

**SPEECH BY HIS LORDSHIP THE HON. JUSTICE DAVID KENANI
MARAGA, EGH, CHIEF JUSTICE AND PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME
COURT OF KENYA ON THE OCCASION OF THE LAUNCH OF THE
DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW ON 14TH NOVEMBER 2018**

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Acknowledgements

The Chairman, Daystar University Council – Prof. Henry Moses Thairu,
Former Chairman of Daystar Company, Dr. James Mageria
Former Chancellor of Daystar University, Dr. Florence Muli-Musiime,
Former Vice-Chancellors, Prof. Stephen Talitwala & Prof. Godfrey Nguru,
Members of the Clergy,
Daystar Alumni,
The Ag. Vice-Chancellor, Rev. Prof. James Kombo, Members of the University
Senate and Management Board,
Faculty, Staff and Students of Daystar University,
Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and Gentlemen....

I am delighted to join you on this auspicious occasion of the launch of the
Daystar University School of Law.

I congratulate Daystar University for entering the league of 13 Universities
with Faculties of Law in Kenya. I say this in full recognition that legal
education is highly regulated with the higher education sector.

Kenya has approximately 13,000 advocates in a population of about 42
million. This leaves us with an advocate/population ratio of 1:3,200 against
the globally recommended ratio of 1:1,500. This goes to demonstrate that
Kenya is way far below the recommended target. At the same time, the
needs for legal services are on the increase. Since the promulgation of the
2010 Constitution and subsequent devolution of government operations, the
demand for legal services has expanded both at the National and County
levels. As our society increases in sophistication, the uptake of legal
services increases correspondingly. I therefore join other Kenyans of
goodwill in congratulating Daystar University for her decision to start legal

training. I am hopeful that the graduates from Daystar University School of Law will not only add to the number of advocates but that the advocates from Daystar will make a meaningful contribution to the ethos of the country in general and those of the legal profession in particular.

I am informed that the Vision of Daystar University is:

To be a distinguished, Christ-centred African institution of higher learning for the transformation of church and society.

Specifically, the Vision of the Daystar School of Law is-

The School of Law aspires to be a distinguished, Christ-centred, African institution producing lawyers for the transformation of church and society.

In pursuit of the overall and specific visions, I am pleased to note that the mission of the School of Law is set out as-

To develop legal practitioners to have a strong commitment to the rule of law and to be effective, Christian servant-leaders through the integration of Christian faith and holistic learning for the transformation of church and society in Africa and the world.

From the vision of the School, it is evident that the School aims to train lawyers who will positively impact the church and society. This is a noble aspiration at a time like this when the country is laden with numerous challenges including, but not limited to corruption, gruesome killing of innocent young people, dishonesty at the workplace and even at home, amongst others. The country needs people and more so legal professionals who can stand up for the **truth, honesty** and **godliness**. We need lawyers who put God first in their lives and in their profession. To this end, I am very pleased to be associated with the Daystar University School of Law and its aspirations.

The legal profession is a respected profession. Little wonder we use the phrase “learned friends”. Lawyers are said to be social engineers, irrespective of where they operate from. Closely connected to this **respect** is that society has very high expectations of members of the legal profession. This is accentuated by the fact that our society is increasingly and constantly consuming legal services.

The downside of this for the legal profession is the increasing number of complaints against advocates and sometimes, against members of the Bench. These complaints touch on inappropriate or unprofessional conduct which shocks members of society as our clients. This goes to say that needed are legal professionals who will carry themselves about with a lot of decorum and forthrightness.

We are living in very difficult times. Kenya is said to comprise of 80% Christians. But when you think of the numerous cases of petty theft, corruption, killings, and so on, one wonders where this 80% is. Corruption is a cancer that cuts across all echelons of our society, the judiciary included. I am however happy to say that we have a few good and forthright Kenyans who stand for the truth at their workplaces and places of business. It is this small number that as a country, we should strive to increase. In fact, each one of us must make a deliberate effort to shun these ills and live uprightly. If all the 80% together with Kenyans of other faiths were to live lives pleasing to God, our country would be a better place to live. I therefore challenge the law students freshly admitted to Daystar University to determine to exemplify godly values in their lives both during their study and thereafter. I also take this opportunity to call upon all Law Schools in the country to strive to infuse godly values in their students in addition to the study of the black letter of the law.

I want to applaud the efforts of the Council of Legal Education in ensuring high standards in legal training in the country. We are all aware that upon completion of the Bachelor of Laws degree, a person is required to attend a postgraduate diploma training at the Kenya School of Law. This latter school has been overstretched in the recent past. It is very difficult for one school to admit all graduates from 13 Kenyan Universities besides those trained abroad. It is not surprising that the Kenya School of Law is overstretched. In addition, some law graduates are forced to wait for as long as one and half years before they can gain admission. Time has come for the devolution of the Advocates Training Programme to reduce congestion, long waiting time, and hopefully to improve on the quality of training. We need other actors to jump into the arena of the Advocates Training Programme in order to relieve the Kenya School of Law of immense stress. It is my hope and prayer that Daystar University will find it fit to extent her legal training to include the training of advocates.

I can see the students look very smart. In fact, I initially thought they were advocates. I have now been corrected. I have pleasantly learnt that Law students at Daystar University have a dress code that complies to practice in the legal profession. This is a novelty that deserves to be applauded. Indeed, we need to encourage our young people to dress decently. For those who aspire to be lawyers, nothing can be better than to start dressing the part early enough in their studies. In fact, the question of dress code for law students is something that ought to be emulated and enforced in all schools training lawyers. In this regard, students of Daystar are very privileged to have visionary leadership that seeks to set the pace. I can assure you that you will have it very smooth in future. I want to encourage the management that the enforcement of dress code for the legal profession will soon be extended to students in all training institutions so as to ensure a smooth transition from University life to the workplace.

Daystar University has established a good reputation in the training of media personalities. I am informed that the Daystar University School of Law has chosen 'Media and Communications Law' as a niche area. I hope and pray that the University will do everything within her powers to ensure that the law graduates from Daystar also shine in the market.

The Daystar Law School was licensed on 31st July 2018 and admitted its first class on 3rd September 2018. I notice that you are starting with the departments of Media and Communications Law, and Intellectual Property Rights Law. Besides, you have a Centre for Medical Law and Ethics. I believe you are the first and only University to give Medical Law and Ethics such prominence. I am also delighted to note that despite being a very young School, you have already embraced the academic tradition of publishing scholarly materials. I am very impressed that today you also will launch your Law Journal and other academic books. This is indeed commendable.

May I at this point invite you all to stand up and join me as we unveil the Symbols of Authority for the Daystar University School of Law and three publications by its Faculty Members–

1. *The Letter of Accreditation*
2. *Colours of the School*

3. *Research Methods for Lawyers and Other Professionals, by Prof. Dr. Dr. Moni Wekesa.*
4. *Legal Research, Writing and Drafting, by Prof. Dr. Dr. Moni Wekesa*
5. The Daystar University Law Journal

With these, I declare the Daystar University School of Law officially launched.
GOD BLESS YOU.