

UNAFRI in South Africa for a Pan African Monitoring and Evaluation Summit.

The UNAFRI Research and Policy Development Advisor (RPDA), Dr. Alhas Maicibi, participated as a Speaker at a Pan African Summit that dwelled on issues bordering on African countries' poor service delivery to the population which is premeditated by misappropriation, mismanagement, diversion of funds as well as corruption which was held in Pretoria, South Africa from 27 – 31 July, 2009.

In his presentation during the Summit titled *Monitoring and Evaluation of Projects: The Head or the Heart of a Project life?*, he traced the concept of Project Management; and explained it as a new method of quality control and restructuring of management by adapting special management techniques with the purpose of improving public service delivery to the right population at the right time.

The RPDA identified some key concepts in project management. These are Mission, Plan, Programme and Projects. Using a diagram to illustrate further, he explained that when a country has a mission to fulfill, it has to develop a Plan for that; and the plan would be an abstract vision which can only be concretized when programs have been drawn and implemented as various projects. During his presentation at the Conference, he posed to put it to the participants to examine whether or not their government regimes are a project.

He thus defined a Project with the following characteristics:

- it has a starting time and an end time;
- it has resources (people, material, equipment, money, etc);
- it has objectives and targets to achieve;
- it is monitored and evaluated by its owners;
- it can be terminated or not renewed by its owners.

Dr. Maicibi said project management entails three activities, which are: Project planning and design; Project implementation; and Project monitoring and evaluation. He gave a full description of the three steps and stressed that the above activities are interrelated and the success of the project depends on the success of each one of them. Linking this to a regime, he opined that if a government regime is a project, then, the project planning is the campaigning time; the project design is the election time; the project implementation is the governance duration; and the project monitoring and evaluation is the feel or views of the electorates on the performance of the project (regime).

Speaking further, he defined Project Monitoring as an on-going (continuous) process designed to check the progress of a project against its plan and modify the plan if necessary.

The author said monitoring goes hand in hand with evaluation since both are management tools, but evaluation is a continual activity that is facilitated by monitoring which is a continuous activity.

On the other hand, he defined Project Evaluation as a periodic (continual) process designed to ascertain the outcome, outputs and impact of completed or on-going project in order to provide recommendations on the future course of the project.

Dr. Macibi stated that Evaluation can be conducted in the following stages of project: design stage, project start-up, in-progress or formative evaluation, project wrap up or summative evaluation, and follow-up.

The RPDA further stated that Evaluation can be classified into two: Inclusionist and Exclusionist participation. The Inclusionist participation is when the stakeholders participate in the evaluation both as information seekers as well as givers; while the exclusionist evaluation is when the stake holders only participate as respondents (givers) and not part of the research team (seekers). He stressed that electorates should evaluate and monitor those they have elected (recruited) to act on their state to ensure that public services get to their destination; failure in which should lead to possible termination of project (regime) or non-reelection of the people in a regime.

Aside from speaking at the Summit, Dr Maicibi also visited the University of South Africa and University of Pretoria, among others, to enhance collaboration with the two institutions as well as to converse for research articles for the African Journal on Crime and Criminal Justice (AJCJ) being a publication of UNAFRI.

He also met Ms Ellen Hagerman (the Counsellor for Southern African

Regional development) who further referred him (Maicibi) to her counterpart, Ms Diane Briand, Counsellor for Eastern Africa, both of the Government of Canada where they had a discussion on possibility of joint activities such as funding the UNAFRI Examwatch project to be held in the Republic of Tanzania.



L-R : The research&Policy Development Advisor, Dr. Alhas Maicibi with the Head of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, African Union Commission, Dr Magdi M.Khalifa at the end of the Summit in Pretoria South Africa.