

Media Advisory

Top African jurists to converge at the University of South Africa (Unisa) to discuss the African Continental Free Trade Agreement

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The crème de la crème of the legal profession on the African continent, under the auspices of the African Bar Association (AFBA) will converge on the main campus of the University of South Africa (Unisa) in Pretoria for the 2023 Annual AFBA Conference to be held from 06 – 10 August 2023.

The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services of South Africa, **the Honourable Ronald Lamola**, the Chief Justice of the Republic of South Africa, **Justice Raymond Zondo** and the Principal and Vice Chancellor of Unisa, **Professor Puleng LenkaBula** are amongst some of the key speakers during the opening ceremony on Monday, 7 August 2023.

Other speakers include the Chief Justice of the Republic of Sierra Leone, His Lordship Honourable Justice Desmond B. Edwards, the President of the African Bar Association (AFBA), Mr Hannibal Egbe Uwaifo, Esquire; as well as the Chairperson of the South African Bar Association (SABA), Advocate Bart Ford

The President of the Republic of Ghana, **His Excellency Nana Akufo-Addo**, a previous Attorney-General of Ghana (2001-2003), will also attend the conference.

The conference will be hosted by AFBA in partnership with Unisa and will be held under the theme: ***‘Building the legal profession in Africa under the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA)’***. This is an apex gathering of the association, which comprises lawyers from across the African continent, and is designed to discuss concrete and emerging developments affecting the rule of law, the legal profession and African development.

The 2023 conference brings under one roof leading experts on law, the legal profession and Africa trade to critically discuss African trade and the evolving legal regime under the AfCFTA; with a view to evaluating current dynamics and prospects of the regime.

The following are some of the pertinent legal topics to be deliberated during the panel discussions throughout the conference:

- Contemporary issues affecting the legal profession in Africa
- The African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) and the African Lawyer : The legal profession under AfCFTA
- Anti-corruption, the Rule of Law and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement
- Climate Change, Sustainable Value Chains and the African Continental Free Trade Agreement
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Emerging Continental Legal Practice
- The Legal Academy Panel: Restructuring Legal Training to be responsive to Africa’s needs: The changing Legal Practice in Post-Covid Africa
- Gender Mainstreaming in African Legal Practice
- Overcoming Trade Litigation Deficit: Experience from the World Trade Organisation (WTO)



- Military Panel: Resurgence of Military Intervention in African Politics: Positive and Negative Roles of the Military and Lawyers
- Global Geopolitics and African Alignments
- Panel of Eminent Personalities: Mbeki and Wamkele on the future of the African Trade and Commercial Integration
- Adjudication and Arbitration Panel: Emerging Developments in Africa Commercial arbitration and adjudication
- Issues in Conflict of Interest and Cross-Border Legal Practice in Africa: Local Practitioner vs Foreign Firms in African Legal Practice
- Access to Justice: Emerging issues and challenges in Justice Administration
- Communication and Africa Development
- Tax Implications of the AfCFTA and African Development
- Cross-Border Movement of Goods and Services in Africa: State of the Regulatory and Infrastructure Support for Air Transportation
- Contemporary Trends in Litigation: The Increasing Rise in the Use of E-Discovery
- Recent Privacy Laws, GDPR, PIPEDA, CCPA, LGPD, PDPO, and PDPA
- Prospects and challenges for the African oil and gas industry in the era of the global drive for clean energy

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the conference. The details are as follows:

Date : 06 – 10 August 2023

Time : See attached programme

Venue : 2nd Floor, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Building, Unisa Main Campus, Preller Street, Pretoria, 0002

Ends/

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