



REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PAN-AFRICAN LAWYERS' ASSOCIATION PAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE OAU HEADQUARTERS

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The Secretary General of the OAU, Mr. Amara Essy on Monday, February 4, 2002, received and held talks with a high level delegation of the Pan-African Lawyers' Association, led by its current President the Rt. Hon. Peter Adjetey, Speaker of the Parliament in Ghana.

Briefing the Secretary General and some senior officials of the OAU General Secretariat, Hon. Adejety paid tribute to African leaders for deploying efforts to establish the African Union, which he described as an achievement of tremendous importance, according to an OAU press release.

Hon. Adjetey stated that although, members of the Association belonged to the International Bar Association, that those from Africa decided to create a Continent-Wide Pan-African Lawyers' Association would help to address African concerns in the international fora and assist in providing legal support towards the establishment of the African Union. He observed that African Lawyers as a legal and integral part of the civil society organizations of Africa, had an important role to play particularly in promoting and protecting fundamental human rights, in ensuring the independence of judges and lawyers, and in maintaining good governance, democracy and the rule of law within the continent.

Hon. Adjetey further disclosed that the African Lawyers' Association had agreed on its constitution and mission statement and on the location of the headquarters to be in Addis Ababa, and was now working towards formally launching the Continent-wide Association.

Mr. Essy in response expressed satisfaction with the efforts so far deployed by the African Lawyers' in establishing a continent-wide association and welcomed any assistance it would offer in popularizing the principles and objectives of the African Union. He assured the representatives of the Pan-African Lawyers' Association of his personal support and that of the Secretariat.

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