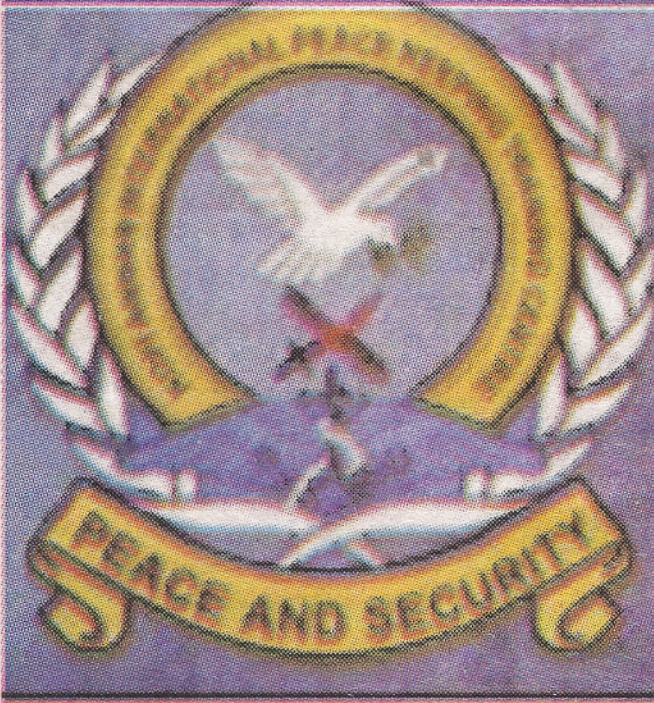


# THE **NEW** CRUSADING GUIDE

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## RULE OF LAW IS KEY TO PEACE

- *KAIPTC Dep. Commandant*



Brig. Gen. Kofi Adjei, Deputy Commandant of the Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Centre (KAIPTC), has stated that rule of law is absolutely important to the maintenance of peace, law and order the whole world over.

He was speaking at the opening ceremony of the first ever rule of law training programme organized for judicial officers in United Nations (UN) peace keeping operations at the KAIPTC. In his words, "It is increasingly recognized globally that the absence of functioning judicial and legal systems can contribute to the outbreak of armed conflict."

He further stated that the importance of rule of law was to re-establish, strengthen and reform the judicial and legal systems in order to play a

pivotal role in the restoration and consolidation of efforts aimed at the promotion of peace.

According to him, the absence of criminal justice mechanisms made it even difficult to conduct peace support operations, adding that "Peacekeepers have encountered wrongdoers in the midst of (criminals) committing serious acts of a direct threat to civilians and to the operations itself." He concluded with the claim that "Such lawlessness can seriously undermine the efforts of an entire peace operation."

On the part of the German Centre for International Peace Operations (Zif) Col. Leo Hirshmann - director of training at the KAIPTC - who represented the German Ambassador express the

German Government's delight at sponsoring the programme via Zif, reiterating the point that, rule of law coupled with democracy was a solution to lasting peace, unity and eventually, development.

A Counselor at the Canadian High Commission, Nuala Lowlor who represented the Canadian Ambassador, expressed Canada's support towards efforts at deepening rule of law, as well as partnering agencies as Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), United Nations (UN), Zif etc.

Their support, she stated, was to "Reinforce the UN's leadership role in peacekeeping and to improve the capacity of the UN to respond to increasingly complex crises worldwide." The Canadian support, she disclosed, was going to be through the development and dissemination of UN training, doctrine, and lessons learned relating to the implementation of peace operations."

The programme is supposed to be held on a pilot basis and the organizers have urged course participants to channel their feedback to them and to actively participate in the deliberations. The programme is being organized for judicial affairs officers, human rights officers, staff from peacekeeping operations and training institutions from all over the world. It is a five day course which begins today until Friday, 30 July, 2010.