



**Remarks**

**BY**

**Prof. Githu Muigai, EGH, SC**  
***Attorney General of Kenya***

**Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2015**

- ✚ Chancellor - Dr. Benson Wairegi;
- ✚ Chairman of Council - Prof. Ratemo Michieka;
- ✚ Vice-Chancellor - Prof. Olive Mugenda;
- ✚ Other members of Council;
- ✚ Members of University Senate;
- ✚ Distinguished Guests;
- ✚ Members of Staff;
- ✚ Students;
- ✚ Ladies and Gentlemen.

**Good Morning.**

I thank the Vice-Chancellor for inviting me as the Chief Guest during the opening of the Kenyatta University School of Law building. I am delighted to preside over the opening of such a magnificent building. As a lawyer, I would like to say that this is a critical step in the growth of legal education in this country.

The new School of Law Building as you have all seen is a beautiful piece of infrastructure that the University has developed. This type of development is only achieved through a combination of great ideas,

prudent management of resources, and appropriate use of skills. I am sure that most of you are aware of the importance of a good physical environment not only to an institution's operations but also to the quality of learning. Research shows that a supportive, conducive and productive work environment is essential to the growth of learning institutions. Kenyatta University is thus on the right track by matching the provision of high quality education programs with relevant infrastructure for both students and staff.

Ladies and Gentlemen, increase in population coupled with economic growth, continues to increase the demand for legal experts in an equal measure. Our courts need more judges and magistrates to not only clear the backlog of cases but also to manage the huge case load. The reformed office of the Director of Public Prosecutions requires legal experts as prosecutors. Our public and private institutions require in-house legal counsel. Institutions of higher learning offering courses in law require more polished scholars and researchers in the legal field to enrich teaching, learning and research of these courses.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you will also agree with me that the need by individuals and businesses for legal advice and representation continues

to increase. For these and more reasons necessitating the need for more and well trained legal experts, I would like to commend Kenyatta University and other Universities in this country for providing quality legal education to our promising young men and women. I have just been shown the various unique facilities that are in the new building including: a moot court, computer laboratories and lecture theatres.

I am also happy to note that Kenyatta University through the Legal Aid Clinic in the City Campus gives free legal advice to the public. This service will undoubtedly benefit the most needy in the society. I hope that other universities that offer legal education in the country will take up the challenge to establish search clinics.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our country has witnessed tremendous reforms in the justice system in the new constitution dispensation. Among the reforms include the separation of powers between the offices of the Attorney General and that of the Director of Public Prosecutions with defined functions. Both offices are also constitutionally enabled to exercise their mandate independent of interference hence the country is able to deal with impunity.

The reforms of the criminal justice system ending interference of the judiciary by the executive and legislature and entrenchment of financial autonomy in the Kenyan constitution are other major achievements that we should all be proud of. Unlike in the past and different from many other countries in the world, judicial independence in Kenya is guaranteed in the new constitution. This is even more pronounced with the provision of an independent and representative Judicial Service Commission with clear and concise functions in the constitution.

To our students, I commend you for choosing to pursue law and further challenge you to endeavor to master the art of law and to become quality learned friends. This is achievable through hard work, commitment, focus, integrity and undying passion for excellence. Also, be keen to increase your knowledge on key emerging issues in the legal discourses both locally and globally.

Once again I would like to thank the Vice-Chancellor and the University Council for choosing to invest their time, resources and commitment towards developing a world class institution. It is even more gratifying to me as the Attorney General and a lawyer to see a Law School that is

well established to offer good quality legal education in the region. Previously, one would have to travel abroad to access such unique facilities for legal education and research.

With those remarks, I now declare the **KENYATTA UNIVERSITY School of Law Building** officially open.

**Thanks you.**