

VICE CHANCELLOR'S WELCOME REMARKS AND READING OF THE CITATION OF PROF. MIGAI AKECH DURING THE INAUGURAL LECTURE ON TAMING THE TYRANNY OF THE BARONS: ADMINISTRATIVE LAW AND POWER REGULATION.

Ladies and gentlemen, esteemed guests, and distinguished members of the academic community,

As we convene today for this momentous occasion, I wish to extend a warm welcome to our Chancellor, Prof. Patrick Verkooijen, The Chair of Council, Prof. Amukowa Anangwe, Council Members, The family of Prof. Migai Akech, Deputy Vice Chancellors, Deans, Directors, and all those present here today. Including our online audience.

Today marks a significant milestone as we come together to honor and celebrate the remarkable achievements of one of our esteemed faculty members, Prof. Migai Akech, who has recently been elevated to the prestigious rank of full professor of University of Nairobi. Among the many talented individuals we recognized and promoted recently, Prof. Akech stands out for being the first to present his inaugural lecture. He has shown the fidelity, zeal and commitment to academic excellence.

The inaugural lecture on "**Taming the tyranny of the Barons: Administrative Law and the Regulation of Power**" presents a unique opportunity for Prof. Akech to showcase his profound knowledge in the field of law, share his groundbreaking research, and impart enlightening insights to the public. This lecture promises to shed light on crucial aspects of administrative law and power regulation, reflecting Prof. Akech's expertise and passion for legal scholarship.

As we gather here today to celebrate the exceptional accomplishments of Prof. Migai Akech and his inaugural lecture, I would like to extend a daring challenge to all recently promoted professors to follow suit and share their scientific discoveries, insights, and research findings with the wider academic community. Let us all take inspiration from him and show our commitment to academic excellence. I

Inaugural lecture not only provides a platform for a Professor with the rare opportunity to showcase his or her wealth of knowledge, beyond the lecture theatre, to the wider public audience to engage critically with the research presented. I invite all attendees to actively participate, ask thought-provoking questions, and, if deemed necessary, point out any gaps or areas for further exploration in the research.

By fostering this culture of academic inquiry, collaboration, and constructive feedback, we can collectively contribute to the advancement of knowledge and the enhancement of our academic community. Let us seize this opportunity to engage, learn, and grow together as we celebrate our elevated faculty members.

We acknowledge the significance of this event and express our sincere appreciation to the Chancellor and the family of Prof. Migai Akech for gracing us with their presence as we initiate him to the hall of academy.

Let us all embrace the spirit of intellectual curiosity and promote academic excellence.

Without further ado, ladies and gentlemen, allow me to read the citation and introduce our Speaker, Prof. Migai Akech.

Migai Akech was born in January 1972. He attended various schools in Nyeri, Kanjira, Muhoroni, and Homa Bay for his primary education. He then proceeded to Starehe Boy's Center, and School for his secondary education, before joining the University of Nairobi for his undergraduate studies in law.

He graduated from the University of Nairobi in 1995 with a First Class Honors Degree in Law, then proceeded to the Cambridge University in the United Kingdom from which he graduated with a Master's Degree in Commercial Law in 1997.

He then attended the New York University School of Law, where he was a Hauser Global Scholar, and from which he graduated with a Master's Degree in Trade Regulation in 1999 and a Doctor of Juridical Science in 2004.

Migai returned to the University of Nairobi in 2004 and dedicated himself to teaching and research.

First, the International Forum for Democratic Studies of the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) in the United States offered Migai the prestigious Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship, which he took up in October 2009 – February 2010.

At the NED, Migai's research focused on the use of Administrative Law to constrain government power in Africa, and culminated in the publication of perhaps the article that

Migai considers to be his best work, namely “Constraining Government Power in Africa”, which was published in the prestigious Journal of Democracy in January 2011.

Migai resumed teaching and research at the University of Nairobi thereafter, before proceeding to work for the African Union’s African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) as a Governance Expert from 2018 to 2020.

While at the APRM, Migai monitored and evaluated governance in participating African states, and led the development of the Africa Governance Reports (AGR) of 2019 and 2021. The AGR is the African Union’s flagship biennial report on the state of governance in Africa.

Migai has consulted – as an expert on international trade law, policy development, policy analysis, rule of law, governance, devolution, anti-corruption, accountability, police reforms, justice sector reforms, prosecutorial reforms, legislative reforms, transitional justice, environmental crime, reform of criminal law and procedures, sentencing policy development, land policy development, curriculum development, monitoring human rights compliance, and mineral policies and regulatory frameworks – for national and international organizations, including the African Union (African Peer Review Mechanism), the International Development Law Organization (IDLO), the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Open Society, German Technical Cooperation, the East African Business Council, and the World Bank. He has worked for these organizations in Kenya, Ethiopia, Lesotho, Sierra Leone, Somaliland, South Africa, Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania.

Migai joined the University of Nairobi as an Assistant Lecturer in 1999, was promoted to the position of Lecturer in 2003, Senior Lecturer in 2006, Associate Professor in 2011, and Professor in 2023.

Migai plays football and has chaired the Kenyan Premier League’s Independent Disciplinary and Complaints Committee

Ladies and gentlemen, please arise and join me in welcoming Prof. Migai Akech.