

**REPUBLIC OF RWANDA**



**MINISTRY OF JUSTICE**

**ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING WORKSHOP**

**Kigali Lemigo 12-13 December 2017**

**Opening Remarks by Head of International Justice and Judicial Cooperation  
Department**

Distinguished Participants,  
Ladies and gentlemen,  
Good morning !

On behalf Hon. Minister of Justice and Attorney General, I take pleasure in welcoming you to this Anti-Money Laundering workshop.

First I wish to extend a warm welcome to our visitors from Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) Africa Alliance Partnership (AAP), especially to our two facilitators who, during these two days, will be sharing with us, techniques used in detecting, investigating and prosecuting this non-traditional offense.

Our Justice system and indeed the entire Government, takes very seriously the threats posed by money laundering to our financial systems particularly and to the national security in general. This reputed billion-dollar illegal activity has the power not only to undermine the integrity of financial entities, but also to corrupt legitimate industries, threaten the political stability of State and damage the reputation of companies and the entire nation as a result.

Given our unique relationship with the justice system, we have a critical role to play in erasing risks of money laundering in our country. Many financial institutions are potential vehicles for the cleansing of ill-gotten gains, and it is important that we not only promote the development and application of sound Anti Money Laundering measures in our systems, but also review the effectiveness of detecting, investigating and prosecuting such acts.

I must interject here, that although this workshop's critical focus is 'Anti-Money Laundering', the related threat of terrorism financing cannot be ignored. Financial institutions worldwide are funnels for terrorism funding and as such the construct of any comprehensive framework and practice must seek to simultaneously tackle the dual threats posed by both types of acts, and I note from the Agenda that a session has been quite appropriately devoted to this related topic.

Fundamental in any structured and cohesive counter attack to these twin threats, is the ability for responsible institutions to share intelligence not only with other national agencies, but also with external organs.

I am aware, that in the face of some challenges, intensive work has taken place across the country, and is continuing, to strengthen our legislative framework

and implement effective anti-money laundering programmes consistent with international best practice.

In this conjunction, you are all aware of a bill on Prevention and Penalizing Money Laundering and Financing Terrorism which is under consideration before the parliament; in the coming days, it will be enacted and will resolve many challenges faced while prosecuting those offenses and it will also be made easier for our judicial system to apply the appropriate sanctions.

As law enforcement agencies, financial institutions and regulators, Police officers, prosecutors and other institutions involved in detecting, investigating and prosecuting crimes associated with money laundering and the financing of terrorism, we now have an important role to play in making our systems as non-user-friendly as possible to all those who would subvert them to cleanse their “dirty” money.

Statistics shows that so far only one (1) case of Money Laundering was prosecuted and is still pending before the court of law; this is not a confirmation that we do not have those offenses in our Country, though it is the wish of everyone. However, we need to make sure that we do all we can to detect and investigate those offenses as the main aim of this workshop is to equip us with additional capacity and expertise in order to perfect our job in the fight against money laundering.

In closing, partnership among relevant institutions in detecting, investigating and prosecuting crimes associated with money laundering and the financing of terrorism is a key to having a country free from money laundering and terrorism.

Let me once again express our thanks to the Conference of Western Attorneys General (CWAG) Africa Alliance Partnership (AAP) for being ever ready and willing to facilitate this workshop. I am confident that this workshop will energize and better equip our participants to undertake the very material responsibilities that have been reposed in them. For all our overseas visitors, I do hope that you will find time to enjoy the cultural and culinary delights of our beautiful country before your return home.

**Distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen, with these remarks, I hereby wish you fruitful deliberations and a wonderful day.**

Thank you