

University of Pretoria and the Pan African Parliament sign MOU for a better African Union

By Erika de Wet

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Fitr: Prof Erika de Wet (Co-Director of the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa), Prof André Boraine (Dean of the UP Faculty of Law), the Honorable Bethel Nnaemeka Amadi (President of the Pan African Parliament), the Honorable Roger Nkodo Dang (First Vice-President of the Pan African Parliament) and at the back is Ms Helen Dingani (Deputy Clerk Legislative Business).

On 28 August 2012, the Pan African Parliament (PAP) and the University of Pretoria (UP), through the Faculty of Law's Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa (ICLA), concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to build the capacity of the PAP in the areas of development and harmonisation of laws in line with African Union (AU) instruments.

The signing of the MOU took place at the Pan African Parliament in Gallagher Estate, Midrand.

PAP representatives and signees were the current President, the Honourable Bethel Nnaemeka Amadi, First Vice-President, the Honourable Roger Nkodo Dang, and Ms Helen Dingani, Deputy Clerk of Legislative Business. Professors Erika de Wet and André Boraine represented the UP, ICLA and the Faculty of Law.

The President of PAP said he was hopeful that, among other things, the newly established relationship will extend the capacity of PAP to bring the national legislation of AU member states in line with AU policies, and support the critical transformation of the Parliament.

The MOU's key activities included providing the PAP library with books published by *Pretoria University Law Press* (PULP) and placing UP students as interns at the PAP. Further, in terms of the MOU, the PAP will be granted access to the Faculty's Law of Africa Collection. Prof André Boraine, Dean of the Faculty of Law, added that the Faculty was privileged and excited to be spearheading this initiative, and pointed out that 85% of its postgraduate students were from various countries across Africa.

Prof Erika de Wet, Co-director at the ICLA, stated that although preparing the documents and committing to them was a thorough and vigorous exercise for both parties, she was delighted to sign and witness the adoption of the MOU. She further said that "the Faculty of Law www.up.ac.za/law and the Institute for International and Comparative Law in Africa www.up.ac.za/icla engage in advanced research on issues of law that are relevant to Africa in particular. The aim is to contribute towards enhancing the role and the rule of law in Africa. We are convinced that law needs to play a stronger role on the continent so as to achieve its full potential. Collaboration with PAP will provide the institution with much-needed research capacity that will support its work in the field of legal reform in Africa."

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