



ecocourt newsletter

A monthly publication of the Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS Judges/Judicial Retreats - October 2018

ECOWAS COURT TO STRIVE TOWARDS MORE EFFICIENCY



Hon. Justices Edward Asante (middle), Dupe Atoki (2nd left), Keikura Bangura (1st right) and Januria Moreira Costa (2nd right) with the Chief Registrar (1st left) and Directors of the Court

The President of the ECOWAS Court, Honorable Justice Edward Asante has pledged to work towards the consolidation of the achievements of the Court during the tenure of the new judges who assumed duty on 27th August 2018 for a four year non-renewable term.

‘Our ultimate goal is to consolidate on the achievements of the Court chart new path for making the Court stronger and more efficient for the benefit of the millions of West Africans, who as of right, are the automatic patrons of the Court in the pursuit of justice in respect of the violations of their fundamental human rights that has become the mainstay of the Court,’ he said on Monday, 22nd October 2018 at the opening of a two day retreat of the judges.

Honorable Justice Asante characterized the 7th judges retreat and the subsequent 10th judicial retreat as a ‘precursor to the resumption of hearings by the Court with the first cases slated to be heard from 30th October 2018 as we begin the process of hearing the cases inherited from our predecessors in addition to those filed since our assumption.

The President added: ‘The resumption of hearing is the outward manifestation of our determination and resolve to provide service to the citizens for which we were retained by the Community.’

He described the theme of the retreat, **Strengthening the ECOWAS Court of Justice**, as apt coming against the backdrop of the ‘challenges faced by the Court, mainly the reduction in the number of the judges from seven to five which inexorably will affect its effectiveness and the increasing demand for justice exemplified by the exponential increase in the number of cases.

Four presentations are scheduled to be made during the retreat mainly on the Court’s digital case management system; the 2019 draft budget; adjournments, stakeholders and the image of the Court as well as a general presentation on the rules of procedure of the Court.



The Hon. Judges and participants at the 7th Judges' retreat (October 2018)



Members of the secretariat and other staff



L-R: Dr Diallo Ousmane, Director Research and Documentation and Mr. Atannon Ousmane, Deputy Chief Registrar



L - R: Nketiah Apraku, Cassandra M.O Labor, Stephen T. Obasaju, and Emiliana M.S.B Mendes, Executive Assistants to the Hon. Judges



Mr William D. Towah, Director Administration and Finance, answering some questions

COURT PRESIDENT PLEDGES NEW ERA IN THE COURT



Group photograph of the the Hon. Judges and the participants at the 10th judicial retreat.

The President of the ECOWAS Court, Honorable Justice Edward Asante, has challenged staff to work with the new judges in charting a new path for the Court that is driven by professionalism, accountability and excellence. “We are irrevocably committed to charting a new part that will place the Court on a higher pedestal in order to bequeath a legacy of performance and effectiveness that enriches its jurisprudence,” he said while opening the Court’s 10th judicial retreat in Goshen near Abuja.

He emphasized the need for synergy and urged the staff to strive towards rendering quality services to the judges through the display of excellence, accountability, and professionalism to enable the Court dispense justice efficiently for the benefit of Community citizens.

The President reiterated the commitment of the judges, who assumed duty on 27th August 2018, to drive the implementation of improved processes in the Court that will promote efficiency and effectiveness of the Court and improve its capacity to meet the expectations of its stakeholders.

The Court also expressed optimism about the potential impact of the planned deployment of a digital case management system and the launch of the Court’s new website, which were presented during the preceding 7th retreat of the judges at the same venue.

The case management system has features to allow the online filing of cases by parties while the web site

will improve access to the Court and its visibility.

The Chief Registrar of the Court, Mr. Tony Anene-Maidoh, presented the objective of the retreat which is basically to apprise the new judges and their Executive Assistants to the jurisprudence of the Court for the 14 years covered in the theme. He added that the retreat will ensure a clearer understanding of the jurisprudence of the Court and its judicial mandate.

The Chief Registrar said the presentations will be made under six sub themes namely Access to Court, Jurisdiction of the Court, Human Rights Mandate of the Court, the Community Legal Order, Practices and Procedure, and Enforcement of Judgment of the Court/External Relations.

Participants are expected to exchange views on issues relating to the selected topics, and proffer ways of improving the effectiveness of the Court for the benefit of the Community citizens. The four day retreat is on the theme “**The Jurisprudence of the Court of Justice: From 2004 to 2018**”.

The new judges include its President, Honorable Justice Edward Amoako Asante (Ghana), the Vice President, Honorable Justice Gberi-bè Ouattara (Côte d’Ivoire), both of which were elected for a two year term.

Also in attendance were Honorable Justices Dupe Atoki (Nigeria), Keikura Bangura (Sierra Leone); and Januaria Silva Moreira Costa (Cabo Verde).

Photo splash of the judicial retreat



Published by:
The Community Court of Justice, ECOWAS, 10, Dar Es Salaam Crescent, Off Aminu Kano, Wuse, Abuja.
Tel: Open Registry: +234 (0) 815 27000 40 General Information: +234 (0) 815 27000 60
Email: president@courtecowas.org info@courtecowas.org Website: www.courtecowas.org