

From the Secretariat:

PALU Strategic Planning Retreat, Arusha, Tanzania.

PALU held a strategic planning training session from the 30th of August to the 2nd of September 2012 at Kibo Palace Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania. The process involved taking cognisance of the complexity of the organization, the enormity of its mission and the complexity of its internal and external relationships. The purpose of the Strategic Training was to define and refine its mission, vision, strategic goals and objectives for the next five years. The development of a Strategic Plan is essential for any organization as it is paramount to its success. It serves both as a catalyst and a tool to the development of new programmes. To this aim, the PALU Executive Committee invited collaborating partners and key stakeholders to join its staff in contributing to this exercise. The invitation was based on the humble understanding that our Members, friends and stakeholders have a great stake in our success, and have profound knowledge, information and insights that would inspire PALU on its Strategic plan for the next five years.

To receive the Strategic Planning questionnaire please email secretariat@lawyersofafrica.org

Two-day Human Rights training undertaken by PALU Vice President for Central Africa

Mr. Vincent Karangwa, the PALU Vice President for Central Africa took part in a workshop held in July 2012, in Kigali organised by the UN Senior Human Rights Advisor's Office in collaboration with the Kigali Bar Association. The seminar was officially opened by Amata Sangho Diabate, the Acting Country Director for UNDP. She stated that the UN recognises respect for human rights and dignity as the foundation of a fair and free society as human rights are a vital tool for development in any country. She added that the UN is dedicated to always support every stakeholder in the judicial sector in Rwanda in promoting human rights as their observance is one of the prerequisites for peace and development. Mr. Karangwa noted that International Human Rights Law provides norms that are likely to apply to a whole variety of legal cases. He praised the training as he believes it will empower them with more knowledge and skills on how best to advocate for human rights in the country.

For more information you may visit: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201208090257.html>

2012 Annual General Meeting of the SADC Lawyers' Association(LA)

SADC LA's 2012 AGM was held from the 23rd to the 26th of August at the Royal Swazi Spa in Ezulwini, Swaziland. This was the first time that the AGM and Conference were held in Swaziland. The meeting was officially opened by the Speaker of the House of Assembly, HRH Prince Guduza Dlamini.

This year's AGM was held against the backdrop of the decision of the High Court of Swaziland in the case between the Law Society of Swaziland and the Speaker of the House of Assembly. This is a landmark decision for the independence of the legal profession in Swaziland, which is in constant threat by the authorities. The High Court ruling stated unequivocally that "Parliament or the select committee has no power to exercise judicial or quasi-judicial powers as such powers are only a preserve for the Judiciary".

This issue was exhaustively addressed, in the presence of the Speaker, by the outgoing President of the Association, Mrs. Thoba Poyo-Dlwati, in her lauded introductory remarks. She also tackled another burning issue for the independence of the Judiciary in the Kingdom of Swaziland by reiterating the concerns of the legal fraternity regarding the dismissal of Judge Masuku.

The PALU delegation to the Conference was led by its Vice-President for Southern Africa, Mr. Elijah. C. Banda, SC. His leadership played a key role in securing the formal adhesion of SADC LA to PALU, making it the third Regional Bar Association on the continent to join its ranks after the Arab Lawyers Union and the Central African Bar Association.

SADC LA also renewed its leadership by electing its Governing Council. PALU would like to congratulate the elected officials, led by its President, Mrs. Kondwa Emily Sakala-Chibiya. The other members of the Governing Council are:

- Mr. Gliberto Correia, Vice-President
- Mr. Max Boqwana, Treasurer
- Mrs. Maureen Kondowe, Honourable Secretary
- Mr. Patrick Mulowayi, Ordinary Member

PALU would finally like to congratulate Ms. Emila Siwingwa, former CEO of the Tanganyika Law Society, for her nomination as Programme Manager of the Association.

CCPAU Meeting on Civil Society Engagement with the African Union

PALU participated in three-day Round Table Dialogue held on August 22-24 for Civil Society Organisations and Actors working on the African Union, its Institutions and Organs. The Dialogue organized by the Centre for Citizens Participation on the African Union (CCP-AU) sought to create a platform for CSOs working with/on AU bodies to share experiences as well as develop strategies towards building and consolidating CSO engagement with AU bodies.

Some of the key recommendations of the dialogue included the need for further CSO engagement with AU bodies such as the Advisory Board on Corruption, African Peer Review Mechanism, Commission on International Law and Pan African Parliament. The meeting also identified the need for CSOs to familiarize themselves with the African Governance Platform and begin to identify relevant points of engagement.

PALU Takes Part in the Tanganyika Law Society (TLS)'s Half Annual General meeting:

TLS held its Half Annual General Meeting at the Arusha International Conference Centre on the 31st of August 2012 and 1st of September 2012 on the theme '*The Role of Lawyers in the Constitutional Review Process*'. PALU was represented by the PALU Treasurer Prof. Tom Ojienda who also serves as a member of the Kenyan Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. Prof. Ojienda delivered a presentation titled **Practical Lessons and Challenges from the Constitution Review Process in Kenya: The Kenya's Experience.**

For the presentations from the Conference you may visit www.tls.or.tz

News from other organisations

26th Ordinary session and 5th extra-ordinary session of the African Court

The African Court will hold its 26th Ordinary Session in Arusha, Tanzania from the 17th to 28th of September 2012. The Court will also hold a 5th Extra-Ordinary session from the 1st to 5th October 2012. The Court will also welcome Justice Ben Kioko who was elected as a member of the Court on a

six year term during the Half Summit of the African Union held in July 2012. Justice Kioko previously served as Legal Counsel to the African Union. At the Half Summit, the AU also appointed Justice Gerard Niyungeko and Justice El Hadji Guisse.

For more information you can visit <http://www.african-court.org/en/index.php/news/latest-news/22-recent-judgements/202-25th-ordinary-session>

Death of a Judge of the African Court

Justice Joseph Nyamihana Mulenga S.C, a retired member of the Supreme Court of Appeal of Uganda and Judge of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights passed away on the 29th of August 2012. He was buried in Kampala on the 2nd of September 2012 and given a state burial due to his outstanding work for the country.

Justice Mulenga S.C, a Uganda national, was elected a Judge of the African Court in 2008 for a term of six years. Previously, Justice Mulenga served in the East African Court of Justice (2001-2008), initially as Vice-President and finally as President of the East African Court.

PALU would like to extend its condolences to his family and to the African Court.

May his soul rest in peace.

For more information you can visit <http://www.african-court.org/en/index.php/news/latest-news/261-honourable-justice-joseph-nyamihana-mulenga-passed-away>

African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) Hosts a Roundtable on Strengthening Capacity Building for International Commercial Law in Africa

The ALSF hosted a two-day round table meeting on the theme of "Africa Capacity Building for International Commercial Law" on 13th and 14th of September at the Ramada Plaza Hotel in Gammarth, in Greater Tunis, Tunisia. The main purpose of the event was to bring together institutions that have capacity programmes for African lawyers in international commercial law including: the African Development Bank, the International Law Institute, the African Capacity Building Foundation, the International Development Law Organization, the International Lawyers for Africa, the International Senior Lawyers Project, the Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in Africa and the Pan African Lawyers Union. The round table focused on practical ways by which institutions can work together to develop legal capacity and options for better enhancement of capacity of African lawyers in the negotiation of complex commercial agreements and international litigation.

The East African Civil Society Organisation Forum (EACSOF) holds the 6th Annual Civil Society Organisation forum and AGM

EACSOF held the 6th Annual Civil Society Organizations' Forum, in Nairobi, Kenya from 29th-30th August 2012 at Hilton Hotel. The theme was '*Strengthening Thematic Focus in the East African Integration Process*'.

The Forum Objectives sought to:

1. Organize CSOs into Thematic Working Groups (TWGs) around EACSOF strategic areas of engagement with the EAC.
2. Define a clear leadership structure for each TWG.

3. Develop ToR for each TWG.
4. Identify key issues under each thematic area and draft strategies for action, with clear timeframes and indicative budgets.

The Annual Conference was followed by the Annual General Meeting (AGM) which saw the Governing Council's number reduced from 15 to 10. The new list is as follows:

1. President- Uganda NGO Forum - Uganda, Key Contact: Mr Richard Ssewakiryanga
2. Council Member- Forum for Strengthening Civil Society (FORSC) – Burundi, Key Contact: Ms. Justine Nkurunziza
3. Secretary General- Ligue Iteka – Burundi, Key Contact: Mr. Andrews Kananga
4. Deputy Secretary General-Legal Resources Forum (LRF) - Kenya, Key Contact: Ms. Jedidah Wakonyo
5. Treasurer-Tanzania National NGO Forum (TANGO) – Tanzania, Key Contact: Mr. Tepani Ngunga
6. Council Member- People's Coalition on Food Sovereignty – Burundi, Key Contact: Ms. Odette Nzeyimana
7. Council Member- Centre for Law and Research International (CLARION) - Kenya, Key Contact: Mr. Morris Odhiambo
8. Council Member-Legal Aid Forum – Rwanda, Key Contact: Mrs. Umubyeyi Martine

For more information you can visit www.eacsof.net

Mr. Adama Dieng appointed as Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide (UNSG)

On the 17th of July 2012, the Spokesperson for the United Nations Secretary-General (UNSG) announced that Mr. Adama Dieng of Senegal has been appointed as Special Adviser to the UNSG on the Prevention of Genocide. Mr. Dieng will replace the current Special Adviser, Dr. Francis Deng of Sudan, who ended his five-year term at the end of July. This transition follows UNSG Ban Ki-moon's January announcement to appoint new under and assistant secretary-generals after the completion of their terms.

PALU would like to congratulate Mr Dieng on his new appointment. Mr Adama Dieng has contributed greatly in the area of Human rights and to the creation of PALU as he was one of the founding fathers that signed the declaration to create PALU in Addis Ababa in 2002. He has continued to play a part in the activities of PALU over the years. He was also highly involved in the creation of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights. UN News reported that, "As a legal and human rights expert, Mr. Dieng has contributed to the strengthening of rule of law, fighting impunity and promoting capacity building in the area of judicial and democratic institutions, including fact-finding missions, publications and media."

For more information, you can visit the ICRTOP's page on the Joint Office at the website www.responsibilitytoprotect.org

You can also visit The Montreal Institute for Genocide and Human Rights Studies at <http://migs.concordia.ca/W21/home.htm>

Gambia criticised for decision to execute all prisoners on death row

In late August, the President of the Gambia, President Yahya Jammeh announced in an address to the nation his decision to have all the death sentences carried out by mid-September. The AU

Chairperson, Boni Yayi, expressed his high concerns and sent H.E. Prof. Nassirou Bako, the Foreign Affairs minister of Benin, to convince President Jammeh to renounce his plans. Despite efforts by the AU President, condemnation from Civil Society Organizations (CSO) and various NGOs, on the 26th of August 2012, 9 prisoners that were on death row were executed. On the 27th of August, the Gambian government confirmed that 9 executions had been carried out including a Senegalese woman, while 38 others including nationals from other West African countries, remain on death row.

Many CSOs and NGOs have appealed to and urged the Gambian government to provide legal representation for all persons charged with offences punishable by death and to further ensure that they exhaust all judicial processes in The Gambia. This can be done by making sure that their cases are heard up to the level of the Supreme Court of the Gambia as mandated by section 24(3) (d) of the 1997 Constitution of The Gambia. This constitutional provision states that “where a person is charged with an offence which carries a punishment of death or imprisonment for life, that person shall be entitled to legal aid at the expense of the State.”

PALU calls upon Civil Society Organizations, the United Nations, the African Union and various Regional Economic Communities to intensify efforts to prevent further executions in the country. Such executions are a clear violation of Articles 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

For more information you can visit:

<http://www.ihrda.org/2012/09/ihrda-expresses-concern-about-the-execution-of-nine-convicted-prisoners-on-death-row-in-the-gambia>

<http://www.fidh.org/FIDH-and-the-World-Coalition>

19th Ordinary Session of the African Union Summit Sees the Election of the First Female AUC Chairman

On July 15 2012, the African Union elected Dr Nkosazana Clarise Dlamini-Zuma as its chairperson, making her the first woman to hold the post. Dr. Dlamini who is one of her country's longest-serving ministers, was serving as South Africa's home affairs minister, and has also had spells as minister of health and of foreign affairs. The summit also saw the election of six of the eight Commissioners on Tuesday 16 July, to pilot the affairs of the Commission for the next four years. The election of the last two Commissioners was postponed to the January Summit 2013.

For more information you can visit:

<http://www.au.int/en/content/19th-ordinary-session-african-union-ends-addis-ababa-summit-elected-first-auc-female-chairpe>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-18846210>

Sudanese authorities criticised for its crackdown on demonstrators and activists

Sudan has raised concern over the repression of demonstrations in the form of a wave of killings, torture, prolonged detention of those arrested during the demonstration and harassment against injured demonstrators seeking treatment and medical personnel.

Following detention, most are being held without charge or have been denied access to a lawyer. Under Article 65 of the 1991 Sudanese Criminal Code, they could face the death penalty. Amnesty

International considers them to be prisoners of conscience, held solely for the peaceful expression of their belief.

Amnesty International calls on the Sudanese authorities to:

- Stop using excessive force against protesters and in particular prevent security forces from using live bullets against demonstrators;
- Immediately investigate the circumstances surrounding the killing of protesters and the use of force against them and immediately suspend individual members of the security services involved in the events;
- Put an end to torture and give clear instructions to security forces to ensure that they respect the right to life and the absolute prohibition of torture and other ill-treatment;
- Release protesters and activists who have been detained for prolonged periods or charge them with recognisable criminal offences;
- End the practice of prolonged administrative detention and reform its national law to limit the duration of pre-trial detention.

For more information you may visit:

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/AFR54/036/2012/en/34c89cf8-5a72-448c-9800-33f4d83d510e/afr540362012en.pdf>

Nigeria: Justice Aloma Mukhtar Appointed and Sworn in As Chief Justice

Nigeria appointed its first female Chief Justice, Hon Justice Aloma Mariam Mukhtar who was later sworn in Abuja. Justice Mukhtar who was also the first woman from Northern Nigeria to become a lawyer became the first woman to be appointed as Justice of the Court of Appeal and later became the first female justice of the Court of Appeal to make it to the Supreme Court. PALU would like to congratulate the state of Nigeria on recognising and encouraging gender equality as well as the President who has once again made good his promise to have women in positions in the country's leadership during his administration. PALU encourages the rest of Africa follow this example and promote gender equality further.

For further information you can visit:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201208100484.html>

Hassan Sheikh Mohamud elected as Somalia's new president

On Monday September 10th, Hassan Sheikh Mohamud was declared President of the Federal Republic of Somalia. This is the first time in 43 years Somalia has elected a formal leader marking the end of an eight-year transitional administration in the war. It was by a landslide that the founder and chairman of the Peace and Development Party won over former President Sharif Sheikh Ahmed as his running mate.

He has won respect for his work in the civil society and education, being one of the founders of Mogadishu's Simad University, where he was a lecturer and served as its first dean for 10 years until he resigned to enter politics.

PALU would like to congratulate the new President and the Republic of Somalia on the election and hope that this new start marks a new era for the State and the peoples of Somalia.

For more information you can visit:

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/africa/2012/09/201291018491145790.html>

<http://www.rnw.nl/africa/article/new-pro-education-president-gives-somali-students-hope>

The Observatory for the protection of human rights requests urgent attention to the situation in Chad.

The Observatory has been informed by the Chadian League for Human Rights of disturbing cases of harassment against members of the Union of Trade Unions of Chad, in particular the General Secretary, President and Vice-President. The harassment follows a petition to the Tax department dated 1 September 2012 against "the high cost of living" and "the impoverishment of the population, which the petition attributed to mismanagement and corruption by the authorities. The three trade unionists were interviewed by the police and were subsequently charged with "inciting ethnic hatred" and "defamation". They are summoned to appear on Sept. 18, 2012 before the Criminal Court of First Instance of N'Djamena.

The Observatory strongly condemns the harassment and the charges against the trade union leaders, as they seem to aim to intimidate and limit their exercise of their right to freedom of expression. The Observatory calls on the Chadian authorities to put an end to any form of judicial harassment against trade union leaders and, more generally, against all defenders of human rights in Chad.

The Observatory has written to the Chadian authorities urging them to:

- i. Put an end to all forms of harassment against the trade union leaders as well as all defenders of human rights in Chad;
- ii. Ensure full compliance of the right to a fair trial in proceedings against the accused;
- iii. Comply with the provisions of the Declaration on human rights (Article 1, Article 6 and Article 12(2)) and international and regional instruments relating to human rights ratified by the state of Chad.

For more information you can email Appeals@fidh-omct.org

Upcoming Events:

18th Commonwealth Law Conference

Registration for the 18th Commonwealth Law Conference (CLC 2013) which will be held in Cape Town, South Africa from the 14th-18th of April, 2013 is now open. The four-day conference is hosted by the Commonwealth Lawyers Association (CLA) and the Law Society of South Africa (LSSA). The CLC 2013 will include an interesting and informative business programme, as well as a trade exhibition showcasing products and services relating to the legal industry, enabling delegates to update themselves with all developments in the legal profession. There will also be an exciting social programme including the option of post-conference tours.

For details on how to register you can visit <http://www.commonwealthlaw2013.org/>

Become a PALU member:

PALU is the umbrella association of African lawyers and law societies. It brings together the continent's five regional and fifty-four national lawyers associations, as well as individual lawyer-members. Our mission is to work towards the development of the law and legal profession, the rule of law, human rights and socio-economic development of the African continent, including through supporting African regional integration.

Membership of the Pan African Lawyers Union entitles you to:

- Subscription to our monthly E-newsletter and E-bulletins on topical legal news, information and issues pertinent to Africa;
- Access to cutting edge commentaries and legal analyses (that will not be available to non-members);
- Invitation to various conferences, workshops, seminars and other networking events;
- Premier access to our print publications (journals, law reports, magazines, policy briefs, etc) for free or at a subsidized members' rate;
- Premier access to our online resource centre (that will not be available to non-members);
- Premier continental networking platform, and unprecedented access to a broad network of distinguished African legal Dignitaries, decision makers, Professionals and scholars;
- A detailed listing in our online directory of members;
- Participation in our Affinity Programme, whereby we will collectively bargain for benefits for members.

For more information you may email us at joinus@lawyersofafrica.org

Advertise with Us:

Do you have news you would like to share with African lawyers as well as African lawyers in the Diaspora? Do you have an upcoming event you would like maximize event exposure? Do you have advocacy programs you would like to share with the rest of the continent?

PALU is proud to provide its partners, members and all other stakeholders with a variety of marketing, advertising and media exposure opportunities in our newsletter. Take advantage of this wide outreach with a database of over 5000 lawyers through advertising in our newsletters.

For further information, please contact Ms Evelyn Chijarira on:

E: secretariat@lawyersofafrica.org

T: +255 272 2503192/4

F: +255 272 2502195

Follow us on twitter:

PALU's English twitter page ID is @AfricanLawyers

PALU's French twitter page ID is @AvocatAfricain