

Presidential Message

Dr. Thelma Thompson, President.
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

I have today chosen to write this statement of support for the maiden edition of the African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies (AJCJS). I am writing, not just as the President of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES), but also as an academic who believes in the great ideals of scholarly research. This publication marks a new dawn in the annals of an unrelenting march toward research and academic excellence by this great institution. I also wish to use this same medium to congratulate the African Criminology and Justice Association (ACJA) for relocating its secretariat to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, and for conceiving this lofty idea of starting its first ever peer-reviewed journal.

This peer-reviewed journal is dedicated to publishing scholarly essays, reviews and research notes on all issues relevant to criminology and justice systems of interest to Africans at home and the African Diaspora globally. It will also publish on criminal justice agencies and policies that impact on people of African descent in Africa, Europe, the United States and the Caribbean. What an opportunity to have a mouthpiece for a social, political, and economic dialogue on cultural and justice issues that pertain to people of African descent.

The launching of this journal is also timely in coming as a medium for articulation and dissemination of social discourse on issues ranging from our common cultural past, to minority overrepresentation in the criminal justice system. We can no longer sit on the fence and complain. It is time to join in the fray to make our voices heard through scholarly research, and to begin the process of rewriting history on entrenched ideas. Today will mark the entry of UMES into the literary club of universities hosting peer-reviewed journals.

The University of Maryland Eastern Shore congratulates the faculty and the Department of Criminal Justice in their efforts in hosting this journal, and I challenge other faculty members who share great visions on African affairs to contribute scholarly articles toward the continued success of this journal. The UMES family welcomes the African Journal of Criminology and Justice Studies into its literary archives.