

THE UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL

&

THE AFRICAN OMBUDSMAN RESEARCH CENTRE
(AORC). A RESEARCH AND TRAINING ARM OF
THE AFRICAN OMBUDSMAN AND MEDIATORS'
ASSOCIATION (AOMA)

**- Cordially invites you to a Facilitated Discussion -
AOMA, THE IOI AND THE VALUE OF BEING A MEMBER**

Tuesday, 25 January 2022

The existence of the institution of the Ombudsman ensures a certain access to administrative justice that is not possible without it. The mandate of Ombudsman is to be an effective voice for the voiceless and change agent for good governance, human rights and the rule of law.

The Ombudsman is an independent, impartial public official with authority and responsibility to receive, investigate or informally address complaints about government actions, and, where appropriate, make findings and recommendations, and publish reports.

The African Ombudsman and Mediators Association (AOMA), founded in 2003, is a membership organization of 41 National Ombudsman and 6 sector Ombudsman. The official languages of AOMA are Arabic, English, French and Portuguese. The objectives of the AOMA are to; encourage the establishment of African Ombudsman institutions; provide information, training and development for Ombudsman and staff; promote good governance; support the independence of Ombudsman offices; and foster affiliation among Ombudsman offices and other relevant institutions.

The International Ombudsman Institute (IOI), established in 1978, is the only global organisation for the cooperation of more than 200 independent Ombudsman institutions from more than 100 countries worldwide. The IOI is committed to promoting the Ombudsman concept and it does so in a variety of ways. It raises awareness and encourages the creation of Ombudsman institutions where they do not exist. It promotes information exchange and helps members build capacity by way of shared learning and training. The IOI funds research and projects that are of importance to its members and it supports Ombudsman institutions who come under threat or operate under difficult circumstances. In this webinar, the speakers will discuss the role that AOMA and the IOI play in Africa; their function, how they operate, the value of being a member and how these institutions could be tools to strengthen the capacity of Ombudsman institutions to be an efficient service that is responsive to the needs of the citizens of their respective countries.

Please click on the RSVP link below should you wish to participate.

DATE

Tuesday, 25 January 2022

TIME

10h00 – 11h30

SPEAKERS

Speaker 1:

Hon. Caroline Sokoni, Public Protector, Zambia,
who will discuss the value of being a member of AOMA.

Speaker 2:

Hon. Chris Field, President of the IOI and Western Austrian Ombudsman,
who will discuss the function of the IOI and how it operates.

Speaker 3:

Hon. Werner Amon, IOI Secretary General and Ombudsman of Austria,
who will discuss the value of being a member of the IOI and how the institution is a tool to strengthen the capacity of
Ombudsman institutions

Speaker 4:

Advocate John Walters, former Ombudsman of Namibia
who will explain why it is important to belong to both organisations

FACILITATOR

Hon. Florence Kajuju, Ombudsman, Kenya, Secretary General of AOMA, President of IOI-Africa region

RSVP [HERE](#)

Please note that there will be no live question and answers due to time constraints. Participants may however submit relevant questions to Franky Lwelela (Lwelela@ukzn.ac.za) or Marion Adonis (adonism@ukzn.ac.za) by

10:00 on Monday, 24 January 2021 or use the Q & A function during the webinar. Time has been allocated for a response to questions raised before and during the session. If there is insufficient time to respond to all, the questions and answers will be made available on the AOMA/AORC website www.aoma.ukzn.ac.za.

ENQUIRIES ONLY

Franky Lwelela

Email: Lwelela@ukzn.ac.za

OR

Marion Adonis

Email : adonism@ukzn.ac.za

SPEAKER & FACILITATOR

PROFILES



Hon. Florence Kajuju, is the Chairperson of the Commission on Administrative Justice (Office of the Ombudsman), the Secretary General of AOMA and President of the IOI-Africa region. Hon. Kajuju is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. She holds an LLB degree from the University of Nairobi and a Post-Graduate Diploma from the Kenya School of Law. Hon. Kajuju previously served in Parliament as the Women Representative for Meru County and is a former Vice-President of the Law Society of Kenya

Hon. Caroline Chuma Zulu Sokoni, the current Public Protector of Zambia, has served in the office of the Country's National Ombudsman for fifteen (15) years. She began her professional career in 1989 as a State Advocate under the then Ministry of Legal Affairs (now known as Ministry of Justice). She has a Masters of Law in Criminology from Queen Mary and Westfield College, University of London in the United Kingdom and served under the Ministry of Justice for fifteen years. She was appointed as Acting Director of Public Prosecutions for the Republic of Zambia in February 2004 and was also appointed as the Task Team leader for the Legal component of the Water Resources Management Project, a policy formulation body tasked to spearhead the reform of the Water Resources Management process in Zambia. She presided over the Town and Country Planning Tribunal as the Vice Chairperson between 2003 and 2005. In November 2004, she was appointed as the Investigator General for Zambia's National Ombudsman Office. At the time of her appointment the Office was known as the Commission for Investigations.



Mr. Chris Field is the Western Australian Ombudsman and President of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI). Chris is currently Australia's longest serving Ombudsman, being first appointed in 2007. He concurrently holds the roles of Energy and Water Ombudsman and Chair, State Records Commission. He is also an Adjunct Professor in the School of Law at the University of Western Australia. On 27 May 2021 he commenced his four-year term as President of the IOI. He previously served on the IOI World Board as Second Vice President between 2016 and 2020, Treasurer between 2014 and 2016 and President of the Australasian and Pacific Ombudsman Region between 2012 and 2014. Chris also teaches the University of Western Australia's advanced administrative law unit Government Accountability – Law and Practice and is the author of a range of publications on the ombudsman and administrative law. He holds Arts and Law (Honours) degrees, having articulated at one of the world's leading commercial law firms Arthur Robison and Hedderwicks (now Allens/Linklaters).

Mr. Werner Amon was a Member of Parliament for 25 years. He was the Chairman of the Austrian delegation to the Council of Europe (CoE) and Vice-President of the CoE's Parliamentary Assembly. Mr Amon was elected as one of the three Austrian Ombudsman in July 2019. As Ombudsman, he is responsible for monitoring the administration of the judiciary, the public prosecution and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as investigating complaints concerning communal matters. Since 2019, Mr Amon is the Secretary General of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI).



Adv. John Walters is the former Ombudsman of Namibia (2004-2021). He obtained the degrees BA (1977) and LLB (1980) from the University of the Western Cape in South Africa and was admitted as advocate of the Supreme Court of South Africa (South West Africa Division; as it was then called) in 1981. Mr Walters has been a career prosecutor since 1981 and magistrate since 1985. He spent some time in private practice until appointed as Acting Prosecutor-General in December 2002 until 31 December 2003. From April 1998 until March 2006, Mr Walters was the Chairperson of the Transportation Commission of Namibia; he was a member of the Board for Legal Education from 1996 to March 2004 and a member (ex officio) of the Law Reform and Development Commission of Namibia since July 2004 until date. Mr Walters was also a Board member of the African Ombudsman Research Centre. Mr Walters was appointed as Ombudsman of the Republic of Namibia in July 2004. He succeeded Adv. Bience Gawanas as the third substantive Ombudsman of Namibia. He joined the International Ombudsman Institute (I.O.I) Board of Directors as African Regional Vice-President in 2009. He was elected 1st Vice-President of the IOI in 2012 and President of the IOI in October 2014. His term of office as President of the IOI ended in November 2016