



Strasbourg, 28 September 2005
CCS 2005/06

CDL-JU (2005)031 prog.
Engl. only

EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR DEMOCRACY THROUGH LAW
(VENICE COMMISSION)

in co-operation with
THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA

GENERAL MEETING
OF THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN JUDGES COMMISSION

Windhoek, 12-13 August 2005

PROGRAMME

Thursday, 11th August 2005

Arrival of guests; check in and registration at the Windhoek Country Club and Resort

17h30 – 20h00 Cocktail reception at the Wine Bar, Garten Street, Windhoek

Friday, 12th August 2005

08h30 – 10h30 Opening Ceremony

08h30 Arrival of invited guests

08h50 Arrival of the Chief Justices

09h05 National and African Union Anthems

09h15 Introduction of the visiting Chief Justices and address by the Honourable Chief Justice of the Republic of Namibia

09h30 Address by His Excellency Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia

09h45 Vote of thanks by the Chief Justice P. Langa

09h45 National and African Union Anthems

09h55 Refreshments

DAY 1: Conference on independence and accountability of judiciary

10h35 Chief Justices gather in Oryx Room no.4

10h40 – 10h50 Opening remarks

Mr. Buquicchio, Secretary of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe

10.50 - 11.25 First Session - The Independence of the Judiciary

Chair – Mr E.L. Sakala, Chief Justice, Zambia ,

The importance of the independence of the judiciary: a judiciary immune from the influences of public perceptions and pressures caused by the negative publicity in the media

Key notes report Mr. L.E. Unyolo, Chief Justice, Malawi

11h25 – 12h00 Second Session - Plenary discussion

Can constitutional justice ever be achieved when the judiciary goes head to head with the media, i.e. in situations of "trial by media"?

12h00 – 12h30 Third Session - The Accountability of the Judiciary

Chair - G. Chidyansiku, Chief Justice, Zimbabwe

But the judiciary should be accountable to someone – is there such a mechanism?

Key notes report by Mr. E.L. Sakala, Chief Justice, Zambia

- 12h30 – 13h30 Lunch break
- 13h45 – 14h45 **Fourth Session - Plenary discussion**
Does accountability have adverse implications on judges in the fulfillment of their duties, or is it a welcome form of keeping checks and balances on the judiciary?
- 14h45 – 15h00 Health break
- 15h50 – 17h30 Visit to places of interest around Windhoek
- 19h30 – 21h30 Dinner

Saturday, 12 August 2005

DAY 2: The Annual General Meeting of the SAJC

- 08h30 – 08h55 **Fifth Session – The Annual General Meeting**
Chair – Mr P. Langa, Chief Justice, South Africa
The Commission's operations since inception and the audited financial statements
- 08h55 – 09h30 **Fifth Session – Feedback**
Report on the workshop on the status of the region's judicial training institutions held in in South Africa, June 2005
Ms. Ruth Makhambeni, Secretary to the SAJC
- 09h30 – 09h55 **Seventh Session – Feedback**
Presentation of the Commission's outstanding projects for 2005
Mr. P. Langa, Chief Justice, South Africa
- 10h00 – 10h10 Health break
- 09h55 – 10h45 **Eight Session –**
Election of New Management Committee
Resolutions and statements
- 10h45 – 11h00 Closing Remarks:
Mr. Buquicchio, Secretary of the Venice Commission of the Council of Europe
- 19h30 – 21H30 Formal Dinner at the Supreme Court

Sunday, 14 August 2005 - Departure of guests.