



### PUBLIC NOTICE

## NOMINATION FOR CONFERMENT OF DOCTOR OF LAWS (HONORIS CAUSA) OF KABARAK UNIVERSITY

Pursuant to its mandate under *Statute XXX1*, Kabarak University has nominated **Honorable Justice David Kenani Maraga** for the Conferment of **Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa)** of Kabarak University at the **19<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony on Friday, December 15, 2023.**

The Conferment of Doctor of Laws (*Honoris Causa*) to Honorable Justice Maraga is a fitting recognition of his extraordinary contribution to our nation and the legal profession, spanning forty-five (45) years as an Advocate of the High Court, thirteen (13) years of which he spent as Judge of the High Court and Court of Appeal and four (4) years as Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kenya.

#### Lawyer and Lawyers' Lawyer

As an Advocate of the High Court, Hon. Justice Maraga served the interests of his clients with diligence and integrity. As the Chairman of the Rift Valley Chapter of the Law Society of Kenya, Hon. Justice Maraga advanced the professional needs of his learned colleagues with commitment and candor.

#### Shield and Defender of Justice

In a moment of rare and remarkable judicial courage, Hon. Justice Maraga chose the primacy of the rule of the law over the pull of power and memorably proclaimed that *"the greatness of any nation lies not in the might of its armies, important as that is, not in the largeness of its economy, important as that is also. The greatness of a nation lies in its fidelity to the constitution and the strict adherence to the rule of law and, above all, the fear of God."* On the basis of these solemn words, the Supreme Court that Hon. Justice Maraga led accomplished a rare jurisprudential feat in the global history of presidential elections that inspired courage in election courts in the African continent. On September 1, 2017, the Supreme Court nullified the re-election of a sitting president and ordered a new vote to be held within 60 days after finding that the outcome of the election had been affected by breach of the Constitution and the Elections Act as well as irregularities.

#### Courageous Suffragist

On September 21, 2020, Hon. Justice Maraga issued an Advisory to the President of the Republic of Kenya to dissolve Parliament for its failure to enact the legislation required to realise

the two-thirds gender principle. By this advice, Hon. Justice Maraga rekindled our country's pursuit of the ideals of equality and non-discrimination.

#### Doyen of Judges

Hon. Justice Maraga's leadership as an incisive jurist was exemplified when he presided over the High Court, Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court, and where his inimitable judicial mind, expressed itself with admirable authority and clarity on germane issues of the law. As Chief Justice, his indefatigable spirit saw him make immense contributions towards completing and consolidating judicial reforms, improving the speed and quality of service delivery in the Judiciary through harnessing technology and defending judicial independence.

#### Untiring Servant

Hon. Justice Maraga's unwavering sense of public duty saw him recently take on another formidable national assignment as the Chair of Police Reforms Taskforce, tackling the issue of the welfare of police officers, prisons officers, and members of the National Youth Service.

#### Epitome of Virtue

As an elder of the church, the faith community continues to seek Justice Maraga's wise counsel. Likewise, both the high and the low in society continue to be drawn to the calming reassurance of his moral fortitude, confident that he never turns down a deserving plea for service.

In academic circles, and more so in faith based institutions founded on Christian Biblical values, Hon. Justice Maraga continues to enthruse us with his unwavering devotion to Christian faith. He has remained unashamedly Christian even at the pinnacle of his career. By affirming that he would never work on the Sabbath, at the risk of missing the most coveted position in law, Hon. Justice Maraga elevated his Christian faith to sanctity. When he took the Bible and testified to never receiving a bribe, his unswerving commitment and loyalty to God was revealed.

By combining an intellectual mind, Christian soul, and courageous spirit as Judge, Hon. Justice David Kenani Maraga has exhibited the wisdom of Solomon, integrity of Joseph,



**Hon. Chief Justice (Emeritus) David K. Maraga**

and bravery of his namesake, David. But the greatest benefit he gave us was to deploy the judicial platform for the defence of free and fair democratic elections and gender inclusion. Likewise, by rhetoric and example, Hon. Justice Maraga has served our people with conspicuous distinction and unassailable integrity. For these outstanding virtues and contributions, Kabarak University wholeheartedly nominates **Honorable Justice David Kenani Maraga, Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya (Emeritus) for the Conferment of Doctor of Laws (Honoris Causa) of Kabarak University.**

#### Moral Code

As members of Kabarak University family, we purpose at all times and in all places, to set apart in one's heart, Jesus Christ as Lord. (1 Peter 3:15)

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