

CASELAP PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

“Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples: The Search for Legal Remedies”. Public Lecture by Prof. Randall Abate.

July 5, 2012. University of Nairobi

Opening Remarks

Prof. Lucy Irungu, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Production and Extension).

Honourable Guest Lecturer, Professor Randall Abate

Director, Board of Postgraduate Studies

Director, Center of International Programmes and Linkages

Dean School of Law

Director of CASELAP

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to preside over this public lecture which is part of public lecture series hosted by CASELAP

I am delighted to see a sustained effort in actualizing CASELAP's series of Distinguished Lectures. It is equally gratifying that CASELAP has extended its approach by collaborating with other units within the University, the last one having been with the School of Economics. It is through the same effort that scholars from different

parts of the world have been invited to be involved in the distinguished lecture series.

It is our vision to be a world class university committed to scholarly excellence. We therefore hope that these Distinguished Lecture Series will lead to strengthened and expanded collaborations with the various institutions will in turn support our vision.

One of the strategic objectives for the University of Nairobi is to initiate and strengthen collaborative initiatives with other national, regional and international institutions. Currently, the university can boast of being linked with over 100 international institutions around the world, covering a diverse range of disciplines and programmes.

The university is committed to seek and promote such partnerships and linkages that will ultimately support our core functions as outlined in the University Strategic Plan 2008-2013.

Ladies and gentlemen, the topic of today's lecture is important to us in more ways than one;

As a research intensive university, climate change is important to us as it presents to us challenges in terms of adaptation strategies and sustained mitigation against adverse impacts of climatic changes.

As a nation, our interest in climate change is in policy and infrastructural mitigation against vulnerabilities to climate change impacts that can be evidenced in the spread of climate-sensitive diseases, crop failure, dwindling energy sources, food insecurity, among others. Our pastoralist communities living in the Arid and

Semi Arid Lands (ASALs) are usually the first to bear the brunt of these climate change vulnerabilities and are the least equipped for adaptation to climate change.

It is, in fact projected that economic costs of impacts of climate change in Kenya may account for close to 3% of the GDP per year by 2030 and potentially 5% of the GDP by 2050.

On behalf of the University of Nairobi, I wish to appreciate that Prof. Abate accepted to give this lecture here and hope that this will be the beginning of a long-term collaboration between the Florida A&M University College of Law. A collaboration that would go beyond lectures to generate knowledge, possibly through research.

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to take this opportunity to welcome and introduce to you Prof. Randall Abate.

Professor Abate is an Associate Professor and Project Director for Environment, Development and Justice Program at Florida A&M University (FAMU) College of Law, Orlando, USA.

Prof. Abate joined the FAMU College of Law in 2009. He has previously taught at Vermont Law School, Widener University School of Law–Harrisburg, Rutgers School of Law–Camden, Florida Coastal School of Law, and Florida State University College of Law.

He also taught International Ocean Law and Environmental Law at the Cayman Islands Law School in January 2008 and 2009 and International Environmental Law at the University of Nairobi, Faculty of Law School in 1998 as a visiting lecturer.

Prof. Abate teaches Environmental Law, International and Comparative Law, and Constitutional Law. He has published widely on environmental law, with a recent emphasis on climate change law and policy.

Ladies and gentlemen, let us welcome Prof. Randall Abate.