ph.D (The Fletcher School)

When he returned to Kenya in 1971, with degrees in Law from his ten years of further studies in the United States of America, Adronico Oduogo Adede's friends were surprised. Some were actually shocked. They had expected him to come back with a degree in Music, or one that would enable him to teach English Literature. This is what had been clearly established during his four years of secondary school (1956 - 1959) at the Government African School, Kisii (GAS). This view about Andronico Adede was also fully shared by Mrs. Wendy Spendlove, the School's English teacher, and Mr. Michael Collier Grounds, the Principal of the school, where Adede had quickly distinguished himself as a leader. He became the first and the only student to be the School Captain for two years, being appointed to that position during his junior year (which was not usual) and continuing in that position during his senior and final year at the school. Adede also directed the School Choir, which won the competition in the Senior Boys category at the 1958 Annual Music Festival at the District level (Kisii), at the Provincial level (Kisumu) and, for the first time in the history of GAS, took the Kisii Senior boys choir to compete at the National Music Festival in Nairobi. At these Music competitions, he was responsible for teaching and conducting the School Choir in the English set-pieces, while the School Choir Master, the late Dr. Nicholas Otieno, was responsible for teaching the African folk song.

His Division II result in the Cambridge Overseas School Certificate Examination, which he sat in 1959, did not permit him to enter Makerere University. But it was good enough to earn him admission in 1961 into a college in the USA. Before proceeding to the USA, Adede spent two

years in Nairobi, working at the Kenya Federation of Labour Office of the late Tom J. Mboya, assisting Mr. Joshua Omoth between December, 1959 and September, 1961. At Juniata College, Pennsylvania, USA, where he was admitted in 1961, Adede pursued and earned his B.A. degree in Political Science in 1964. He thereafter went to the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, Massachusetts, and earned a Master's degree in International Relations, during which time he also developed a keen interest in law. This led him to the Boston University School of Law, in Boston, Massachusetts, where he received his LLB degree. He then continued to pursue his interest in International Law from 1968 - 1971 at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, getting a second Master's degree (Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy - MALD) . Before returning to Kenya, he was awarded a Ph.D. Degree in International Law from that School in 1971.

While still in the U.S.A., after his Fletcher School graduate studies, Adede spent a few months on volunteer work assisting Ambassador J. G. Odero-Jowi, then Kenya's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. It was Ambassador Odero-Jowi who introduced Dr. Adede, to Dr. Njoroge Mungai, who was then the Foreign Affairs Minister of Kenya; Dr. Mungai took an interest with a view to hiring him to join the Ministry upon return. And that is what happened after Dr. Adede appeared before the Public Service Commission.

In September, 1971, Dr. Adede was appointed Head of the Legal Desk (the Legal Adviser) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya, and immediately got involved in two of the most well-known international events of the period: the negotiations at the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), and the negotiations at the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (the Stockholm Conference, 1972). In these negotiations, he represented the Government as the Legal Adviser of the delegation. With respect to the latter, it must be observed here, that Kenya did make history. The Government put together a well selected delegation, which vigorously represented it at the Stockholm Conference. Those

selected had been recognized as the experts in the various Ministries that took an active part in and made contributions to the research and preparation of the *Kenya National Report on the Environment*, that was required for submission at the Conference. They were indeed familiar with the issues to be discussed at the Conference, and with Kenya's position. Thus, the members of that historic delegation, who were accredited to the Conference by the Government, and who should be acknowledged publicly here for the first time, 28 years later, were listed in the Credentials as follows: Hon. William Odongo Omamo, Minister for Natural Resources in-charge of Environment (Leader of the Delegation), H.E. Joseph Gordon Odero-Jowi (Deputy Leader of the Delegation), Joel Meshack Ojal, Simeon Hongo Ominde, John Calestus Obel, Peres Malande Olindo, Andrew Ndooli Ligale, H.E. Joseph Muliro, William Wabwoba Wapakala, Andronico Oduogo Adede.

The Kenya delegation, which was later joined by Crispus Mutitu, deserves acknowledgement for the courage of initiating, on behalf of Kenya, the idea that the Headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which was being established by the Conference, should be located in Kenya and for campaigning vigorously at the Conference towards that end. With the assistance of Dr. Adede and a friend at the Conference Secretariat, the *Note Verbale* announcing Kenya's candidature to host UNEP was translated into French for circulation to the French-speaking countries at the Conference. Kenya immediately received full endorsement by the entire African group. This would be the first time ever for the headquarters of such a United Nations body to be located in a Third World country. Kenya thus made history in its successful bid to bring the headquarters of UNEP to Nairobi. The campaign was led by Ambassador Odero-Jowi at the United Nations, with the full support of Mr. Dawson Christian Mlamba, the then Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

When the battle for locating UNEP's Headquarters in a Third World country moved from the Stockholm Conference to the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York, Dr. Adede was privileged to continue

playing the pivotal role of providing the link between Mr. Mlamba's office in Nairobi and our Mission in the UN in New York. He coordinated the flow of relevant information required from Nairobi, with the help of Joab Henry Onyango Omino, who had become the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources, and Arthur Barry Cahusac of that Ministry. These initiatives and struggles helped in consolidating Adronico Adede's interest in issues concerning institutional arrangements for United Nations bodies, and those concerning the development of International Environmental Law.

In July 1976, two years after the establishment of UNEP's Seat in Nairobi, Andronico Adede was seconded by the Government of Kenya to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA), at the United Nations Headquarters in the New York, as one of the Senior Legal Advisers. At OLA, he was appointed the representative of the Legal Adviser of the United Nations at all the negotiating sessions of UNCLOS III from 1976 to its conclusion in 1982, culminating in the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea - one of the world's leading environmental conventions to-date.

From 1983-1987, Andronico Adede was seconded by the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs to become the Legal Adviser to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Austria. It was Dr. Adede who directed the negotiations which produced the two famous Conventions, namely, (i) the IAEA Convention on Assistance in Case of a Nuclear Accident, and (ii) the IAEA Convention on Assistance in Case of a Nuclear Accident. These two instruments were in response to the tragic nuclear accident which had taken place at Chernobyl in the then Soviet Union, in 1986. The two Conventions made history by being negotiated and adopted in record time (two weeks), and being brought into force also in record time within one year following their adoption.

In 1987-1995, Andronico Adede ended his secondment in Vienna and returned to the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs in New York, becoming the Deputy Director of the Codification Division in charge of

the work of the Sixth (Legal) Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, which deals with discussions of all the legal issues in the programme of the United Nations including those being specially developed by the United Nations International Law Commission.

In 1990, Andronico Adede was appointed Legal Adviser to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) (the Earth Summit), dealing exclusively with substantive legal questions arising during the preparatory process for UNCED, which was held in Rio de Janeiro in May-June, 1992. This appointment was made by the Secretary-General of the 1972 Stockholm Conference twenty years earlier. This was a distinctive recognition of Andronico Adede's legal service in this area of international law.

In August 1995, Andronico Adede was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as the First Registrar of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, located in Arusha, Tanzania, a position which he held at the rank of Assistant Secretary-General until retiring in 1997 from the United Nations. He is currently the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of L'ETWAL INTERNATIONAL, A Foundation for Law and Policy for Contemporary Problems, based in Nairobi, Kenya.

Andronico Adede has a unique career path as an International Lawyer. One would think that, given such an active and diverse career path, Adede would have had no time to pursue any academic interest at all. But this was not the case. Unlike most holders of bureaucratic offices, he wrote several major Law Review articles on the subject of the Law of the Sea while still at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nairobi, and on issues relating to International Environmental Law. This laudable contribution earned him the Elizabeth Haub Award in Environmental Law in 1991. This is the highest international award in Environmental Law, administered jointly by the Free University of Brussels and the International Council of Environmental law. He is the author of four books in the areas of the Law of the Sea, Environment, Natural Resources Development and International Trade. He has also published more than

sixty articles in reputable, referred journals in these and other aspects of international law. As if to vindicate his secondary school teachers, Mrs. Spendlove and Mr. Grounds, who had recognized his potential in English Literature, Adronico Adede has also written a novel, *The Quadrangle*, essentially immortalizing his secondary school (Government African School, Kisii), and portraying school life under the colonial education system.

His widely-read professional writings have earned him immense recognition in academic circles. The highest one came in 1983 when he was invited, from the United Nations, to give a full course at the prestigious Hague Academy of International law on Legal Trends in International lending and Investment in the Developing Countries. Among the many Africans who took Dr. Adede's course at the Hague Academy, was a fellow Kenyan: Mr. Tobias M. Ongalo, who later became Company Secretary of the Kenya Commercial Bank. Dr. Adede's lectures at the Hague Academy became so popular that word soon reached the Administration of the Academy. He was consequently honoured by being appointed Chairman of the five-panel Jury of Professors who marked examination papers and issued Diplomas for the successful candidates at that 1983 session of the Academy.

Between 1980-1995, Adornico Adede delivered a number of lectures on International Law at various centres and institutions in Africa, under the auspices of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR). In addition to those delivered under the UNITAR Programme, he received special invitations during the same period at the United Nations, to deliver lectures on aspects of International Law at the University of Florence (Italy); at the International Development Law Institute (IDLI) in Rome (Italy); at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (his Alma Mater); at the Vienna Diplomatic School (Austria), at the University of Nairobi, Faculty of Law; at the Moi University School of Environmental Studies, and at the Pace University School of Law Centre for Environmental Legal Studies (USA). These

lectures dealt, inter alia, with issues such as peaceful settlement of international disputes in general, the work of the International Court of Justice, International Human Rights Law; International Environmental Law, the Law of Multilateral Treaty-Making Processes and Implementation, and the Law of the United Nations and Problems of World Order.

It is this distinguished Kenyan who has ascended so far in the hierarchy of the United Nations System, and who has made such immense contribution to the development of International Law, that the University of Nairobi is proud to award the Degree of Doctor of Laws (L.L.D.), *Honoris Causa*.