

**OPENING REMARKS OF THE CHIEF JUSTICE DR. FAUSTIN NTEZILYAYO DURING  
THE LAUNCH OF CIArb RWANDA BRANCH**

**Kigali, Hôtel des Milles Collines, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

**Honorable Minister of Justice/ Attorney General of Rwanda;**

**Chairman of CIArb Kenya Branch;**

**Chairman of CIArb Rwanda Branch;**

**Senior Advocates;**

**Distinguished Guests;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

**Good afternoon;**

I am very pleased to be with you today on the official launch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) Rwanda Branch. This is yet another important step in building a strong arbitration and ADR community in Rwanda more than ten years after the establishment of the Kigali International Arbitration Centre (KIAC) and 4 years after the African Arbitration Association, whose headquarters is in Kigali, has held its inaugural General Assembly. A big thank you to all distinguished guests and participants: Representatives of justice institutions, national and international arbitration and ADR practitioners, representatives of the private sector, legal practitioners, academia, etc.

CIArb Rwanda Branch launch comes at a very timely moment when Rwanda as a country, has turned towards the promotion and empowerment of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), arbitration included. This can be evidenced by the just adopted ADR Policy in 2022 which gives great hope that the future of arbitration and other alternative resolution mechanisms is very promising.

Rwanda has embarked on an agenda of creating a favorable and competitive business environment. Thus, the work of CIArb Rwanda Branch, a professional membership organization affiliated to the CIArb London, will contribute significantly on this front as it expands and develops opportunities for training, networking and information exchange, and collaborates with the Rwandan Judiciary and other justice institutions to enhance the administration of, and access to justice.

Negotiated solutions are vital for the effectiveness of regulatory systems in local, regional and international trade. We will all recall that many years ago, traders discovered that commercial arbitration would enable them to adjudicate their differences quickly, cheaply, privately and fairly, this emphasizes the cardinal role of arbitration in the process of doing business which is at the centre of Rwandan governance. On the other hand, Arbitration like any other ADR process is also counted on to reduce backlogs of cases in court dockets, thus acting as a catapult to quality and timely justice we all strive to have on a daily basis.

CIArb Rwanda Branch will also reinforce the ambition of Kigali International Arbitration Centre (KIAC) to make Rwanda as one of the preferred seat and place of arbitration and other ADR mechanisms in Africa and beyond.

The Judiciary of Rwanda is much aware of the key role the courts have in facilitating arbitration at various stages of arbitral proceedings, that is before reference to arbitration, during the course of arbitral proceedings and after the arbitral award. It will continue to fulfil its supportive role to arbitral proceedings. In fact, courts have been continuously encouraged to adopt a pro-arbitration approach in all stages of the arbitration process and every time they are called upon to make rulings on arbitration disputes such as enforcement of arbitration

agreements; assistance with the arbitral process by appointing arbitrators; decision on challenges related to the appointment of arbitrators; granting interim measures; setting aside of arbitral awards; and enforcement of international arbitral awards. I would like to assure all practitioners in arbitration and ADR that courts will continue to play a constructive and positive role in making sure that ADR process including arbitration continues to thrive in all ways needed.

As for any young institution, CIArb Rwanda Branch needs the support of all of us to grow and I hope that we will all provide all kinds of support that will enable it to develop and fulfill its mission and vision in a sustainable way and be an institute of excellence in advancing capacity building in arbitration and ADR while ensuring that the practice of arbitration and ADR is professionally and ethically conducted.

As I conclude my short remarks, allow me once again to thank you for having made time to be part of this important for the arbitration and ADR community in Rwanda. And it is on this note that I officially declare CIArb Rwanda Branch launched.

**Thank you for your kind attention.**