



# THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF KENYA



## CITATION ON

**DR. MANILAL PREMCHAND CHANDARIA, OBE, EBS**

**THE CHANCELLOR OF THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF KENYA**

**on conferment upon him of the Degree of  
Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*)**

**by**

**The Technical University of Kenya**

# GRADUATION2013

*Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013*

## **OUR MISSION**

*To provide quality and innovative technological education and training*

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## **OUR VISION**

*To be a top rated university of technology*

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## **OUR MOTTO**

*Education and training for the real world*



**Dr. Manilal P. Chandaria (Manu), OBE, EBS**

*Chancellor*

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**DR. MANILAL PREMCHAND CHANDARIA, OBE, EBS**

**THE CHANCELLOR OF THE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF KENYA**

Dr. Manilal P. Chandaria, popularly known as Manu Chandaria, who we are about to present for the award of the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science (*Honoris Causa*), was born on 1st March, 1929. He grew up in the Ngara area of Nairobi. His father owned a provisions shop along Biashara Street in Nairobi, where the young Manilal honed his entrepreneurial skills. Although his father did not have much formal education, he was determined to give him the best education available.

The young Chandaria began his education in Kenya attending various schools in Nairobi and Mombasa. After which he proceeded to India for his undergraduate studies. While in India he attended Jamnagar India University, Bombay, from where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree. He then proceeded to the University of Oklahoma, USA where obtained a second Bachelors Degree and a Masters Degree in Engineering in 1950 and 1951 respectively. On his return to Kenya, he applied his engineering knowledge and business acumen to establish a multinational conglomerate from the provisional store that he had earlier left behind.

He led the family business to venture into the lucrative aluminium and steel industry when he and his father-in-law acquired saucepan manufacturer, Kenya Aluminium. This was the humble beginning of the present giant Comcraft Group of Companies which has a workforce of over 40,000, and has presence and manufacturing facilities in forty five (45) countries, sixteen (16) of which are in Africa including those in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Zambia.

Dr. Chandaria is the Chairman of Comcraft Group, East African Business Council, Bank of India Advisory Committee in Nairobi amongst others. He also sits on the Board of many successful non-government industries like

Mabati Rolling Mills Ltd, Kaluworks Ltd, Kenindia Assurance Co. Ltd, just to mention a few. He was member of the University of Nairobi Council and served on numerous Government of Kenya boards and committees.

Dr. Chandaria is married to Aruna and have two children. Together with his immediate and greater family, he set up the Chandaria Foundation, which has offices in every country where Comcraft is operational. His charitable and social works include being the founding Chairman and member of the Management Committee – Asian Foundation; Chairman of Chandaria Foundation; Trustee of the Heart Foundation and Goodwill Ambassador of the World Wildlife Fund for Nature.

Dr Chandaria's philanthropic ideals are demonstrated both locally and regionally as evidenced by his involvement with over 25 charitable organizations. He has generously provided for numerous schools, universities and health facilities in Kenya and the region. Dr Chandaria is widely respected as a role model, and he is arguably one of East Africa's most venerable business leaders.

Aware that the economic growth of a country is inextricably linked to industrial development, Dr. Chandaria has established manufacturing industries that offer not only job opportunities to ordinary citizens of the world, but also advances technological and innovative solutions for industrial growth in Kenya. For instance, Mabati Rolling Mills has put durable and affordable iron sheets on the roofs of many rural citizens who had hitherto relied on the dwindling supplies of grass to thatch their roofs, while the Kaluworks Ltd has provided Kenyans with an array of household products.

Dr. Chandaria constantly keeps abreast with technological innovation in the various companies and organizations that he leads. At the same time, he takes a keen interest in the wellbeing of the people that work in these organizations. While he has steered his private companies and organizations to success, he has also supported and mentored many public business initiatives and groups to levels of sustainability and success.

He has been recognized and awarded both locally and internationally,

for instance, in December 2001, he was awarded the 2001 Korea Trade Day Award by the Korean Minister for Commerce, Industry and Energy in recognition of his business support as best trading partner with Korea in that year; Between 2000 and 2002, Dr Chandaria was unanimously recognized as the most respected Chief Executive Officer in East Africa by the Price Waterhouse Coopers and the Nation Media Group surveys; In 2003, he was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II; In December of the same year, he was honoured and awarded the Elder of the Order of the Burning Spear (EBS) by President Mwai Kibaki; In August 2006, he became a fellow of the Cambridge Association of Managers; In January 2008, he was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award in Delhi, India; and in early January, 2013 President Mwai Kibaki appointed Dr. Chandaria the first Chancellor of The Technical University of Kenya.

Dr Chandaria has been at the centre of most industrial developments in Kenya. The Kenya Association of Manufacturers has immensely benefitted from his networks both locally and internationally. Dr Chandaria has been a definitive mobiliser and team builder among the nation's investors and industrialists. His love and respect for professionalism and academia is manifest in the heavy investment in innovation and entrepreneurship among young people by supporting business incubation centers and industrial parks in institutions of higher learning across the country. He has demonstrated passion for the infusion of innovation, with technology and entrepreneurship.

Guided by the values and principles of social equity and the humanness of traditional societies, Dr. Chandaria has been particularly concerned about the plight of the poor, the vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities. His committed supports for programs that alleviate social inequities and his outstanding success in business have immensely contributed to human development. Here, then, is a global citizen whose vision and effort has and continues to contribute enormously to the development of education, industry and advances in entrepreneurship, economic, and social welfare of this great country, Kenya.

Research in Science and Technology to spur innovation and create wealth is the mandate of The Technical University of Kenya. As a community of academics of The Technical University of Kenya and beyond, we are proud to be associated with the qualities and achievements by Dr. Chandaria. And in recognition of his contribution to innovation, entrepreneurship and industrialization in Kenya, I am greatly honoured and privileged to present Dr. Manilal Premchand Chandaria, the Chancellor of The Technical University of Kenya, to be conferred upon, the Degree of Doctor of Science (**Honoris Causa**) of The Technical University of Kenya.

**Ladies and Gentlemen, DR. MANILAL PREMCHAND CHANDARIA!**

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR THE REAL WORLD**

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