

Religion and Social Reconstruction in Africa Book Launch

Prof. Jesse Mugambi from the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies launched a book titled *Religion and Social Reconstruction in Africa* on 18th July 2018. Prof. Jesse has published many books titles and book chapters and is one of the most highly cited scholars from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Previously Prof. Mugambi served as the Chairman of the Department and Dean of the faculty of Arts.

Speaking on the launch, Prof. Julius Ogen'go Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Student Affairs delivered a message of the Vice-chancellor who praised Prof. Jesse Mugambi for the outstanding work. The book explores the role and impact of religion in the society. Prof. Jesse noted that "Religion has played a major role in both division and unification of peoples and countries within Africa. Its capacity to cause and to heal, societal rifts has been well documented." The book addresses this powerful societal force and explores the implications of a theology of reconstruction. This way of thinking seeks to build on liberation theology, aiming to encourage the rebuilding of African society on its own terms. The book has more than two volumes with contributions from 40 professors from 40 universities, implying that a knowledgebase from 40 countries is well represented.

On his closing remarks, Prof. Mugambi urged Kenyans to take their religiosity seriously as no form of democracy will work for us if we don't appreciate our own values. To the academic community, he urged them to be authors and readers. "Let us be authors and readers at the same time. Let us publish more and more. We need quality manuscripts to be able to publish quality works," he said.

Present during the event were; Prof. Enos Njeru-The Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof. Elias Bongmba, from Rice University, Houston, Texas, Staff, and Students from the Department of Philosophy and Religious studies.