



Photo-Courtesy of British Ceremonial Arts (copyright)

***'Arise Sir Alimuddin Zumla'***

**Photo: Sir Professor Alimuddin Zumla being 'knighted' by Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal (Princess Anne) at a Knighthood investiture ceremony held at Buckingham Palace, London on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017. 'Sir' Professor Alimuddin Zumla received his Knighthood (KBE) for 'Services to Public Health and Protection from Infectious Diseases'.**

A knighthood (KBE = Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order) is a Royal award given by HM The Queen or a member to an individual for a major, long-term, contribution in any field of work, usually having a major impact by serving humanity at an international level. A knighthood is the highest civilian honour an individual in the United Kingdom can achieve. A man who is made a Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order (KBE) is then conferred the title of 'Sir'.

The investiture ceremony to confer knighthood is a grand and colourful occasion. The Royal Family member enters the state ballroom, accompanied by a procession which includes two Gurkha orderlies and the Queen's Yeoman Guards. After the national anthem is played, the ceremony begins. The name of the Knight-elect is called out and the services for which the KBE has been awarded is readout. The "knight-elect" then rests his right knee onto the knighting stool. The Royal family member then touches ('dubs') The Knight Commander briefly on each shoulder with the original Knighting sword used in 1932 by HM King George VI. The new Knight stands up and then receives the beautifully designed gold Insignia of Honour which is placed around the Knight's neck by Her Royal Highness, who then spends some time talking to the Knight.