

Arusha to host new law institute

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From MARC NKWAME
in Arusha

TO cement the concept that Arusha is 'The Hague of Africa,' a new international institution akin to foreign laws in relation to continental affairs has been inaugurated in the city.

The African Institute of International Law (AIIL) is the brainchild of the African Foundation for International Law and was established in close collaboration between AFIL and the Government of Tanzania. It was officially inaugurated in Arusha on Monday.

"Many African countries achieved their independence about 50 years ago on average, but are still far from adopting many of the international laws and legal regulations," stated Judge Abdulqavi Yusuf, the Vice-President

of the International Court of Justice.

According to Justice Yusuf, who is also the President of the Curatorium of the African Institute of International Law, it is now time for African states to become active participants in international law.

Partially, the reason is that globalisation has forced many foreign laws to encroach into the most reserved areas previously restricted for traditional, domestic or national laws.

"Arusha was chosen to host the African Institute of International Law because the city has the highest concentration of judicial systems on the continent; starting with the East African Court of Justice (EACJ).

The city is also host to the United Nations' International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, the African Court for Peo-

ple and Human Rights and is soon set to host African court of justice," said Judge Yusuf.

He was on view that with all those legal chambers of international calibre based in Arusha it all left for a specialised inter-continental legal training institution to complement the city's position as 'The Hague of Africa.

Thus the establishment of the AIIL, which for a while will be hosted at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) complex.

Inaugurating the Institute, the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Dr Mahadhi Juma Maalim, said Tanzania welcomes the noble initiative of the African Institute of International Law which will play a key role in the 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 dependant 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 and Tanzania shall extend all necessary support to this initiative," he said.

AIIL establishment was endorsed by the Assembly of Heads of States and Governments of the African Union, which underscored its strategic and unique role as a Pan African institution.

Similarly, the United Nations General Assembly welcomed the creation of the Institute and encouraged the UN Secretariat to cooperate with it through the Codification Division of the Office of

Legal Affairs.

Among the Institute mandate it to promote research and analysis of international legal matters of particular interest and to foster the teaching and dissemination of international law in Africa and provide intensive training on Bilateral Investment Treaties and Arbitration.

AIIL will also serve to encourage and promote intellectual debate and exchange on international legal issues of particular interest to Africa and its peoples.

It will also foment the establishment of a network among African international lawyers as well as between the latter and scholars of other continents and contribute to the promotion and building of the rule of law in Africa, in general.

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Mwendesha Mashtaka Mkuu wa Mahakama ya Kimataifa ya Mauaji ya Kimbari ya Rwanda (ICTR), Hassan Jallow (kushoto), akisalimiana na Mhadhiri Mwandamizi, Profesa Christopher Maina baada ya ufunguzi wa Taasisi ya Sheria za Kimataifa Afrika, jijini Arusha jana. Picha na Filbert Rweyemamu

