



SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION
(SEAJAA)

AN OVERVIEW OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, CHALLENGES AND FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN AFRICA JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATORS ASSOCIATION (SEAJAA)

PRESENTED BY: Dr. Pius Bigirimana
Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary - UGANDA
SEAJAA Chairperson

PRESENTED AT: The Southern and Eastern Africa Chief Justice Forum (SEACJF)
Conference, Kampala, Uganda, on 2nd October 2024



BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE ASSOCIATION

The Southern and Eastern Africa Judicial Administrators Association (SEAJAA) is a professional body operating at the regional level to facilitate co-operation among various institutions in Southern and Eastern Africa tasked with Judiciary administration. With the recent addition of Kenya, the Association currently consists of 14 active member countries. Namely; Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zanzibar and Zimbabwe.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Constitution of the SEAJAA provides for election of an Executive Committee (Exco) charged with the operations of the Association to serve on a tenure of two years. At the 2024 AGM held on 30th September 2024 in Kampala, the AGM elected the following to serve on the Exco for the next two years:

Chairperson	Dr. Pius Bigirimana	Permanent Secretary/Secretary to the Judiciary - UGANDA
Vice Chairperson	Ms. Beulah Kgakgamatso	Chief Registrar - BOTSWANA
Secretary General	Mr. Benhardt Kukuri	Executive Director - NAMIBIA
Treasurer General	Mr. Innocent Msiska Nebi	Acting Registrar of the Supreme Court and High Court - MALAWI
Ordinary Member	Mr. Diogo R. F. Gomes	Judge and Director of HRM Supreme Court - ANGOLA



BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE ASSOCIATION

The SEAJAA should be seen and understood to be a support Association to ensure that Judicial Officers deliver the desired justice.



OBJECTIVES OF SEAJAA

- i. To exchange best practices and foster co-operation among members on matters of common concern.**
- ii. To promote the rule of law, democracy and the independence of the Judiciary and administration.**
- iii. To assist in strengthening institutions tasked with Judiciary administration in member countries.**
- iv. To arrange platforms including workshops, seminars and colloquia on the maintenance of the rule of law, constitutionalism, good governance, protection of human rights and Judiciary administration.**
- v. To co-operate with other bodies which have objectives similar to the Association.**
- vi. To promote the interest of judiciaries in member countries.**



PURPOSE OF TODAY'S PRESENTATION

- i. To brief the Chief Justices on the recent developments of SEAJAA.**
- ii. To highlight some of our future plans and collaborations.**
- iii. To highlight the challenges faced by the Association.**



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- i. **The Association conducted a comprehensive review of its constitution in order to align it with contemporary practices and the Association's needs.**
- ii. **Engagement with prospective SEAJAA members such as South Africa and Kenya, and hopes to reach more prospective members with the assistance of the SEAJAA Patron. As a result of these engagements Kenya agreed to form part of the Association. In actual fact, the Chief Registrar of Kenya attended the 2024 AGM held on 30th September in Kampala and participated in the election of the SEAJAA Executive Committee.**



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

- iii. Developed and launched a website which will provide an insight into developments in various member countries and serve as a hub for information sharing.
- iv. Recently became a member of the International Association for Court Administration (IACA) providing SEAJAA with valuable networking opportunities and insights into international court standards .
- v. The Association is in the process of establishing a SEAJAA Magazine to enhance the visibility, and provide a comprehensive coverage of SEAJAA's initiatives and achievements.



FUTURE PLANS

- i. The Association plans to host conferences separate from SEACJF on matters such as ICT innovation, paperless judiciary, transcription in courts, security of judicial officers and judiciary funding models in order to exchange ideas and foster collaboration.**
- ii. Training for judicial and non-judicial officers remains a pertinent component of the Association, and the Association is engaging with member countries on various training needs in order to consolidate a training program.**

Training for judicial and non-judicial officers will focus on areas of governance, digitization of courts and capacity building for judiciary administrators.



FUTURE PLANS

- iii. Consistent with the great thinking of H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda, the Hon. The Chief Justice of Uganda, and a number of Chief Justices of Member States on Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), to devise mechanisms to support this initiative by prioritizing financial resources for it.**
- iv. Support reform of laws, procedures and processes to enhance administration of justice.**
- v. Enhance resource mobilization for construction of court houses and institutional houses for Judiciaries with befitting ambience for court operations.**



CHALLENGES FACED BY THE ASSOCIATION

Slow response by member countries to honour their financial contributions to the Association. As a result, inadequate funds limit the Association from executing its planned activities such as facilitating of seminars, workshops and colloquia on the maintenance of the rule of law, Constitutionalism, good governance, protection of human rights and the administration of judiciaries.



CONCLUSION

The Association continues to explore various methods to ensure that members settle their membership fees, and is actively working to foster collaboration among member countries on areas such as ICT innovation, efficiency in the transcription of court documents and the enhancement of security at courts and for judicial officers.

Furthermore, the Association is thankful for the support it has received over the years from SEACJF and implores for continued support and guidance in order to achieve its intended goals and objectives.



THANK YOU!

