



Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation deputy minister Mahadhi Maalim makes remarks when inaugurating the African Institute of International Law in Arusha yesterday. (Photo: John Ngunge)

Africa challenged to build strong human capital, foster rule of law

By Lusekelo Philemon,
Arusha

AFRICAN countries yesterday were challenged to build strong human capital and institutions that are capable of sustaining development and foster the rule of law in their respective countries.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mahadhi Juma Maalim threw the challenge here when speaking at the official inauguration of the African Institute of International Law (AIIL).

The AIIL headquarters is located at the Arusha International Conference Centre, where the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was located.

He said the establishment of the African Institute of International Law is another important window for the development of the African continent.

"It is on this premise that our Government supported its establishment at the Executive Council of the African Union to finally have it endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of State and governments of the African Union."

He said Tanzania was also delighted by the move of the United Nations General Assembly welcoming the creation of the institute and encouraging the UN Secretariat to cooperate with the Institute through the Codification Division of its Office of Legal Affairs.

"In this millennium, international law, the law of the African Union and other regional organisations are to be understood and used for the development of African countries," Maalim said.

Citing one of the challenges facing Africa, he said: "One of the challenges is to develop the capacity to sustain growth

at the required levels in order to reduce poverty and promote sustainable development."

He noted that after decades of political, social and economic difficulties, the African continent is experiencing a period of relative peace and economic growth.

Maalim said current projections indicate better prospects for growth in the near future. He however said, a deficit of capacity at all levels undermines the continent's ability to sustain and maintain these positive trends.

"The ineffectiveness of relations between states, regions, institutions and individuals continues to exacerbate development challenges that Africa faces. These constraints not only relate but also reflect specifically on our leadership and management methods, response systems and mechanisms, information and communication systems and deficiencies in skills and knowledge."

Founder of AIIL, Judge Abdulqawi Yusuf said the institute will play a key role in our continent in creating deeper appreciation and understanding of international law.

"AIIL will enhance Africans' knowledge and expertise in international law so that we reduce our dependence on external experts in our own matters. There is no doubt that the African Institute of International Law will play a big role to provide Africa with well trained human resources," he said, commending Tanzania's government for being the host of the institute.

President of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, Justice Augustino Ramadhani, backed the establishment of the institute because of its critical importance for strengthening

the rule of law and promoting economic and political integration among African states.

President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), Judge Vagn Joensen commended the initiative towards forming the AIIL, saying it will boost good governance endeavours in Africa.

President of United Nations Mechanism for International Criminals Tribunal (MICT) and United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (UNICTY), Judge Theodor Meron, the AU Commission formally proposed its establishment in January 2012 and a year later in its Resolution 67/91 of January 14, 2013, the General Assembly of the UN took note of the establishment of the AIIL and encouraged the Codification Division of the Office of Legal Affairs to cooperate with the Institute in the implementation of the relevant activities under the Programme of Assistance.

On behalf of the Arusha Regional Commissioner, Arumeru District Commissioner Nyireembe Mnasa commended the Institute saying the move will increase understanding on international laws and other related issues in the legal fraternity.

AIIL Rector, Ambassador Sani Mohammed, said apart from offering long-term training, the Institute will also offer short-term course on international laws.

Senior lecturer at the University of Dar es Salaam and Member of the International Law Commission, Prof Chris Peter Maina said AIIL is being inaugurated at the right time when the continent is facing serious challenges particularly those related to foreign investment.

MEETING

AICC ceremony attracted high level legal personalities including president of the ICTR

Official: Deals unfair to Africa

Mr Karangizi says many clauses in contracts are tilted towards the investors' side at the expense of Africans, and in case of conflicts, cases are handled outside the continent

By Patty Magubira
The Citizen Reporter

Arusha. Most of the contracts into which African countries enter are unfair to the continent, the African Legal Support Facility director, Mr Stephen Karangizi, observed here yesterday.

Mr Karangizi said during the inaugural ceremony of the African Institute of International Law (AIIL) that many clauses of the contracts were tilted towards the investors' side.

At the ceremony held at the Arusha International Conference Centre were high level legal personalities including the president of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, Judge Vagn Joensen.

Others were the president of the UN Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals, Judge Theodore Meron, the Registrar of the African Court on human and People's rights,



German ambassador to Tanzania Egon Kochanke exchanges views with the Registrar of the African Court, Dr Robert Eno, during the launch of Africa Institute of International Law in Arusha yesterday. Centre is East African Court Justice President Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebuja. PHOTO: FILBERT RWEYEMAMU

Dr Robert Eno, and Ms Virginia Morris, the secretary of the UN Advisory Committee on the programme of teaching, study, dissemination, and wider appreciation of international law.

Mr Karangizi said the imbalance resulted in the emergence of many commercial disputes which were resolved outside the continent and in so doing denied local African lawyers

experience in arbitration cases. "The Comesa (Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa) though is furnished with a clause for addressing arbitration cases, few states recourse to such regional courts," he said.

Officiating at the ceremony, the deputy minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr Mahadhi Juma Maalim, said a deficit

of capacity was undermining Africa's ability to sustain relative growth peace the continent was recently experiencing.

Judge Abdulquawi Yusu founding president of the and president of of the International Court of Justice (said Africa was excluded the realm of the International Law, prompting the continent to create the institute.

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THE AFRICAN LEGAL SUPPORT FACILITY DIRECTOR, MR STEPHEN KARANGIZI