



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTRE FOR MARITIME LAW AND SECURITY AFRICA (CEMLAWS AFRICA) LECTURES AT IMLI

Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali (Executive Director of the Centre for Maritime Law and Security Africa and IMLI graduate of the Class of 2001-2002) visited the IMO International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) on 21 March 2018 and delivered a lecture on “Law of the Sea and Maritime Security in The Gulf of Guinea” to the IMLI Class of 2017-2018.



Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali (the Executive Director of the Centre for Maritime Law and Security Africa) meeting the IMLI Class of 2017-2018

Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali commenced his lecture by defining the “Gulf of Guinea” region and the foundations to be considered and legal doctrines that apply in establishing Maritime Security jurisdiction. His presentation consisted of two (2) parts. The first part of his lecture was on the

Law of the Sea Regime in the Gulf of Guinea and the second part on Maritime Security Developments in the Gulf of Guinea.

On the first part of his discussion (the Law of the Sea Regime in the Gulf of Guinea), he highlighted key events in Gulf of Guinea's history *vis-à-vis* the Law of the Sea, including the contribution of the region to the legal jurisprudence of the Law of Sea through particular ITLOS and ICJ Cases. This started from the M/V Saiga Case (St Vincent-Guinea), which was the first case of ITLOS. For the second part of his lecture, he discussed the current state of maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, highlighting piracy and IUU and also discussed regional and global efforts at addressing the maritime security threats.

In an interview with the editor of the IMLI e-news, Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali had this to say:

It is a great pleasure for me to be back at IMLI. Coming back to Malta brings fond memories. It is also like coming back home, where my maritime career started. Here is where I did my LLM on Maritime Law and that provided me with my foundation. Coming back to IMLI, I knew that I was coming back to an environment that is very traditional. Even at my time, we had students from different backgrounds, but also, different nationalities. And that is what is remarkable and unique of IMLI. I had the opportunity of lecturing a combined class and roughly, I could see something close to 40 nationalities in the class. There are very few places that you would see this diversity.. I have also seen that the Faculty has increased, it has diversified and has become much more international. So I have come back home (IMLI) with a greater difference than when I left 16 years ago.

On the relevance of his studies at IMLI to his career development, Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali said:

IMLI training was very relevant to my career advancement. I had just been commissioned to the Navy in the year 1999, and in two (2) years, I was in IMLI. Typically, like many lawyers, you have spent many years studying the law, except Maritime law and the Law of the Sea. I was employed in the legal department of the Ghana Navy, yet my legal training had not been on the law of the sea. It was in the quest of having that knowledge to be able to deliver and meet the expectations of the Ghana Navy that I came to IMLI. Indeed, it was in the interest of the Ghana Navy and the Ghana Armed Forces to have somebody who will have the knowledge to promote or further the work of the Navy. I was not here just for the academic programme but also to have the training that would transform the maritime enforcement role of the Ghana Navy.. So the knowledge I gathered from here has helped transform the Ghana Navy. It has now informed the operational responses of the Navy. It has also helped put in place operational guidelines that the Navy requires. Enforcement can be on the basis of national law, but must also be consistent with international law, which is also very crucial because of the peculiar nature of the maritime environment.

When asked to describe IMLI, Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali said:

To describe IMLI in a word or two, you have to go back and appreciate what IMLI is. It was and still a very deep pleasure and privilege to have my IMLI training under Professor David Attard. Looking back 16 years ago, sitting in the lecture of Professor Attard was a privilege because you have somebody at the height of the Law of the Sea, who is teaching the subject. So it gives you all the energy and all the encouragement and the guidance to be able to pursue the subject. So I remain very appreciative to Professor Attard, Professor Norman Martinez and some of them who are not here and a greater sense of indebtedness to IMLI and I am happy to have come back to the same home, but a home of great transformation. I look forward to coming back and contributing more to the work of IMLI set in the global community.



Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali (the Executive Director of the Centre for Maritime Law and Security Africa) meeting the IMLI Class of 2017-2018

Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali (Captain, Ghana Navy) is the Executive Director of the Centre for Maritime Law and Security Africa. He holds a PhD in Law, Master of Laws and Master of Arts in International Relations and has an academic interest in Maritime Security and Ocean Governance. He has over 20 years of legal experience and has since 2003, been engaged in Law of the Sea capacity building and Maritime Security policy shaping at the national, regional and global levels. He has participated in several global initiatives, regularly providing expert input/support to the activities of international partners in the sub-region, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Dr. Kamal-Deen Ali is a Senior Fellow of the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security, an Associate of the Corbett Centre for Maritime Policy, United Kingdom, and an Associate of the Africa Security Dialogue and Research. He has published extensively and is highly regarded for his pioneering work focusing on Africa and the Gulf of Guinea. His latest book, “Maritime Security Cooperation in the Gulf of Guinea: Prospects and Challenges” provides ground-breaking analysis of the maritime security situation in the Gulf of Guinea and its

implications for shipping, oil and gas industry, submarine cables and pipelines, sustainable fisheries and regional security.

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