

Mr. President
Lady Chief Justice
Honourable Ministers of State
Honourable Members of Parliament
Members of the Diplomatic Corps
Vice Chancellor of the University of Ghana
The Provost, College of Humanities, University of Ghana
The Dean, School of Law, University of Ghana
Lecturers of the School of Law, University of Ghana
Distinguished members of the business community
Distinguished invited guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

I would like, on behalf of the organisers, to welcome you to this cocktail reception in support of efforts by the School of Law, University of Ghana, to raise funds to successfully host the 27th edition of the African Human Rights Moot Court Competition. We know how busy you are and we are therefore very grateful that you have made the time to be with us this evening.

The African Human Rights Moot Court Competition is an annual event that brings together law students, academics and judges from all over Africa to argue and debate human rights issues.

Since its inception in 1992, 145 universities, representing 50 African countries have taken part in the moot. During the competition, teams of students argue a hypothetical human rights case which is woven around topical human rights issues facing the continent before panels of academics and human rights experts. For the 2018 competition, the issues to be argued centre around human trafficking, counter-terrorism, corruption, the rights of women, the right of self-determination and the tensions/relationship between customary law, public law and international law.

The African Human Rights Moot Court Competition is the most important vehicle for human rights education in Africa. It is the largest annual gathering of students and lecturers of law in Africa, and one of the premier events on the African human rights calendar. The Competition prepares new generations of lawyers to argue cases of alleged human rights violations before the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. It is with pleasure that I inform you that the UNESCO Prize in 2006 and African Commission NGO Prize in 2012 recognised the unique contribution of the Moot Court Competition in advancing human rights education in Africa.

The African Moot Court Competition is the largest and oldest human rights initiative in Africa. No other event has a broader reach and a wider scope. As mentioned earlier over the last 27 years, 145 universities, representing 50 African countries, have participated in this premier event on the university and human rights calendar of the continent. More than 10,000 students have had the experience of this week-long event that has been held in the capital cities of 19 countries in all the sub-regions of Africa.

This significant programme is organised each year by the Centre for Human Rights, in collaboration with a faculty of law in a host country on the continent.

This year the African Moot Court Competition will be held here in Ghana, from 6 to 11 August.

The University of Ghana makes history by being only the third university on the continent to host this large, prestigious event. In 2000, 18 years ago, it was held in Accra, with the School of Law of the University of Ghana winning the competition for the very first time. Since then, the School of Law has emerged as one of the proud winners of subsequent editions: in 2008, 2009 and 2017, as well as being runners up in 2011. With this record and experience, the University of Ghana is well-placed to host this significant event.

The moot includes a one-day conference, which, is a multi-stakeholder gathering to discuss contemporary human rights issues on the continent. This involves government, civil society organisations, academics and legal practitioners from across the continent.

It is anticipated that up to 100 additional participants will attend the one-day international Conference, which will be held at the University of Ghana, Legon on 10 August 2018, bringing the total number of delegates to over 400.

Realising the special importance that the competition holds in promoting governance, respect for the rule of law, human rights and ultimately peace and development on the continent, the organisation of the event demands the support of all, hence the bringing together of the diplomatic community, the government of Ghana, the business community and some distinguished members of the general public to solicit your support, in cash and in kind, to ensure the successful execution of this event.

In anticipation of your support, the School of Law of the University of Ghana and its co-organizers, the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, have prepared a marketing and advertising package for your very kind consideration. Permit me to touch on some specific privileges for the sponsors of this important event. These include:

- Pre-event and event naming opportunities.
- Recognition on all social media platforms.
- Prominent features on billboards advertising this important event.
- Multiple opportunities to speak at the opening and final rounds including at dinner ceremonies.
- Recognition on the event website and at the venues of the week-long event.
- Free advertising on the 2019 University of Ghana School of Law calendars

- Reserved tables at all event activities including at dinners and cocktails.

We are aware that some of you, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, may want to support specific activities and as such, a catalogue of specific needs has been prepared. I would like to highlight these specific activities for your very kind consideration:

- First is air transportation for hardship cases, mainly faculties and schools of law in our region including Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, Niger and Chad. There are also determined students from war-torn regions of our continent who have worked very hard to participate who need sponsorship.
- Second is accommodation for students and their lecturers from hardship countries and faculties.
- Third is securing the presence of Judges of prominent courts on our continent who will adjudicate this important event.
- Fourth meals, local transportation and entertainment for participants.
- Fifth is an excursion to Elmina Castle and the White Sand Beach at Gomuah-Fetteh.
- Sixth is the day-long conference which will bring together scholars, human rights advocates, civil society organizations and key stakeholders from across the continent.

The School of Law will be happy to provide the list on demand.

Thank you for your attention and we hope that you will consider our requests favorably.