



مركز بحوث الرقابيين الأفارقة

African Ombudsman Research Centre

Centre de Recherche des Ombudsman Africains

Centro de Investigação da Provedoria de Justiça Africana

RESEARCH PROGRAMME

A. Introduction

The African Ombudsman and Mediators Association (AOMA) is a regional organisation for ombudsman and mediators in Africa. At present 38 African states are members of AOMA. The objectives of the AOMA are to encourage the establishment of African ombudsman institutions, to provide information, training and development of ombudsman offices and staff, to promote good governance, to promote the independence and autonomy of ombudsman offices and to foster affiliation and maintain liaison between ombudsman offices and other relevant institutions and organizations.

The African Ombudsman Research Centre (AORC) is an initiative of the AOMA whose Secretariat is the Public Protector of South Africa. The objective of the AORC is to serve as a focal point for ombudsman offices in Africa, by coordinating their activities and supporting them with the provision of information and training, and acting as a point of liaison with all participants involved in enhancing corporate governance in Africa.

One of the key objectives of AOMA is to encourage the establishment, development and promotion of African Ombudsman institutions through mutual support, co-operation and joint activities through information sharing, training, and development of Ombudsman and staff. The role of AORC is to provide to AOMA members and Ombudsman institutions service in the following areas: Information, Coordination, Training, Advocacy and **Research**.

B. Background

The GIZ supported the information, coordination, training, advocacy and research needs assessment of AOMA that inform the functioning of the AORC. The needs assessment consisted of desktop-based research, from the analysis of which a questionnaire was developed and circulated to the African Ombudsman Offices of AOMA-members. The Needs Assessment Report was presented and discussed at a workshop of the AOMA-member states during the launch of the AORC. It highlighted the pressing need for research into the various legal systems and laws governing the ombudsman function within AOMA members, with a view to assist in lobbying for improvements in all spheres thereof. It became evident that the AOMA members require assistance in the areas identified by the ICTAR Objectives (Information, Coordination, Training, Advocacy and **Research**) in varying degrees.

C. Objectives

The aim of the Research Programme is to subject the AOMA landscape to scrutiny with a view to informing its future strategy and planning processes. AOMA has endured many challenges, as individual offices and as AOMA members, especially in respect of the diversity of legal systems governing their structures.

D. Proposed projects

Given that the most urgent challenge facing AOMA is related to capacity building and institution strengthening, the following projects are proposed to form part of AORC's Training Programme:

1. Project title	Comparative analysis of legal systems, particularly aspects governing the Ombudsman Offices that are members of AOMA
Deliverable	A comprehensive comparative analysis report containing the qualitative and quantitative research findings
Sample	1 member from each of the six regions, plus two other Ombudsman offices (the oldest and the newest)
Duration of project	6 months
Budget	R370K
2. Project title	Enforcement and Implementation of Ombudsman's Decisions
Deliverable	Report on areas of shortcomings, process inefficiencies and external factors that have been identified as impeding the efficacy of the sample's contribution to good governance and fair public administration
Sample	All AOMA members.
Duration of project	6 months
Budget	R370K
3. Project title	AOMA History Book
Deliverable	Comprehensive study and narrative on the institutional history of AOMA and origins of the AORC
Sample	Desk top research and interviews with past Ombudsman
Duration of project	4 months (based on initial draft)
Budget	GIZ funded
4. Project title	Review of AOMA Needs Assessment
Deliverable	Report on the extent to which AORC is delivering on its mandate

Sample	All Ombudsman that are members of AOMA, AORC Secretariat
Duration of project	3 months
Budget	R370K
5. Project title	Jurisprudence
Deliverable	Database of Ombudsman Decisions as a source of reference
Sample	All Ombudsman that are members of AOMA
Duration of project	Ongoing
Budget	
6. Project title	Conditions of Service and Protocol in Ombudsman Offices
Deliverable	Create profiles of security packages, staffing and appointments, with a view to ascertaining autonomy and effectiveness to carry out mandate.
Sample	All Ombudsman that are members of AOMA
Duration of project	2 months
Budget	

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