



THE JUDICIARY

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH BY HON. DAVID K. MARAGA, CHIEF JUSTICE AND PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF KENYA ON THE OCCASION OF AWARD OF HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE IN LAW BY DAYSTAR UNIVERSITY ON DECEMBER 14, 2018.

First of all, I would like to congratulate all those who are graduating today in various disciplines. You have no doubt worked very hard to attain the achievements you are celebrating today.

I also wish to commend and thank your parents and guardians as well as your lecturers who have through great sacrifice enabled you to attain your great success.

Graduating from Daystar University that stands for and upholds Christian values, you are beneficiaries of holistic education that integrates the Christian faith with practical training. You have therefore what it takes to make a positive contribution to our nation.

At the risk of being accused of offering gratuitous advice, let me tell you that while your intelligence has served you well so far, the university of life, in which you enrol today, will require this and much more. There is additional demand for exemplary discipline, hard work and dexterity in executing your forthcoming assignments. There will be no shortcuts to success, unless you want to end up in our courts as clients of the DPP. I wish you all the best.

On my part I am humbled and sincerely touched by the great honour and privilege of Daystar University bestowing upon me this Honorary Doctorate degree.

Not many understand what it means to appreciate someone for whatever good thing, small or great, he or she has done. For me this recognition fires me to rededicate myself and strive to do even better in the service to our nation.

Indeed, I am proud of my association with Daystar University. Just one month ago, I was in this University to officiate over the launch of your law school, and I am ever impressed by your single-mindedness in the provision, as I have said, of holistic education.

Ever since I was informed that Daystar University was considering me for this award, I have been asking myself what exactly in my life's journey made me a deserving candidate for such a great honour! What, among the things I have done in my life, can serve as an example to others so that they too can attain a comfortable level of accomplishment?

The very first thing I thought of is the acceptance of Jesus Christ as the Saviour of my life, and proclaiming this fact with pride and confidence for all to hear. This is not a formula I can patent, really. It is Christ Himself who promises us in **Mathew 10:32, 33** that when you acknowledge Him in public, He will acknowledge you before His father and raise you to the top.

When you acknowledge what He declared through David centuries earlier that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, all aspects of your life - your work, your family life, your community engagements and so on, fall into place and are aligned to celebrate your special relationship with God.

As a lawyer and a Judge, the other thing I reflected on as to why you picked me for this honor is the interplay between my Christian life and my career as a lawyer and a Judge.

Quite a number of people wonder how a lawyer can be a Christian. If I were to advise, I would urge all lawyers to be Christians. Why?

A Judge is not isolated from the society where he or she performs his or her duties. Indeed, the Judge is, in many respects, a product of that society. As a starting point, law, or the legal profession in general, is primarily concerned with the welfare of society.

Without drawing direct parallels between Bible verses and the provisions of our laws, we all know that our Constitution outlaws discrimination and seeks to enhance equality of all persons; the law seeks to protect the vulnerable sections of society with no

“voice”; the law seeks to guarantee liberty and security; the law seeks to protect the marginalised, the poor, the old, and the disabled; and the law seeks to ensure that we live in a society where there is democracy, integrity, respect for human rights, and shared prosperity and fraternity among other values.

Who dares dispute that all these are a transcript of the very Christian values our Lord exhorts us to live by?

We serve a God of love and order. As Christians and Judges, we should therefore be in the forefront in standing against corruption and impunity.

Finally, I want to say that the credit and honour you have bestowed upon me today, is of course as a result of my journey through time, up to my current position as Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court. This would not have been possible without God’s guidance and want to sincerely thank Him. As many of you here in positions of leadership would know, many of the achievements are as a result of the commitment, collegiality, and hard work of the teams that we lead. Indeed, the teams that we lead or work with contribute to the success that is credited to us.

I am therefore grateful to my colleague Judges of the Supreme Court, with whom I share the venerable duty of heading the country’s highest court of justice. I also thank the entire Judiciary community, with whom I continue to pursue reforms and changes that would lead to better and improved services and administration of justice in the country.

Once again, let me wholeheartedly express my gratitude to Daystar University for this award. It has emboldened me more than I can express, and given me the energy to forge ahead with greater confidence in the things I have set out to do in the administration of Justice.

Thanks a lot and God bless you.

**HON. JUSTICE DAVID K. MARAGA, EGH,
CHIEF JUSTICE AND PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT OF KENYA.**