Varsity honours Prof. Okoth-Ogendo

University of Nairobi honours Prof. H.W.O. Okoth-Ogendo

It is known that academics rarely honour or glorify their colleagues whether in life or death, regardless of how well the colleague performed in public or scholarly lives. But at the University of Nairobi, School of Law, the first memorial lecture in honour of Prof. H.W.O. Okoth-Ogendo was held today June 13, 2014. In addition, the H.W.O. Okoth-Ogendo Board Room was unveiled at the School.

The inaugural annual memorial lecture organized by the School of Law in partnership with the PLO Lumumba Foundation and the Okoth-Ogendo Family saw Prof. Gamaliel Mgongo Fimbo of the School of Law, University of Dar-es-Salaam give the key note address before an esteemed audience.

Prof. Fimbo, whose relations with the late Prof. Okoth-Ogendo dates back to 1967, when they first met, made a presentation entitled “Law in Theory and Practice: Expanding Citizenship Space through Scholarship.” In his discussion, Prof. Fimbo reflected on Prof. Okoth-Ogendo’s specific contribution to land law teaching in East Africa. While popularizing the sub-theme- land tenure security- which enabled interrogation of the plight of people in land issues in Kenya, Prof. Fimbo provided a thematic unity in the
teaching of land laws. He looked at various works made towards land laws scholarship and research.

While thanking Okoth-Ogendo’s family for endorsing and providing support to the noble initiative and PLO Lumumba Foundation for supporting the initiative, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs, Prof. Isaac Mbeche, who was speaking on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, challenged UoN alumni to selectively follow the example set by Prof. PLO Lumumba by supporting such initiatives at the University. Prof. Magoha also noted that indeed, the launching of Memorial Lectures for the Late Okoth-Ogendo was a fitting tribute to him and the University.

With the support of Ford Foundation, a book which will be a collection of essays titled ‘Thoughts of Law in Theory and Practice’ will be published by 2015. Among the essays will be that of Prof. Fimbo’s presentation made during the.

The inaugural annual memorial lecture which is the first of many such lectures saw Okoth-Ogendo’s family led by Mrs. Ruth Okoth-Ogendo, the judiciary led by the Chief Justice of Kenya, Dr. Willy Mutunga, the Attorney General of Kenya, Prof. Githu Muigai, Hon. Justice Aaron Ringera, University management, staff, students, Prof. PLO Lumumba and the general public attend.