



Press Release

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**CoRMSA joins the continent in Celebrating the Africa Day - “Our Africa, Our Future”**

CoRMSA joins the rest of the African continent in observing and celebrating the Africa Day, which marks the founding of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) in 1963. This year’s celebration marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) now the African Union (AU). Africa Day is intended to celebrate and acknowledge the successes of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU now the AU) from its creation on May 25, 1963, in the fight against colonialism and oppression, as well as the progress that Africa has made towards an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.

CoRMSA believes that the hard fought liberation by many African countries through its citizens and the creation of Pan Africanism was meant to unite Africans for peaceful coexistence free from hatred and discrimination. However, the current practical life situation betrays the whole purpose of all this as we continue to witness hatred and discrimination of one African by the other. This year’s Africa Day theme: **“Our Africa, our future”** which is supposed to drive Africans to be united, is underpinned by the social ills such as racism, afrophobia, xenophobia including institutionalised xenophobia i.e. health and education exclusion, racial discrimination, injustices, hate speech, including related intolerances and gender based violence directed to the LGBTQI+ group. All these incidences seem to portray the return of colonialism, oppression and social exclusion under our own African leadership.

In light of this, CoRMSA believes that unity, peace and solidarity among African communities can only be restored if coordinated efforts are implemented in the fight against these social ills to mitigate xenophobic challenges, hate speech and other intolerances and promote social cohesion in our communities. CoRMSA calls African member states to develop an inclusive and strengthen their policies to curb such intolerable actions that divide Africans and to ensure that all socio-economic challenges affecting us are engaged and addressed. By so doing, we will resuscitate the principles of Ubuntu without considering one’s nationality. Only then, can we proudly say **“Our Africa, Our Future”**

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