



مركز بحوث الرقابيين الأفارقة

African Ombudsman Research Centre

Centre de Recherche des Ombudsman Africains

Centro de Investigação da Provedoria de Justiça Africana

## MINUTES OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> AORC BOARD MEETING: 19 March 2013, LUANDA, ANGOLA

CHAIRPERSON: Adv T.N Madonsela, (Public Protector –South Africa)

MEMBERS: Dr Paulo Tjipilica (Ombudsman, Angola)  
Mme Alima Traore (Mediateur, Burkina Faso)

Mr Themba Mthethwa (CEO, OPP-SA)

PRESENT: Adv. Ishara Bodasing (AORC Secretariat)  
Mr Pierre Ndagirwa (Angola)  
Ms Kombila (Ombudsman, Gabon)  
Adv Walters (Ombudsman, Namibia)  
Ms Sokoni (Ombudsman, Zambia)  
Judge Manento (Ombudsman, Tanzania)  
Ms Sango (Deputy Ombudsman, Angola)  
Mr Makumbi (Uganda)  
Mr Tanon (Cote d'Ivoire)  
Mr Abudo (Ombudsman, Mozambique)  
Mr Moueta (Gabon)  
Mr Risenga (OPP-SA)  
Ms Nkabinde (OPP – SA)

APOLOGIES: Dr Managay Reddi (Dean, Law Faculty, UKZN)

Mr Lesala Mofokeng (Law Faculty, UKZN)

Mr Ruan Kitshoff (GIZ)

ABSENT: Judge Edmon Cowan (Ombudsman, Sierra Leone)

## 1. Opening & Welcome

The Chairperson opened the meeting, and all present were welcomed. The Chairperson informed those in attendance that it was decided at the last AORC Board meeting, that a short meeting will be held back to back with the next AOMA EXCO meeting in Luanda, to discuss the AORC Financial Report. Dr Tjipilica was thanked for availing an opportunity to the Board to meet at the Exco arranged and hosted by the Angolan Office.

## 2. Apologies, Additions to & Adoption of Agenda

Apologies were noted from Mr Kitshoff, Prof Reddi and Mr Mofokeng. Judge Cowan was noted as absent. The agenda was adopted, with the addition of an item on AORC supporting the attendance of the AU Commissioner and 2 officials at the AOMA Exco, under "Any Other Matters".

## 3. Remarks of AOMA President

Dr Tjipilica welcomed all present and thanked the Secretariat for organising this meeting.

## 4. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting held on 18 –19 February 2013, Durban

The Minutes were adopted, with amendments to the first item (Opening and Welcome), which should reflect the Chairperson's remarks on DIRCO's vision for the AORC in terms of the ARF, and the African footprint to be made by the AORC through its programmes.

## 5. AORC Financial Report

**Discussed:** The AORC Acting Director, assisted by the CEO in the Office of the Public Protector (OPP) presented the Financial Report, which was prepared by an official in the OPP.

In response to a query raised by Dr Tjipilica, the meeting was informed that the amounts paid for the Trips to Addis Ababa reflect expenses incurred in 2011 for the Secretariat to attend the AORC Board meeting. Those amounts incurred for the Public Protector, South Africa (PPSA) have been reversed to reimburse the AORC coffers.

Madam Sokoni was informed that the AORC offices, although sufficiently equipped for its current needs, will require further equipment when the interns and new Director assume office.

Mrs Traore asked what criteria are used to determine ... She further asked if AORC could pay for expenses of Board members, as these were a burden to affected Ombudsman offices. In response to Mrs Traore, it was explained that expenditure is eligible if it is in line with the AORC Strategic Plan. The Chairperson explained that it was up to the Board to decide on eligible items. She further asked the Board to take a resolution on the payment of expenses of Board members travelling outside their country.

**Decision:** all Board Members attending a meeting from abroad will have their travel costs sponsored by the AORC. The final financial report must be audited and translated into French.

**Action:** the AORC Secretariat, through the Finance Unit in the PPSA, must get the financial statements audited, and add a section for support to Board members attending meetings from abroad. The Secretariat must get the Financial report translated into French.

## 6. Any Other Matters

AORC support for attendance of the AU Commissioner and 2 officials:

**Discussion:** Dr Tjipilica requested assistance from AORC to sponsor the travel and accommodation expenses for the AU Commissioner and 2 officials who had attended the AOMA Exco Meeting.

**Decision:** this could not be supported because it would more appropriately fall under AOMA expenses. Furthermore, in terms of the South African law (Public Finance Management Act) an expense has to be authorised before it is incurred.

AORC can support an AOMA Exco if it is combined with legitimate training, provided authorisation is secured before execution.

**Action:** the request can be presented to the AOMA Exco.

Next meeting: June 2013, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

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ADV. T. N. MADONSELSA  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE AORC BOARD  
DATE: