

## Return to normalcy at the Court

After working from home and later in shifts since April 2020, the Court officially resumed normal operations on 27 October 2020. This decision was made in view of the Covid-19 situation in the host country, and following advice from the Covid-19 Task Force of the Court, in consultation with Registry management and the President of the Court. It was decided that it was safe to return to the office, while observing basic preventive measures.

**COVID-19**  
**LIBRARY UPDATES**

## Training sessions

The Library took part in a number of training sessions held in the second half of the year. These included training on how to create, fill and sign documents electronically, training on procedures in international courts and leveraging digital resources, online training on judgment

drafting and various Covid-19 briefing sessions.



### LOCATION AND CONTACTS

The Court has its seat in Arusha, in the United Republic of Tanzania.

### Physical Address:

Julius Nyerere Conference Centre  
TANAPA Phase 2 , Dodoma Road  
Arusha, Tanzania

### Contact details:

*Librarian*  
P O Box 6274 Arusha, Tanzania  
Tel.: +255-27 2970430, Ext 1801  
Email: [library@african-court.org](mailto:library@african-court.org) and  
[fidelis.mutisya@african-court.org](mailto:fidelis.mutisya@african-court.org)  
Website: [www.african-court.org/library](http://www.african-court.org/library)



**African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights**

## Library Newsletter

*Issue 3, July-December 2020*



**"Protecting Human Rights in Africa"**

### **African Court officially receives book donation from ILBF**

On 5th August, the Court officially received 500 books from the International Law Book Foundation (ILBF). The ceremony was presided over by the President of the Court, Hon. Justice Sylvain Ore, and was attended by Hon. Judges Tijulane Chizumila and Blaise Tchicaya, the Registrars, heads of divisions and staff.



The collection was initially the private library of Professor Hugh Thirlway, a renowned professor of international law. Upon his death in October 2019, they were given to the ILBF to bequeath to a deserving law library. The African Court Library was the chosen lucky library to receive them. The Court was identified as a deserving recipient by Sir Michael Charles

Wood KCMG, a former Legal Adviser at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and now member of the International Law Commission and Prof. Dire Tladi of the Department of Public Law and the Institute of International and Comparative Law in Africa of the University of Pretoria. The court is profoundly grateful to them for their interest in the Court and for proposing our Library.



### **A pandemic and new ways of working At the Court**

The onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020 ushered in new ways of working for many organisations. Many of these new ways were hitherto not given much thought. Due to the social distancing requirements recommended in fighting the pandemic, many functions are currently being carried out

virtually. The African Court has not been an exception.



In a first of its kind, and never imagined before, the 57<sup>th</sup>, 58<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> ordinary sessions of the African Court were held virtually. Their success astounded all and sundry. Ordinary routine meetings of the Registry such as unit and divisional meetings were also held virtually. Library support for court sessions was also done virtually.



In order to maintain social distancing, staff continued to work in shifts of two weeks till 26 October 2020.