



SPEECH

BY

PROF. OLIVE MUGENDA PH.D; CBS

**Official Opening of the School of Law Building,
Friday, 6th March, 2015**

- ✚ Our Chief Guest - The Attorney General of the Republic of Kenya - Hon. (Prof) Githu Muigai;
- ✚ Judge of the Supreme Court -Hon. (Prof) J.B. Ojwang;
- ✚ Chancellor - Mr. Benson Wairegi;
- ✚ Chairman of Council - Prof. Ratemo Michieka;
- ✚ Other members of Council;
- ✚ Deputy Vice-Chancellors;
- ✚ Members of Staff;
- ✚ Students;
- ✚ Distinguished Guests;
- ✚ Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good Morning.

I am happy to welcome you all to Kenyatta University's School of Law and to this ceremony of the Official Opening of the School of Law Building. May I specifically thank our Chief Guest - the Attorney General - Hon. (Prof.) Githu Muigai for finding time out of his busy schedule to preside over the opening of the School of Law Building.

Our chief Guest, the construction of the School of Law Building was necessitated by the rising demand for high quality training in Legal education. As we all appreciate, Law plays a significant role in the process of socio-economic progress of any country. We aim to develop a centre of excellence in legal education in this region. As we have just seen from the brief tour, some of the key facilities in the building include:

- ✚ Modern lecture theatres
- ✚ Audio-visual resource rooms
- ✚ A library
- ✚ Staff offices
- ✚ Computer resource rooms
- ✚ Departmental offices
- ✚ A moot court
- ✚ Boardrooms
- ✚ A spacious basement parking bay

Our Chief Guest, we appreciate that our School of Law is among the youngest schools in Kenyatta University yet we are proud because the school has so far graduated over 500 Lawyers in 2012, 2013 and 2014. Besides the School being the first in Kenya to be accredited by the

Council for Legal Education in the country, the School has also been at the fore front in encouraging practical exposure, innovativeness and research among our students. I am happy that the Kenyatta University School of Law has also engaged in endeavors that continue to empower our students in other law schools around the country. For example the All Kenyan Moot Court Competition which is a KUSOL initiative that involves all Law Schools in Kenya.

The School of Law has successfully created a niche area in mooting. The exposure that mooting has given our students is immeasurable. We have had students travel worldwide to countries such as Spain, United Kingdom, Switzerland, the Netherlands, South Africa and we are currently preparing a team to represent the country in a moot event namely Jean Pictet Competition to be held in the United States of America. We are therefore very happy that through this initiative, our students are given international exposure and interactive learning in the current age of globalization.

The experiences of mooting have also enabled some of our students to obtain internship opportunities in some of the top law-firms and international organizations such as United Nations Commission for

Human Rights UNHCR), Coulson Harney Advocates, Kaplan and Stratton Advocates, the International Committee of the Red Cross, The International Criminal Court, and Transparency International among others.

Besides these, the School has also been exposing our students to court room practice through incorporating innovative learning experience through clinical seminars, judicial attachment among others. Notably the students participate in Programmes run by our own Legal Aid Clinic. Currently, students are preparing to travel to various parts of the country namely Kwale, Kitui, Naivasha Maximum Prison and Thika under the said programme.

Our Chief Guest, we are happy that today, you have opened this important building that provides infrastructure for governance, learning and research. The new building will no doubt be a place of stories, a place of experiences and interactions that will last a lifetime. I am sure that the corridors of this new building will be used by future Magistrates, Judges, Attorney Generals, Chief Justices, Politicians and Academicians that will determine the course of the history of this country in a few decades to come.

The lecture halls of this law school will continue to not just be learning areas, but will be places where some of the makers of this nation will learn. From our experience in this country, most law students have been instrumental in shaping the history of the country. Therefore a comfortable place to learn remains one of the most important requirements that complement their journey towards becoming bearers of justice for Kenya.

To the students, you have to identify these walls with the serenity that will inspire the acquisition of knowledge. I would like you to understand that this is the place for studying law in "a new way of learning law." You will never again in your lifetime have the liberty of time for absorbing the theoretical concepts of law like the time of under graduate studies. So take advantage of the learning infrastructure within your reach, and the privilege of being a student now and I guarantee you, that you will have beautiful memories of this place.

At this juncture, I would like to thank all those who have contributed towards the construction of the new building and the success of today's event. I am aware that there were times that some of you had

to work round the clock to beat the deadlines. Our Chief Guest, the construction of this building took 36 Months and was done in-house by technical personnel employed by the University.

With those remarks, it is now my pleasure to invite the **Chairman of Council - Prof. Ratemo Michieka** to make his remarks.

Thank you.