

16TH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' SEMINAR: JUDICIAL POWER IN MODERN SOCIETY

12TH – 16TH NOVEMBER 2019, VILNIUS UNIVERSITY, LITHUANIA



The Rule of Law Program for Sub Saharan Africa supported the participation of African students from Kenyatta University at the 16th International Students' Seminar that was held in Vilnius, Lithuania. The seminar was held between 12th and 16th November 2019 and focused on the Judicial Power in Modern Society. It was attended by undergraduate and postgraduate students from Vilnius University, Lithuania; Kenyatta University, Kenya; University of Cologne, Germany; Lomonosov Moscow State University, Russia; University of Łódź, Poland, University of Pécs, Hungary and the European Humanities University (Belorussian exile university based in Vilnius).

Among the key note speakers at the seminar were Professor Arturas Zukauskas the Rector at Vilnius University, Professor Tomas Davulis Dean of the Vilnius University Faculty of Law, Augustina Zamuškevičiūtė (Konrad Adenauer Foundation representative) and Prof. Vaidotas A. Vaičaitis, a member of the organizing committee.

On their part, the students discussed various pertinent topics under the broad themes of ***Judiciary and Separation of Powers; Judicial independence and***

immunity; The Judiciary in fight with Populism; The role of constitutional courts in modern democracy and Role of Constitutional Arts in Modern Democracy.

The presentations made included;

- i. Constitutional court as part of judicial branch in Lithuania;
- ii. Doctrine of separation of powers (emphasis on the role of the Judiciary);
- iii. Constitutional Interpretation: Clarifying Legal Uncertainties or Creating New Provisions?
- iv. Election of the Judges at the German Federal Constitutional Court and the Modalities of the Office,
- v. How the European union protects judicial independence within the member states;
- vi. the independence of the judiciary in the Republic of Belarus, Kenya & Poland;
- vii. Judicial independence and the right to fair trial in international law;
- viii. Public interest and Human Rights;
- ix. Compatibility of investor-state dispute settlement under the European Union law;
- x. Judicial independence in the European Court of Human Rights;
- xi. Judicial dialogue;
- xii. Meaning of populism and how it manifests itself in various jurisdictions with a key focus on Kenyan politics;
- xiii. Role of Constitutional review in modern democracies;
- xiv. Role and characteristics of the German Constitutional Court and its interplay with European courts; and
- xv. Judicial review vs judicial activism in modern democracy.

In addition to the discussion sessions, the students got a chance to tour the National Court Administration where they were informed of the history of the Lithuanian judiciary, the structure of the Lithuanian court system as well as the role of the National Court administration in the Lithuanian judicial system.