

Deputy Director on a Mission Visit to Tanzania

The UNAFRI Deputy Director, Mr. John Kisembo was on a Mission Visit to Tanzania from the 13 – 18 July, 2009.

The visit was to interest Stakeholders in Tanzania to host a Regional Expert Meeting (REM) on examination malpractices for Eastern Africa; and also collaborate a joint activity on Examination Watch (Fraud), intended to address the widespread habit of examination cheating and other related malpractices thereto.

At the Police Headquarters, where he met the Inspector General (IG) Tanzania Police Force, Saidi Ally Mwema, the IG agreed that examination malpractices are a social problem with connivance with almost all actors.

He indicated that the police was ready to participate in the project; and the Experts' Meeting will identify best practices from the region for the benefit of all. The Police boss then agreed to the request of the Deputy Director saying the Tanzanian Police was ready to be the focal point in Tanzania for the Institute activities, and appointed Mr. Goefry Kamwela, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) as the Desk Officer in matter relating to UNAFRI.

Besides, as part of his Visit, the Deputy Director met with the Permanent Secretary (PS) Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Patrick Rutabanzibwa, where the PS supported the idea of holding a REM, and according to him is long overdue as all countries are experiencing similar problems. He said the exercise should cover certification as this is more common with job seekers tendering forged testimonies.

The PS then requested for software on crime statistics which should clearly define geographical and the age group at risk of being involved most in crime.

Meeting officials of the National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA), Mr. Kisembo clarified the air on the choice of Tanzania hosting the REM, was just a mere coincidence; as UNAFRI had earlier decided to host a pilot project in the country, and not on any research findings labeling Tanzania as a worst culprit of Exam Malpractices in the region.

He informed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be signed, once the decision to host a REM is arrived, specifying each party's duties and responsibilities. The NECTA technical staff led by Ms Glee Magembe also agreed that the Experts' Meeting would be followed by workshops that would include a wider spectrum of stakeholders which would be used for sensitization and awareness.

The meeting further agreed that UNAFRI will avail then more details and continue with discussions to facilitate the Experts' Meeting as soon as possible.

The Director on a Mission visit to the DRC

The UNAFRI Director, Dr. Masamba Sita, made a Mission visit to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) from 27 July – 1 August 2009.

During the 5 day visit, Dr Sita met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, H.E. Alexis Thambwe Mwamba in his office; and informed him of the election of The DRC into the Governing Board of UNAFRI, and the responsibilities of the Members of the Board. He further informed His Excellency of the forthcoming Conference of Ministers to either take place in Kampala or Nairobi; and promised to notify them of the Date and Venue by September.

The Minister immediately instructed officers in his Ministry to prepare formal letters to his colleagues in other concerned ministries and notify them of the country's new role in UNAFRI, and to take needed action.

In separate meetings, the Director/ Head of Mission also met the Ministers of State for Finance, Cesar Lubamba Ngimbi; and his counterpart in Budget, Alain LUBAMBA Wa LUBAMBA. They had a lengthy and fruitful discussion mostly on Assessed contribution of The DRC to UNAFRI. Both Ministers promised to regularize the situation.

Besides, the UNAFRI boss met with the Director of Prisons and his colleagues. He informed them about the successful Training Course for Correctional officers from Eastern Africa, which was held in UNAFRI secretariat in Kampala for 2 weeks. He said the course was meant for both uniformed and civilian correctional officers with relevant skills of executing their daily duties in their respective countries.

They expressed their desire of the same Course to be offered to them in The DRC; and promised to discuss the issue among colleagues, and make recommendation to His Excellency, the Minister of Justice, in order to invite formally UNAFRI to either offer the same Course solely to their country depending on availability of funds or to use Kinshasa as a venue for the Central African countries.