

## **UoN School of Law honours its literary icon in a book launch**

University of Nairobi literary icon, from the School of Law, Prof. HWO Okoth Ogendo, the 'Guru' as he was famously known, was honoured by University academic community and a book on his honour was launched at the Manu Chandaria Auditorium, on Friday, May, 19, 2017.

Speaking during the book launch, Prof. Githu Muigai, the Attorney General, described Prof. Okoth Ogendo as a brilliant academic, who mentored several law scholars including Prof. Yash Pal Ghai, Prof. Okoth Owiro, Dr. Ogola Bondi and himself. Prof. Muigai poured tribute to the late scholar and noted that his depth and understanding of the law was beyond measure.

The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Peter Mbithi observed that the contributions by Prof. Okoth Ogendo to the legal fraternity were indisputable. He observed that Prof. Okoth Ogendo, was among the finest law scholars Kenya has produced. The Vice-Chancellor's remarks were delivered by Prof. Henry Mutoro, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs.

The public lecture on the late Prof. Okoth Ogendo was delivered by Dr. Dan Bondi Ogola, who narrated the difficulties and the challenges experienced during the negotiations that led to the signing of the Paris Agreement. Dr. Bondi spoke extensively on the dangers of greenhouse gas emission and how the developed economies have contributed to it. Efforts were now in place by the developed countries to reduce the emission of the gases that contribute significantly to climate change.

Prof. Patricia Kameri-Mbote, the book editor, explained the journey towards publication of the book. She explained the various chapters of the book which include: Okoth the person; impact of Okoth's work on land use; governance issues; constitution without constitutionalism; land use issues and the appendix which includes Prof. Okoth Ogendo's CV.

Mrs. Winnie Okoth Ogendo, the wife to the gallant scholar, took the opportunity to thank the law scholars, the university community, the various contributors and financiers for their generous contributions to see the book published. She urged leaders to be servants first, then aspire to lead. Leaders should therefore serve the needs of the people.

The book launch was sponsored by the Ford Foundation and the University of Nairobi.