

PROFILE



DR JOHN N. B. OSOGO (1927–1979)

Dr John Nikola Bwire Osogo obtained his doctorate degree one week after his death from the University of Nairobi. Dr Osogo died on 9th December 1979. He had worked for many years as Head of Primary Education in the Ministry of Education, rising to the position of the Head of Primary and Special Education, and finally, Chief Inspector of Schools (Basic Education) at the time of his death.

Dr Osogo was well known for his books on the history of Kenya and Eastern Africa. The titles include 'Life in Kenya in the Olden Days', 'Traditional History of Kenya', 'Looking at East Africa in the 19th Century', and 'Eastern African Nations'.

'A History of the Abaluhya' and 'Nabongo Mumia' are titles exclusively on the Abaluhya of western Kenya. The historical evidence recorded in these books has contributed enormously to the knowledge on the Abaluhya, and notably on the governance system of the Mumias tribal grouping.

His publication record also includes history books written for Kenyan primary schools, some of which were coauthored with Prof Atieno Odhiambo (died early 2009), but which had to be completed by Prof Odhiambo. He also prepared filmstrips for schools and the University of Nairobi entitled "East African History Filmstrips".

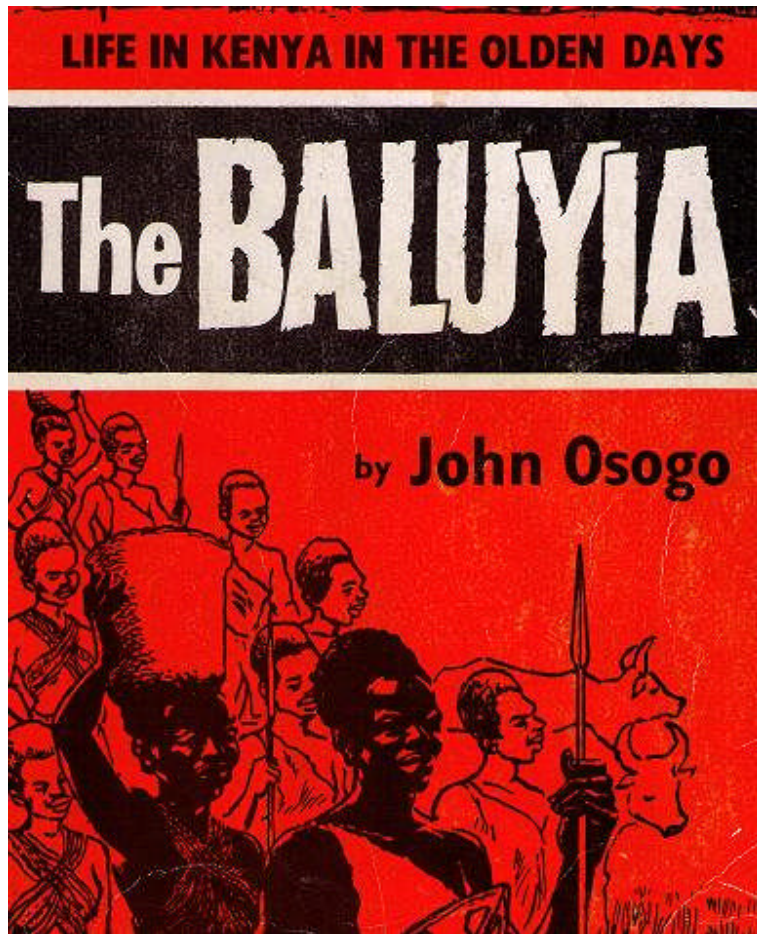
'The Bride Who Wanted a Special Present and Other Stories' comprises tales that were told to children by the older generation in the evenings as a form of entertainment. Each story has a lesson to be learned.

Dr. Osogo was born on January 1, 1927 at Port Victoria, Bukani Village, Busia District in Western Kenya, the eldest son of Teofano and Margaret Osogo. His pursuit for education eventually led him into receiving scholarships to attend universities in Kenya, Uganda, the UK and the USA.

Dr Osogo loved not only history but also the customs and culture of his people, and spent his time collecting articles of cultural value to the Abaluhya as well as promoting the song and dance of his tribal grouping. The folklore of his people in his book 'The Bride Who Wanted a Special Present and Other Stories' comprises tales that were told to children by the older generation in the evenings as a form of entertainment. As stated earlier, each story has a moral lesson to be learned and to help mould young minds.

A year before his death, [Calestous Juma](#) (now professor at Harvard University) interviewed him for the *Daily Nation* newspaper and described him as "one of Kenya's most outstanding historians and patriotic educationists", a view that is held by many people. Other accolades have come from the Kenyan government, which has named an estate road in Nairobi in his honor. A local secondary and primary school in his home village also bear his name.

Dr Osogo is survived by his siblings; James Osogo (former minister for commerce and industry in Kenyatta's government), Paul Osogo and Dorothy Tsuma; as well as his twelve children: Dolorosa (editor at [Icipe](#)); Martha; Emilia Eleyae (accounts manager at [Azusa Pacific University](#) in Los Angeles); Jacob; Benjamin; Peter; Theofano; Margaret; Veronica; Anna; Theofano Wandera; and Joan, and wife Anastacia Osogo.



MORE PHOTOS



Dr. John Osogo in his office at Kenyatta University (where he was a lecturer) with his friend



Dr. John Osogo conducting a workshop of East African History at Loveland Junior High School in the UK



(Seated 3rd from left) Dr. Osogo at a FAO/GFP Seminar, July 27 1979 to August 17 1979(4 months before his demise)

Dr. John Osogo (abroad) with the Family of his very good friend David Gatsby (not in the picture).

Dr. John Osogo with his beautiful wife Mrs. Anastacia Osogo at Ball.



Dr. John Osogo (in shades) attending a sports day function At Racecourse Primary School (7th July, 1973)





In his hey days as a young Mwalimu adorning
His teaching apparel. This was slightly after his 1st graduation from Makerere University



1. Dr. John Osogo as a young Mwalimu
2. Dr. John Osogo abroad with his friends
3. Dr. John Osogo taking a walk at Uhuru Park
4. Dr. John Osogo

Record updated: 21 May 2009