ANNUAL REPORT
July 2016- June 2017
Invest Wisely, Consider Arbitration under KIAC
STANDARD AND SUGGESTED ARBITRATION CLAUSES FOR CONTRACTS

Future Disputes
Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this contract, including any question regarding its validity or termination shall be referred to and finally resolved by arbitration under the Rules of Kigali International Arbitration Centre (KIAC).

Note — Parties should consider adding:
(a) The number of arbitrators shall be ... (one or three);
(b) The seat or legal place of arbitration shall be ... (town and country);
(c) The language to be used in the arbitral proceedings shall be...

Existing Disputes
A dispute having arisen between the parties concerning (...), the parties hereby agree that the dispute shall be referred to and finally resolved by arbitration under the Rules of Kigali International Arbitration Centre (KIAC).

STANDARD AND SUGGESTED MEDIATION CLAUSES FOR CONTRACTS

Future Disputes
“Any dispute, controversy or claim out of or in relation to this contract, including the validity, invalidity, breach or termination, thereof, shall be submitted to mediation in accordance with the Kigali International Arbitration Centre Mediation Rules in force on the date when the request for mediation is submitted.”

Existing Disputes
“The undersigned parties hereby agree to submit to mediation in accordance with the KIAC Mediation Rules of the following dispute (Brief description of the dispute)

SUGGESTED CLAUSE FOR MEDIATION FOLLOWED BY ARBITRATION
“Any dispute, controversy or claim out of or in relation to this contract, including the validity, invalidity, breach or termination, thereof, shall be submitted to mediation in accordance with the Kigali International Arbitration Centre Mediation Rules in force on the date when the request for mediation is submitted in accordance with these rules.

If such dispute, controversy or claim has not been fully resolved by mediation within one month from the appointment or the confirmation of the mediator, it shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the Kigali International Arbitration Centre Rules.”
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KIAC PROFILE

Vision
To be the leading choice for international commercial arbitration and other ADR services.

Mission
To promote Rwanda as a venue of efficient arbitration services and a Center of excellence for research and training of professionals in ADR

Members and Structure of KIAC
The Centre has a governance Board of Directors (BoD) comprised of seven (7) members appointed by the Private Sector Federation (PSF) from professional associations and international members with knowledge and practice in international arbitration.

For the day to day management, the Centre has a Secretariat led by the Secretary General appointed by the BoD, with a support management and operational team.

Services and Procedures
KIAC administers cases under KIAC Arbitration Rules and UNCITRAL Arbitration Rules. Parties may agree to use KIAC Rules in part or wholly KIAC arbitration rules, a modern set of rules consistent with international best practices and covering all aspects of the arbitral proceedings. Arbitration services under KIAC are very cost effective with a schedule of fees allowing the costs of KIAC arbitrations to be kept in line with the size and the complexity of the cases referred to the Centre.

KIAC boasts of world-wide panel of experienced, credible and independent arbitrators. Parties to KIAC arbitrations are free to nominate their arbitrators, subject to confirmation by the Centre in accordance with the KIAC Rules. When KIAC is called upon to appoint an arbitrator, it does so primarily from one of its panels.

KIAC offers professional mediation services under KIAC Mediation Rules (2014). The Centre is committed to providing high quality logistical support to its users for the organization of the hearings in Kigali; provision of suitable rooms, secretarial and catering services.

For more information please visit our website on www.kiac.org.rw or email us at info@kiac.org.rw
Globally, a fully fledged dispute resolution market evidently fosters investment. In Rwanda, as foreign direct investment continues to grow, the volume of disputes is unavoidable and so will the need for effective and reliable mechanisms resolve commercial disputes. The Government of Rwanda and the Rwanda Private Sector by establishing KIAC, understood the potential of Arbitration in fostering investment and reducing court case backlog thus raising efficiency of the administration of justice.

As the chair of KIAC BoD, I have seen the development of KIAC very much comparable to the history of development of other sectors in Rwanda; very ambitious, nascent, growing and will evolve and blossom, against all odds. It is no surprise that despite Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) being a new concept, Rwanda now attracts international disputes from Africa and across the world. Contributing to this exponential growth is undoubtedly a combination of various factors, notably; a perfect collaboration with the Government and Private sector; an efficient pro-arbitration judicial system; a very aggressive awareness campaign by KIAC targeting different stakeholders locally and internationally; as well as the fact that more lawyers and the business community are choosing to use ADR services.

We close the year by celebrating and analyzing KIAC accomplishments, while looking ahead to the future of the international arbitration. Building an effective ADR Center takes many years. It takes resources and commitment from the key stakeholders and the business community; as well as strong political will from Government. To make this sustainable, we still need to get all possible stakeholders on board; continually work towards improving our policies to build an investor-friendly environment that will promote Rwanda as a place to do business and conduct Arbitration in Africa and beyond.
Since KIAC’s establishment 5 years ago, I am happy to inform you that this year was remarkably special, marked by increased track record of case administration and high-quality dispute resolution services that have contributed to positioning Rwanda as an efficient and credible hub for international alternative dispute resolution (ADR).

I am happy to inform you that we registered a phenomenal 117% increase in the KIAC arbitration case management. This is testament of user confidence in KIAC services. We have also witnessed an increased adoption of KIAC contract model dispute resolution clauses which promote the use of alternative dispute resolution.

We are continuously reaping from our awareness efforts to reach out to our stakeholders that will substantially transform the perception of arbitration among various professionals and the business community. As a result of our meetings with different Embassies, an ADR capacity building project has been developed in partnership with Netherlands Enterprise Agency and an MoU has been initiated with the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA) courtesy of Embassy of Egypt. These partnerships will enable KIAC to promote a sustainable ADR culture in Rwanda and beyond EAC region.

At the heart of our best practices is continuous innovation and improvement of the quality of services delivered to our clients. This is reflected in our newly reviewed and approved KIAC Business plan (2017-2021). We are working on diversifying our services as well as fostering more knowledge sharing platforms- symposium, seminars, international conferences and training programs for ADR professionals. I am happy to announce that Rwanda has been selected to host two international conferences; the East Africa International Arbitration conference in September 2017 and the School of Oriental and African Studies/University of London (SOAS) Conference in May 2018. Despite financial challenges, we were able to partner with other institutions like Rwanda Development Board (RDB) to continue our knowledge sharing platforms. Their invaluable and timely support is appreciated.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Government of Rwanda which has financially supported the operation activities of the center after the closure of the ADR Project. I would like to thank the KIAC Board of Directors, and the staff whose professionalism and hard work has continuously maintained the good reputation of the Centre. Without doubt, we are on the right path to living our mission which is “To promote Rwanda as a venue of efficient arbitration services and a Centre of excellence for research and training of professionals in ADR.”
Introduction

Kigali International Arbitration Centre (KIAC) was established by an Act of Parliament as stipulated by Law No 51/2010 of 10/01/2010 with a mandate to help domestic and international business community to resolve commercial disputes in an amicable way.

The Centre’s objective is to therefore supplement efforts undertaken by the Judiciary and to provide time saving and cost effective means of settling disputes to the business community, public institutions and people from the region and beyond with the aim of increasing Investors’ confidence in Rwanda.

Over the past five years of operation, KIAC has focused on improving the infrastructure required to deliver quality services in arbitration and creating conducive environment for effective use of arbitration practice and other friendly ways of dispute resolution in Rwanda. KIAC management has identified the centre’s core business as it is derived from its attributions under article 4 of the Law establishing its organization, functioning and competence which can be summarized into four components below:

1. Provide disputes resolution services through arbitration and other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) services;

2. Promote ADR through public education, publication and research;

3. Training and accreditation in ADR;

4. To promote Rwanda as a venue of International arbitration and advise the Government on arbitration matters.

This report describes accomplishments within the financial year of July 2016-June 2017 as KIAC celebrated its 5th year of operation.
1.1 KIAC Arbitration Case Load

KIAC’s role in attracting greater foreign investment and increasing investor confidence is evident in the ever increasing caseload filed by the Center. Within five years, 66 cases have been filed with the center, which is a milestone since it takes between 3 to 5 years for a newly established Centre to administer the first Case.

More so, the KIAC caseload during the period of July 2016 - June 2017 was phenomenal, with the center having registered 26 cases. This is a 117% increase of the highest number of cases registered in a year since the centre’s establishment.

Since 2013 up to 2017, the amount for disputes related to the cases registered with KIAC is estimated at over US$ 36 Million. The nationalities of parties to these cases are from USA, Rwanda, Kenya, Italy, Pakistan, Senegal, South Africa, Dubai, Germany, Uganda and Zambia. The international cases under KIAC administration are a statement of confidence that Rwanda is playing a key role in positioning Africa on the market of international Arbitration.

With reference to the statistics collected from the Rwandan courts, none of the awards issued by KIAC has been set aside. Instead, Rwandan courts have showed a strong trust to KIAC awards. This is a result of the use of well-trained neutrals and KIACs scrutiny of awards. The fact that the Rwandan Courts have shown to be independent and do not interfere with arbitration matters is another reason parties should consider in using KIAC as their arbitration institution.

1.1.1 Summary of the profile of the cases filed with KIAC

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total of Cases Filed</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total of Cases filed under KIAC Rules</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
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Cases filed per year

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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction/Engineering/Infrastructures</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply of Goods and Equipment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmaceutical/Biotechnology/Health Care</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport/Logistics/Shipping</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shareholding/Sale agreement</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
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</tr>
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Cases filed per year:

- **Cases Filed**
- **Cases filed under KIAC Rules**
**KIAC Arbitration cases by market industry**

The data below shows the list and the frequency of the subject matter submitted to KIAC arbitration. On the list, several subjects are listed: health insurance, supply of goods, mining contract, pharmaceutical matters, construction and engineering contracts, shareholding, transport, service agreements, energy and contract of works.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Market Industry</th>
<th>Previous</th>
<th>2015-2016</th>
<th>2016-2017</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Construction/Engineering/Infrastructures</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Services</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supply of Goods and Equipment</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharmaceutical/Biotechnology/Heath Care</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport /Logistics /Shipping</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shareholding/Sale agreement</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mining</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

From the Chart below, during the five years of KIAC operations, service contracts and construction contracts top the list by accounting for 29 cases. Construction/engineering contracts come at the second place with 15 cases. In the third place is the sale supply of goods and equipment agreements at 10 cases, followed by Transport contracts (4 cases), Shareholding at 3 cases, Energy and Pharmaceutical at 2 cases each and mining with 1 case.
The charts below are a summary of the highlights of the cases received from July 2016-June 2017.

**Gender of Arbitrators**

- Men: 93%
- Women: 7%

**Language Used**

- English: 69%
- French: 27%
- Kinyarwanda: 4%

**Status of the Cases**

- Award & Files closed: 10
- Ongoing: 13

**Geographic Origin**

- Domestic: 4
- International: 0

**Foreign Citizens**

- China: 2
- Turkish: 1
- France: 1
- Uganda: 2

1.2. Mediation Caseload

Ever since the introduction of Mediation Service, KIAC has continued to receive cases that have been resolved using mediation. This year, 4 cases were received and closed with mediation agreement signed by disputants in a timely manner.
2 Institutional Development

2.1. KIAC Business plan reviewed and approved

It was another milestone to have the KIAC five year strategic and business plan (2017-2021) reviewed and approved. The objective of reviewing the strategy focused on redefining KIAC’s core mission as an international arbitration institution; Diversification of KIAC service as a necessary mechanism for financial sustainability; The establishment of a new system of collaboration between KIAC and other similar institutions in all regions; broadening the core mission of KIAC by integrating into its mission the promotion of efficient and cost-effective arbitration services for a Center of Excellence in Research and Training of Arbitration and ADR Professionals. It is ultimately the goal of the Centre to offer a one-stop facility for all electronic arbitration and ADR information needed, including information research, registrations and servicing.

On 13th April 2017, in a consultative meeting with selected stakeholders, the KIAC draft strategy was presented and approved. In an interactive debate, it was mutually agreed that the Government of Rwanda will keep supporting KIAC towards its financial sustainability. This will supplement KIAC income and support from development partners.
CONSIDER ARBITRATION UNDER KIAC.

2.2. Board of Directors

Mr. Faustin Mbundu
Chair Board of Directors

Kavaruganda Julien
Vice Chair BoD

Chief Tinuade Oyenkunle
Member (Nigeria)

Dr. Masengo Fidele
Member/ KIAC SG ai.

Thomas Kenda
Member (Paris)

Barlen Pillay
Member (Mauritius)

Linda Atukunda Grace
Member (Ministry of Justice Representative- Rwanda)

The 5th Board of Director’s meeting was conducted on 28th November 2016. In the meeting, the Annual report and the Audited accounts report for the financial year 2015/2016 were reviewed. In the same meeting, the final KIAC Operations Manual was approved.

In an extraordinary meeting on May 31st, 2017, the KIAC business plan was approved by the Board of Directors. It was later disseminated to key stakeholders and there is no doubt the strategic plan will significantly address the insufficient use of ADR by stakeholders.

The Board committees were regularly convened to advise the management on any matters relating to the Centre’s activities. The Arbitration committee was also very efficient in the approval of different Arbitral panels for ongoing arbitrations.
2.3. Financial support to KIAC from GoR and other stakeholders

KIAC Institutional Development and Organisational Strengthening has become increasingly important in relation to sustainability. It is ultimately the goal of the Centre to become independent and self-sustainable financially. Globally, most international arbitration centres achieve this independence and sustainability from the number of arbitration cases filled.

Despite the current caseload of arbitration cases filed with KIAC, it is still very early for the Centre to be considered financially independent.

Given the importance of Arbitration to Rwanda’s economic and justice sectors, KIAC has in the past years received financial support from the Government and the Private Sector as well as the support of policymakers for various activities. Since its establishment up to March 2015, KIAC received support under the Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) Project, a three years’ project that supported the operationalization of the Centre with contribution from ICF, Private Sector Federation (PSF) and Government of Rwanda. The support from PSF covered the staff remuneration while the Government funds were used for the acquisition of State of art modern office premises. ICF support was mainly channeled in the operationalization of the Centre, professional skills development and awareness campaigns.

Following the closure of the ADR Project, KIAC management has been engaging Government and potential donors in the justice, arbitration and ADR services to fund various activities.

On 3rd February 2017, in an extraordinary Cabinet Meeting, the Government approved the proposed budget support to KIAC as a way of contributing to the centre’s sustainability. The support will help the Center to build its organizational and infrastructural capacity.

With support from Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services (JAMS) in partnership with African Peace Partners, an inaugural 3day Mediation seminar was organised for various ADR Practitioners and members of the Private Sector.

Following a meeting with the Netherlands Embassy, KIAC successfully developed a project proposal that was tendered by the Netherlands-RVO. After a bidding process, the tender was awarded to Center for International Legal Cooperation who will oversee the implementation various capacity building and awareness activities for a period of 18 months. The project is set to start in the next financial year.
3.1. Intensive Awareness Campaigns conducted

Central to KIAC activities is conducting regular awareness campaigns through media, seminars, network and lobbying at local, regional and international forums.

3.1.1. KIAC at the Rwanda Bar Association Conference and General Assembly

On 23rd December 2016, Dr. Masengo Fidèle attended the Rwanda Bar Association Conference and General Assembly that attracted around 1000 lawyers organised under the theme “The Role of Advocates in Rwanda’s Economic Growth and Development”. The Minister of Justice invited Advocates to fight criminality in general and financial crimes in particular because they hamper the country’s economic development.

3.1.2. KIAC Website

KIAC has continued to communicate to existing and potential stakeholders on the latest developments in ADR using the website and online marketing using electronic mails, newsletters and the KIAC social network pages. These supplemented the other traditional types of communication such as radio, television, supplements in newspapers. This has also contributed to increasing the Centre’s visibility. Below is the web statistic summary with the highest number of visitors coming from Rwanda, US, China and Great Britain.
3.1.3. KIAC conducts meetings with Embassies and Development Partners

The KIAC SG, Dr. Masengo Fidèle met with Ambassador Namira Negm of The Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt on 16th March 2017. The meeting was the first step towards fostering partnership with the Embassy towards enhancing the capacity of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) professionals and raising more awareness on Arbitration and ADR. The meeting focused on how to Kick start cooperation between KIAC and the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA).

The SG had previously met with other partners from the African Development Bank, World Bank, UNDP, DFID, Trademark East Africa, UNECA, Netherlands Embassy, Chinese Embassy. The meetings aimed at informing partners about KIAC and ADR services and discussions on probable partnership.

3.2. Regional and International Marketing Awareness

3.2.1. KIAC at the official ICF Africa Projects Closing Ceremony– Dar Es Salaam

KIAC was represented by Dr. Masengo Fidèle at the Investment Climate Facility for Africa (ICF) Completion Event from 31st August–1st September 2016 Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He spoke on behalf of all the projects that were funded by ICF in Rwanda since it began operations in 2007. During the ceremony, ICF’s activities and achievements were showcased. This was an opportunity to reflect on the firm foundations that have been laid for an improved business climate in Africa.
3.2.2. KIAC at the Nairobi International Arbitration Conference and the Launch of the Nairobi International Arbitration Center

The KIAC SG, Dr. Masengo Fidèle was invited as a speaker at the inaugural Nairobi International Arbitration Conference held from 4th-6th December 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference coincided with the launch of the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration. The conference was organised under the theme “Investing in Africa: A new frontier in Dispute Resolution“ and focused on the trajectory of investment discourse to building recognition of the role of arbitral institutes and the safe seat for arbitration. The KIAC SG presentation focused on the Choice of Tribunal and party representatives; delocalization of venue of Arbitration on the continent.

3.2.3. KIAC at the Mcnair Chambers Investment Disputes And Arbitration Seminar

The KIAC SG, Dr. Masengo Fidele attended the Investment Disputes And Arbitration Seminar that took place on 8th December 2016 at Kampala Serena Hotel. It was organised by Mcnair Chambers Doha with Professor Khawar Qureshi QC. He shared the KIAC Arbitration experience with an invited audience of State and private sector lawyers from East and West Africa who deal with Investment matters, commercial contracts and arbitration.

3.2.4. KIAC At the 4th East African International Arbitration Conference

The KIAC SG was among the speakers at the 4th Edition of East Africa International Arbitration Conference that was organised in partnership with I-Arb Africa and GBS Africa.
In particular, professionals will look at the economic implications of international arbitration, including the opportunities and Challenges. Discussion points will include; East Africa’s mega projects and monetary value involved in East Africa-related international arbitration; the value of awards and how much money is potentially lost by countries (damages); and the potential of international arbitration as a money maker for African institutions and arbitrators, considering institutional fees and arbitrator fees. EAIAC will also discuss International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) and investment arbitration, New York Convention and local award enforcement.

The EAIAC Kigali 2017 will build on the success of the previous conferences held in Addis Ababa (2013), Nairobi (2014), Dar es Salaam (2015) and Kampala (2016). It will be attended by expert speakers from East Africa and beyond, delegates representing Industry leaders drawn from key sectors of the region’s economy, regulators, Governments Ministers, Attorney Generals, regional and international Arbitration professionals, Judges; magistrates and Academicians.

3.2.5 Rwanda at the 3rd SOAS Conference 2017

The School of Oriental and African Studies/University of London (SOAS)- University of London and the Cairo Regional Centre for International Commercial Arbitration (CRCICA) organised a conference from 3rd-5th April 2017 in Cairo-Egypt. The theme of the conference was “The Role of African States and Governments in Supporting the Development of Arbitration in Africa”.

Rwanda was represented by Dr. Masengo Fidèle, who was one of the conference speakers. The conference focused on the role of African states/governments (arbitral institutions, courts/judges, states/governments and arbitrators/legal practitioners) in creating a viable legal and regulatory environment for arbitration (and its support industries). It was highlighted that African governments need to do more to make their countries attractive venues; their courts accessible and credible, ensure security of lives and property, among others, to attract not just investors but to ensure that when these investors and their own citizens have disputes, they choose them as seats of arbitration and appoint arbitrators of African origin as their dispute resolvers. In addition and even more viable is the importance of creating an enabling legal environment for domestic and intra-Africa arbitration references to thrive”.

The overall objective of the conference is to ‘Create a Sustainable Culture of Arbitration as a mechanism for Commercial Dispute Resolution in Africa’. In 2015 at the African Union Commission Addis Ababa, stakeholders examined the role of arbitral institutions in the development of arbitration in Africa. In 2016 the conference was hosted by the Lagos Court of Arbitration Centre and examined the role courts and judges play in the development of arbitration in Africa.

The fourth conference is expected to take place in Kigali Rwanda from 3rd-4th May 2018 at Radisson Blu Hotel & Convention Center.
When KIAC was established no Certified professional in ADR existed in Rwanda. In order to build the capacity in ADR matters, KIAC devised a strategy of Training and certification of professionals as one of the most effective ways of fostering a sustainable pro-arbitration culture and ensuring greater efficiency among professionals in Rwanda and in the region.

Within five years of operations, out of over 500 professionals that have been trained under KIAC’s training and certification program, 324 have been certified at the Associate and Membership levels by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators-UK. This makes Rwanda among the top countries in Africa with the highest number of CIArb certified arbitrators in Africa. KIAC has trained more than 15 arbitrators from the EAC region and few people from the United States, Switzerland and South Sudan. Other training programs were conducted in Mediation, adjudication and contract management.

4.1. Senior Lawyers Trained on Investment Arbitration

In an effort to promote Rwanda as an increasingly attractive destination for investment and choice for administering international Investment Disputes, Kigali International Arbitration Centre (KIAC) in partnership with Rwanda Development Board, Rwanda Bar Association and Shearman and sterling LLP law firm from France organised a comprehensive seminar on investment Arbitration.
It is important to increase legal expertise in investment negotiations and disputes settlement since Rwanda is among the fastest growing economies in the world and this growth comes with many international investment deals. The seminar, which was the first of its kind in Rwanda, was a knowledge sharing platform between leading lawyers from both public and private institutions to discuss emerging trends in investment and commercial arbitration.

The panel focused on the critical choices faced by companies and their lawyers when investing in Africa. The participants also had the opportunity to learn about the main characteristics of international arbitration, different international centres and also the Kigali International Arbitration Centre Rules.

Dr. Masengo Fidèle highlighted the fact that Arbitration provides a significant contribution to facilitating foreign investment and trade. Investor confidence will only be raised knowing that any dispute they enter into will be effectively and efficiently resolved. Since KIAC administers arbitration under its own rules and UNCITRAL Rules and is a signatory to the 1958 New York Convention, foreign Arbitral Awards are easily enforceable in any other country signatory to the convention.

Speakers at the seminar included Professor Emmanuel Gaillard, who founded and heads the International Arbitration Practice of the renowned law firm Shearman and Sterling LLP together with Dr. Yas Banifatemi, Partner and Head of the International Public Law Practice at Shearman and Sterling LLP and Dr. Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, the President of the EAC Court of Justice who explained the role of the EAC Court of Justice in International Arbitration.
4.2. KIAC organises Inaugural Seminar for Justice Sector stakeholders on expanded use of Professional Mediation (Ubwunzi)

Kigali International Arbitration Centre (KIAC) in partnership with African Peace Partners and Justice Sector Stakeholders launched an inaugural three-day seminar that introduced Rwandan Justice stakeholders to international best practices for conducting professional mediation. The seminar took place from 25th - 27th January, 2017.
Dr. Masengo Fidèle called said that the seminar was one of the strategies for an integrated approach to raise awareness on the potential of Mediation service in supporting investment while providing access to justice for all yet reducing cost of doing business for both Government and the Private Sector.

While speaking at the closing ceremony, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General Hon. Johnston Busingye highlighted the need for an appropriate legal framework for mediation, the enforceability of settlement agreements and mediation of litigated cases. On behalf of the Ministry, he pledged to support to mainstream mediation and restorative justice approaches so that we can offer to our citizens at all levels an affordable, accessible justice that will enrich their lives and our country.

The seminar is part of a larger Capacity Building project that will support Rwanda’s emergent Mediation policy. Mediation systems require the alignment of policy, procedure and training. By the end of the seminar, the justice stakeholders and private sector shared common vision on adoption and effective use of both commercial mediation and mediation of litigated matters. The seminar was attended by various stakeholders from the justice sector including Professional mediators, Academicians, Lawyers, Judges.

Feedback from one of the participants....

Thanks Dr for such an interesting and touching training. I have had many trainings in my judge career and this one was one of the best based not only on the quality of the teaching but most particularly in the attitude of the trainers (they communicate more than skills they have, their communicate their heart for people they have dedicated their skills to). Stay blessed.

By Former Justice Fanfan Rwanyindo
4.3. KIAC Hosts Law Students from Rwanda National Police College

As part of KIAC’s mission to promote ADR through public education, publication and research, Police students pursuing a bachelor’s degree in law at the Rwanda National Police College (NPC) visited KIAC on 10th March, 2017. Leading the delegation, Dr. Didas Kayihura who is acting Principal University of Rwanda- College of Arts and Social Sciences (UR-CASS) said the visit was part of their practical study tour meant to enhance their knowledge and practice of Arbitration.

In an highly interactive session, Dr. Fidele Masengo shared with them the KIAC experience in ADR, achievements, challenges throughout the five-year journey of the centre. He also took them through the benefits of solving disputes amicably and also outlined the process of filing disputes with the centre. He mentioned that dispute resolution was to be viewed as not only a service but as a market which is an important pillar of the promotion of not only investment but also contributes to the overall economy of the country.
In close cooperation with its key partners, KIAC has been able to establish a culture of Alternative Dispute Resolution in Rwanda and institutionalizing its practices. The Centre has put into place a set of tools to ensure the sustainability of efficient ADR systems. A lot has been done in promoting arbitration among its users and potential users. Mediation and adjudication were not ignored. Mediation cases have been filed. A Conference was also organized in mediation to foster some innovative policy actions in the matter. However, despite these efforts, some other areas of ADR are not yet explored due to lack for sufficient funds. The financial constraint has also affected the capacity for the Centre to recruit the needed human resources to complete the current staff of the Secretariat. Lack of funds delay the planned development of the Centre in terms of modern IT tools and equipment. The Centre is working with its partners to mobilize funds to support some of its core activities including not limited to capacity building efforts, conferences and awareness campaign outreaches. A more sustainable strategy for funding the organization is also envisioned.

During this coming year, KIAC is preparing many activities relating to capacity building including trainings, seminars, symposium. The Centre is also preparing two international conferences. The first conference is the 5th East Africa Conference in international arbitration under the “Linkages between International arbitration and Africa’s Economy”. This is a regional gathering where mainly participants from Rwanda and East Africa are expected. This is 5th East Africa Conference in international law. Another big conference is expected to take place in May 2018. This is the last of the four series of SOAS Conference organized in Africa.

Beside these two conferences, the Centre will also keep its momentum in attracting arbitration and mediation cases as well as ensuring a proper case administration. In order to attract more cases, KIAC will continue to engaging local, regional and worldwide business and legal communities to maintain its good reputation in offering quality of services for which it is now becoming renowned.

As ever, we look forward to keeping our good communication and relationship with all our users, partners through quarterly newsletters, arbitration proceedings, mediation sessions, capacity building and awareness campaign gatherings, and at one or other of the two coming conferences scheduled next year.
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