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The Legal 500 Europe, Middle East & Africa

2019

The clients' guide to law firms

ENSAFRICA

4TH FLOOR, RWENZORI TOWERS, PLOT 6
NAKASERO ROAD, NAKASERO, KAMPALA,
UGANDA

Tel: +256 31 222 5500

- Leading firms



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ENSAFRICA

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THE FIRM

ENSAfrica is Africa's largest law firm, with over 600 practitioners, and more than 200 years of experience in high-level, complex commercial work. The firm's focus is on what's best for the client and striving for excellence, in both offering and service. ENSAfrica is committed to providing clients with cost-effective outcomes by ensuring work is done at the right level, and in the manner that best suits clients' preferences and pricing structures.

While many recognise the unique opportunities for trade, investment and growth that Africa represents, predicting in-country and across-region risks is not easy, particularly given the rate of exponential change impacting multiple indicators, whether economic, political, technological or social. ENSAfrica is an independent law firm with fully integrated offices across Southern, West and East Africa and Mauritius. The firm offers clients many years' accumulated know-how and solid experience, whether doing business in-country or cross-continent, helping to minimise risk and leverage business opportunities across Africa.

ENSAfrica has lawyers qualified to practise English, French and OHADA law, as well as practitioners who are fluent in African and international languages, including Mandarin, Cantonese, French, Portuguese and Swahili. The firm also has a dedicated Asia practice group.

Through the financial services centre of Mauritius, ENSAfrica also offers a unique possibility to integrate all aspects of structuring clients' investments in relation to all commercial areas of law, tax, IP and fiduciary.

RECENT WORK

- Advising Barclays Africa Group Limited on its complex and high-profile GBP765-million separation from Barclays plc, which spans the United Kingdom and 10 African countries.
- Acted as lead counsel to leading African communications company Vodacom Group Limited in its transformative cross-border acquisition of a 34.94% indirect interest in the premier East African telecommunications operator, Safaricom Limited, valued at ZAR35-billion.



**OTHER
OFFICES**

Accra, Cape Town,
Dar es Salaam, Durban,
Johannesburg, Kigali, Port
Louis, Stellenbosch,
Swakopmund, Walvis
Bay, Windhoek

- Advised Anheuser-Busch InBev SA/NV ("AB InBev") on its USD106-billion acquisition of the entire issued share capital of SABMiller plc, which triggered merger notification obligations in a number of jurisdictions globally, including Botswana, Kenya, Namibia, Swaziland and Zambia.
- Advising Southern African FMCG giant Tiger Brands Limited on the strategic protection, maintenance and enforcement of its 2 000+ trade marks and other IP assets across 95 jurisdictions.
- Acting for investment companies First Global Funds Limited PCC and Weston International Asset Recovery Company Limited in a USD829-million lawsuit, believed to be the largest in Mauritian courts to date and which forms part of one of the biggest fraud cases in the African/Asian region.
- Advised energy and commodities company Vitol Upstream Ghana Ltd and its parent company on the development and financing of the Offshore Cape Three Points integrated oil and gas facility and the sale of gas. This USD7.6-billion project is, arguably, the biggest gas investment in the West African sub-region.
- Acting as lead South African legal advisor to global precious metal mining group Sibanye Gold Limited in its USD2.65-billion transformative cross-border acquisition of NYSE-listed Stillwater Mining Company, the only United States PGM miner.
- Advised the largest non-food retailer in South Africa, the Edcon Group, on its complex ZAR28-billion debt restructure, which involved operations in several African jurisdictions.

Number of lawyers: 400+

Languages: 40+

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Leading firms

Tier 2

Under the leadership of **Phillip Karugaba**, **ENSafrica**'s Uganda office goes from strength to strength, continuing to expand its market share while also maintaining longstanding relationships with existing clients. 2018 was a busy year for the team; its banking and finance and corporate departments saw particularly high volumes of work. In a recent highlight, a team led by **Bernard Katureebe** advised Netherlands Development Finance Company on the financing of a 15MW hydro-power dam. **Rachel Musoke**'s expertise includes banking and real estate; **Donald Nyakairu** draws on over 30 years' experience in corporate and commercial matters, particularly in the TMT space; and **Rehema Nakirya Ssemyalo** specialises in M&A, private equity and corporate restructurings.

Leading individuals

Phillip Karugaba

Rachel Musoke



PHILLIP KARUGABA

WORK DEPARTMENT

ENSAfrica in Uganda

POSITION

Head of ENSAfrica in Uganda

CAREER

Phillip Karugaba is head of ENSAfrica in Uganda. He is an Advocate specialising in capital markets, M&A, private equity, energy, project development, infrastructure, construction and real estate law.

Phillip has acted for local and international private equity funds, banks and developmental financing institutions on a variety of high-profile transactional and regulatory matters.

His experience includes advising clients on M&A transactions, as well as on major construction projects relating to, among others, thermal power and transport. Phillip also assists multinational companies seeking to establish their operations in Uganda and to obtain cross-border listings on the Uganda Securities Exchange.

In addition, Phillip has been involved in lobbying the Ugandan government for legislative changes and has also been involved in drafting laws, rules and regulations, including aspects of the Ugandan Constitution and the Capital Markets Regulations.

Phillip previously served as a lecturer at the Faculty of Law, Makerere University. He is a member of the Uganda Law Society, the East Africa Law Society and a number of boards of directors.

EDUCATION

LLB (Makerere University); Diploma in Legal Practice (The Law Development Centre); LLM (Queen's College, Cambridge University); and Admitted as an Advocate of the High Court of Uganda.

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RACHEL MUSOKE

WORK DEPARTMENT

ENSAfrica in Uganda

POSITION

Partner

CAREER

Rachel Musoke is a partner at ENSAfrica in Uganda. She specialises in banking and finance, real estate/property, construction, tax and employment law.

Rachel is a market leader in syndicated loan transactions and advises Uganda's leading financial institutions on their syndicated and bilateral loans, as well as on the preparation, registration and perfection of finance documents. Rachel has also been involved in the development of the Loan Market Association documentation for use in East Africa.

Rachel represents numerous international entities, including foreign financial institutions and development financing institutions, in their local lending transactions. In addition to her banking and finance expertise, Rachel also advises several corporate entities on employment law.

Rachel is a member of the Uganda Law Society, the East Africa Law Society, the Uganda Association of Women Lawyers, and of the board of directors of the East African School of Taxation.

EDUCATION

LLB (Hons) (Makerere University); Postgraduate Diploma in Tax and Revenue Administration (East African School of Taxation); Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice (Law Development Centre); and Admitted as an advocate of the High Court of Uganda.



REHEMA NAKIRYA SSEMYALO

WORK DEPARTMENT

ENSafrica in Uganda

POSITION

Partner

CAREER

Rehema Nakiryia Ssemyalo is a partner at ENSafrica in Uganda. She specialises in M&A, capital markets, private equity, corporate restructurings, energy, projects and infrastructure, and general corporate commercial advisory.

Rehema's experience includes conducting legal due diligence exercises for the purpose of private equity investments and debt financing, and preparing transaction documents for private equity investment transactions.

Rehema is a member of the Uganda Law Society and the East Africa Law Society.

MEMBER

Admitted as an advocate of the High Court of Uganda

EDUCATION

LLB (Hons) (Makerere University); and Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice (Law Development Centre).

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DONALD NYAKAIRU

WORK DEPARTMENT

ENSAfrica in Uganda

POSITION

Partner at ENSAfrica Advocates in Uganda

CAREER

Donald Nyakairu is a partner at ENSAfrica in Uganda. He is a highly experienced corporate commercial lawyer with particular expertise in the information technology and telecommunications sector, having acted as managing director, chief legal counsel and company secretary at one of the largest telecommunications solutions providers in Uganda for 10 years.

Donald has been involved in various telecom sector studies including rural community development funding, determination of interconnection rates, mobile money, spectrum re-farming and quality of service. He was chairman of the Finance and Commercial Group for the Eastern Africa Submarine Cable System and participated in the drawing up of various documents including the contract with the supplier and the construction and maintenance agreement. Donald also served as the chairman of the East African Backhaul System and, accordingly, has in-depth knowledge and experience in respect of telecoms infrastructure development.

His experience further includes advising clients in respect of M&A, encompassing the evaluation of financials, legal status and the preparation of bid documents.

Donald is a respected former diplomat who, during his posting to the Uganda High Commission in London, was responsible for all Commonwealth-related matters. He liaised with the Commonwealth Secretariat and numerous international bodies in the United Kingdom such as the International Coffee Organisation, Centre for Agriculture and Biosciences International, the International Sugar Organisation and the Commonwealth Partnership for Technology Management.

Donald represents many corporate clients and assists companies in setting up their local operations in Uganda and with their regulatory compliance. His clients also include banks, which he advises on various aspects of recovery, business restructuring and securitisation.