UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

REMARKS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR, PROF. GEORGE A. O. MAGOHA, DURING AN ANNUAL INAUGURAL LECTURE IN MEMORY OF PROF. H.W.O. OKOTH-OGENDO AT THE SCHOOL OF LAW ON JUNE 13, 2014 AT 2.00 P.M.
The Guest of Honour, Prof. Gamaliel Mgongo Fimbo
Mrs. Ruth Okoth-Ogendo
Prof. P.L.O. Lumumba of PLO Foundation
Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, Dean, School of Law
Members of University Management here present
Faculty Members of the School of Law
Distinguished Guests and Students
Ladies and Gentlemen
It is with great pleasure to welcome you to the University of Nairobi and to this lecture to honour our departed colleague, the late Professor Okoth-Ogendo.

We all know that academics rarely honour or glorify their colleagues in this way, whether in life or death, regardless of how well the colleague performed in public or scholarly lives. For that reason, I commend our School of Law under leadership of Professor Patricia Kameri-Mbote for creatively organizing the event.
I similarly thank Okoth-Ogendo’s family for endorsing and providing support to this noble initiative. PLO Lumumba Foundation is commended for supporting this initiative and hope that other alumni of this university will selectively follow the example of Prof. Lumumba in such initiatives at the University of Nairobi.

I also thank Prof. Fimbo, for accepting to deliver this inaugural lecture. I understand that your relation with the late Professor date many years ago. In performing this function you are implicitly
promoting relations between the University of Nairobi and University of Dar-es-Salaam, which is the Alma Mater of the Late Professor. It is a very befitting arrangement because Okoth’s performance in life portrayed a huge credit to the University of Dar es Salaam.

Okoth was an outstanding scholar. His numerous written works and conference presentations attest to that. Similarly, he was a highly effective teacher and his former students in this country and abroad will testify to that. He was a leader highly respected by
his peers. When there were hitches in the School of Law, he became an effective mediator instilling sobriety where very little of that existed.

From his scholarly work he contributed to national and international public policy, especially in his chosen areas of specialization of land and agrarian law, on the one hand, and constitutionalism and rule of law on the other.

Ladies and Gentlemen, you will recall that Prof. Ogendo met his death in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, just
after the Task Force he led, and had prepared the Framework and Guidelines on Land policy in Africa, which had been endorsed by the General Assembly of African Union. His other major work on reform of Constitution of Kenya will always be remembered by scholars and practitioners of constitutionalism and rule of law in Kenya.

The launching of Memorial Lectures for the Late Okoth-Ogendo is a fitting tribute to him and the University. I am grateful to all of you who have successfully contributed to the successful hosting of
this memorial and hope that this spirit will be emulated by other schools.

Thank you.