

## **The German-African Association congratulates its member Prof Karsten Legère on the occasion of an extraordinary Jubilee**

Karsten Legère was born in Glauchau (Saxony) in 1943. He is the son of the writer Werner Legère (1912-1998) and Ruth Legère (1921-2011). From 1964 to 1968, he was a student of African Studies and Linguistics at the Karl Marx University in Leipzig, where he then worked from September 1968 onwards as a lecturer of African languages (Kiswahili, Hausa, Zulu) – with interruptions due to teaching assignments abroad – and as an Associate Professor of Bantu Studies from 1985 to 1994. After completing his doctorate in 1974, he taught at the Kiswahili Department of the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania from 1975 to 1979 as a lecturer and from 1983 to 1986 as a professor, covering topics such as Kiswahili structure and history, sociolinguistics, terminology development and more. Medium of instruction was Kiswahil.

In 1982, he was awarded the academic degree Dr sc. phil., which was replaced by the title Dr phil. habil. in 1991. From 1994 to 2000, K.L. taught as a professor at the University of Namibia, Department of African Languages in Windhoek. Subsequently he worked as Professor of African Languages at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden from 2001 until his retirement in November 2010. As professor emeritus, he is still a member of this university (Department of Languages and Literature). Until 2018, he was also an honorary professor at the University of Vienna, where he had previously taught as a visiting professor from 1992 to 2000.

K. L. lives in Vienna, where his research interest includes language policy in sub-Saharan Africa, the documentation of (mainly endangered) African languages (with a focus on Tanzania) such as Akie (Volkswagen Foundation project) or Dowe (ELAR Berlin project), oral literature and more.