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Born in 1957. Gilbert Khadiagala was educated at the University of Nairobi where he received a Bachelor of Arts in 1980. Subsequently, he finished his studies at McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada, with a Master of Arts in 1982. In 1990, Gilbert Khadiagala earned a Ph.D. from The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at The Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC.

Between 1980 and 1982, Gilbert Khadiagala acted as a Teaching Assistant at the Department of Political Science at McMaster University. Subsequently, he worked as Assistant Lecturer at the Department of Government at the University of Nairobi until 1984. In 1991, Gilbert Khadiagala started to lecture as Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science at Kent State University, a position he held until 1996. Afterwards, he was appointed Tenured Associate Professor at Kent State University.

Since 1997, Gilbert Khadiagala has acted as Associate Professor of Comparative Politics and African Studies and since 2001, he has been Acting Director of the African Studies Programme at The Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at The Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC. Furthermore, he has been lecturing as Visiting Associate Professor of Comparative Politics at the School of Hygiene and Public Health at The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore MD, since 1998.

Gilbert Khadiagala acted in numerous advisory functions such as for the World Bank in the Office of the Vice President of the Africa Region in 1990. Furthermore, he was Consulting Director in "The Africa Project" of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars from 1999 until 2002, and subsequently, Project Consultant until 2003. In addition, Gilbert Khadiagala advised the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in various cases concerning Africa as well as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Gilbert Khadiagala has published numerous books and articles on Africa.

