



## Our March 2024 UDSM Alumnus

This is a “light corner” on the UDSM portal intended to feature for one month in turns two among many of the University’s graduates—alumni—since its foundation in 1961. The corner is designed to inform the public and the University itself, without prejudice in terms of historical precedence but guided only by professional information search, on the past graduates of the University, their whereabouts, their current position or engagement, what is remembered of them as past ‘boys’ and ‘girls’ of their time and, finally, on what is reckoned about their contribution to their Alma Mater, their nation, the Africa region and/or the wider world.

### Sifuni Ernest MCHOME



**Year of matriculation: 1985;**

**Year of graduation: 1989;**

**Award: Bachelor of Laws (LLB), University of Dar es Salaam (1989).**

**More info:**

- **Master of Laws (LLM), Queen’s University Ontario, Canada (1991)**
- **Doctor of Philosophy (in Law), University of Dar es Salaam (2001)**

One of a few individuals clad, in the previous decade, with a number of institutional roles in teaching, professional tutoring and public service inside and outside the walls of the University’s School of Law, Professor Sifuni Ernest Mchome is a past graduate—an alumnus—of the University of Dar es Salaam, of the graduating class of 1989.

He was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October 1963 in the northern region of Arusha and had both his elementary and his secondary schooling there: at Uhuru Primary School (1971–1978); Arusha - Meru and Kolila Secondary Schools (for the Certificate of Secondary Education Examination [CSEE], i.e. forms 1-4, 1979-1982); and Ilboru High School (for the Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education Examination, ACSEE, 1983–84). It was from Ilboru high school that he qualified, in 1985, for entry into the University of Dar es Salaam for a degree programme in law at the Faculty of Law [now School of Law]. He graduated in 1989 with an LLB honours degree and was, in May that year, posted to the zonal office of the Attorney General’s Chambers in Arusha, beginning as a state attorney trainee (May 1989–April 1990) and thereafter as state attorney (May–August 1990). In September 1990, he relocated to the University of Dar es Salaam where he joined the Faculty of Law as a tutorial assistant and was subsequently sponsored for a two-year postgraduate study at Queen’s University Ontario in Canada, earning a master of laws degree in 1991.

From 1990, well up to 2009, Sifuni had a continuous stretch of service with the University at the Faculty of Law, rising through the academic ranks from tutorial assistant (1990-1992), to assistant lecturer (June 1992-May 1997), to lecturer (June 1997-May 2001), to senior lecturer (June 2001-May 2006) and to associate professor (June 2006-to-date). During this period of 17 years, he served in various capacities and roles: teaching, researching, as well as consultancy with various groups and organisations in and outside the university setting. Within the Faculty, for a whole stretch of ten years (from 1995 to 2005), he was coordinator of ‘moot courts’ - a well-known system of exciting practical sessions that depict imaginary law cases for student practice and demonstration. He also served as Associate Dean for administration (July 1997-June 2002), Head of the Department of Civil & Criminal Law (July 2001-June 2006) and Faculty Dean (July 2006-June 2009). This was in addition to another, equally heavy “personal” academic load of his own doctoral study programme, which he finally completed in 2001.

In April 2010, Professor Mchome was appointed Deputy Executive Secretary for the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU), a national statutory body established in 2005 for regulating and enhancing quality education programmes in universities in the country. He subsequently became Executive Secretary for the body from January 2011 to August 2013, when he was appointed to an even higher position in government, of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (August 2013-December 2015). In January

2016, he was appointed Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, a position he held for six years from January 2016 to January 2022. It was, so to say, a long tour of twelve years of duty outside the university environment that in April 2022, he returned to the fold at the University of Dar es Salaam’s School of Law (UDSoL) to continue with university duties. Beginning with May 2022, to date, Professor Mchome relocated to the University of Dodoma (UDOM) where he is teaching and researching at the School of Law.

An ardent writer, Professor Mchome has to his credit not less than forty works in various areas of law interpretation and application. For lack of space, only four publications can be mentioned here:

- “Due Process of Law: The Rights of Suspects and Accused”. In Peter, C.M and Juma, I.H (Eds), *Fundamental Human Rights in Tanzania*. Dar es Salaam: Mkuki na Nyota Publishers (1998);
- “Is the Refugee Problem Ending? A Historical Perspective”. In *Nyerere Law Journal* (2005);
- “Constitutional Developments in Tanzania: Implications of the Proposed 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments of the Union Constitution and other Developments with Constitutional Implications.” In Lawrence Mute (ed.), *Constitutionalism in East Africa: Progress, Challenges and Prospects in 2004*, Kampala: Fountain Publishers (2007).
- “Strengthening the Prosecution System in Tanzania.” In Chirwa D.M. et al, *Accountable Government in Africa: Perspectives from Public Law and Political Studies*, Cape Town, South Africa: Juta Publishers (2011).

The University of Dar es Salaam, his alma mater, is surely happy with Sifuni’s record of work. It pleads with him to continue the same fine spirit and rhythm at his new place of relocation as previously at UDSM.



**September 2015.** Professor Sifuni Mchome, as PS in the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, leading a ministerial team in signing an agreement with the Tanzania Education Authority (TEA) on a three-billion shillings loan advanced to the Tanzania Institute of Education (TIE) by TEA



**May 2021.** The Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Constitutional and Legal Affairs, at that time Prof. Sifuni Mchome, handing over site-identity papers to a SUMA-JKT official for beginning to construct the new ministerial headquarter complex at the designated site in Mtumba area in Dodoma

**Sifuni Ernest MCHOME is Our March 2024 Alumnus,  
and his great stories begin here!**

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