

REPORT ON

21ST COMMONWEALTH LAW CONFERENCE MEETING

IN LIVINGSTONE ZAMBIA

8TH TO 12TH APRIL 2019.

INTRODUCTION

Commonwealth Lawyers Association is a non-profit association of lawyers from across the commonwealth and exists to maintain and promote the rule of law throughout the commonwealth by ensuring that independent and efficient legal profession, with the highest standards of ethics and integrity, serve the people of the commonwealth. Lawyers have much to learn from comparative experience in other commonwealth countries and share substantial common ground in their legal system, education and practice.

INVITATION

The following members of the County Assembly of Kisumu were invited to attend the conference;

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Hon. Onyango Oloo George | - | Speaker of the County Assembly |
| 2. Mrs. Linet A. Ochieng | - | Clerk of the County Assembly |
| 3. Mr. Owen Ojuok | - | Legal counsel |

The conference took place at Avaxxx Hotel Livingstone, Zambia between 8.00 am to 12 noon April 2019.

APPROVAL

The Ministry of Devolution granted authority to the named officials to travel to Zambia via letter Ref . No. MDP/DD/ADM/6/19/VOL.XLVIII

ACTIVITIES

After arrival in Livingstone the members proceeded to Avaxx Hotel for the conference.

OPENING OF THE CEREMONY

The conference was opened by the President of Zambia His Excellency Edgar Lungu. In his speech the president stated that all citizens must have access to lawyers with experience and competence in accordance with the offence assigned to them. He reiterated that in Zambia access to Legal representation and Justice still remains a preserve of the elite and the wealthy.

Given the high level of poverty in the country, where over 60% live below the poverty line, access to Legal representation and Justice is a far-fetched dream.

PROGRAMMES

Members of the conference participated in various discussions of various topics including;

1. Constitutionalism, Human Rights and rule of Law. Constitutionalism and the rule of Law – Obstacles to African development.

It was noted that Democracy appears to be on the retreat in many parts of Africa and other parts of the World.

2. Commonwealth responses to indigenous rights and aspirations
Most commonwealth jurisdictions have legal issues common to indigenous people, ranging from land rights to over representation in person.
3. Law Reforms.
4. Contemporary legal issues.
5. Freedom of expression.
6. The legal profession and the Judiciary.
7. Contemporary legal issues.

RELEVANCE TO THE COUNTY ASSEMBLY OF KISUMU

The main topic of discussion revolved around the rule of law; Human Rights and Constitutionalism.

The County Assembly of Kisumu being a law making organ as is enshrined in Article 185 of the Kenya Constitution 2010 must uphold the rule of law and constitutionalism in its procedure. Members of the County Assembly are also advised to make Laws which are not in conflict with the constitution.