

KITUO Introduces mHaki to Kisumu county residents



The Netherlands Embassy in Kenya Deputy Ambassador Marielle Geraedts joined by Kituo's BoD Chair Anthony Mulekyo and officer Faith Ochieng present IEC material to paralegals at the Kodiaga Prison justice center.

Kituo Cha Sheria (KITUO) through the support of the Netherlands Embassy in Nairobi conducted M-Haki market research and awareness in Kisumu County, trained volunteer advocates in Kisumu town and visited the Kodiaga Prison Justice Centre. These activities took place in the week of 22nd - 26th of August 2016.

The Kisumu Region Community M-Haki piloting sessions and market research were held on 23rd August and 26th August in CREP Programme Centre in Awasi and the Manyatta Community Social Centre (Kosawo Hall) in Kondele respectively. The sessions held in Nyando and Kisumu introduced members of the public in the region to the M-Haki platform and will serve Kituo in gathering information on the situational analysis of legal justice in the region.

On 25th August at the Le Savannah Country Lodge in Kisumu; Kituo had the opportunity to engage about 20 volunteer advocates from the area on the M-Haki platform as well as getting their views on matters access to justice in the region.

On the 24th August 2016, the Dutch embassy officials and Kituo members of staff visited the Kodiaga Prison Justice Center to check on the center's progress, get progress updates from the center as well as note the challenges that the center may be experiencing one year after its launch. The prison centre is run by trained prison paralegals that have filed 185 petitions of appeal

and managed 38 acquittals within the year from within prison. The few noted challenges will be addressed for smooth running of the center.

Other successful outreach activities included 3 radio talk shows across the week meant to create further awareness on the M-Haki platform and the realization of an increased number of people using the service. The successful radio programs were conducted at Urban Radio 90.7 FM in Kisumu and Radio Nam Lolwe.



Kisumu Volunteer Advocates follow proceedings during the training



Kituo's Faith Ochieng' and paralegal Judith Ochanda during a radio talk show

KITUO ENJOINS MOMBASA GOVERNANCE CSOs NETWORK PETITION



Senate speaker Hon. Ekwe Ethuro (centre) with representatives of the various CSOs after receiving the petition

Kituo cha Sheria, Transparency International Kenya, Haki Yetu, Pamoja Trust, Ujamaa Centre, MUHURI, Center for Law Research (CLARION), Coast Education Centre (COEC), Local Empowerment for Good Governance (LENGGO) among others petitioned the Senate of the Republic of Kenya and the Controller of Budgets on the matter of Mombasa County budget estimates 2016/2017 and the Mombasa County Appropriation Bill 2016.

The Petition was submitted by representatives of Mombasa Governance Civil Society Organizations Network, where Kituo Cha Sheria-Mombasa is a key player.

The petition is centered on the legitimacy of the County Assembly's actions in views of Articles 33(1) and 35(1) regarding access to information held by the state and Article 196 1(b) with regards to public participation and county assembly powers, privileges and immunities

STOP EXTRA JUDICIAL KILLINGS CAMPAIGN



Demonstrators during the #StopExtraJudicialKillings demo in Nairobi

Kituo cha Sheria joined other civil society organizations in the #StopExtraJudicialKillings peaceful march in Nairobi and Mombasa led by the Executive Director Gertrude Angote in Nairobi and Annette Mbogoh in Mombasa. The march was not only meant to protest the killing of the Mavoko 3 of Willie Kimani, Josephat Mwenda and Joseph Muiruri but against all extrajudicial killings in the country. Kituo affirms that providing legal aid and representation especially to the poor and marginalized people IS NOT a crime and all human rights defenders must be protected as they carry out their work.

KITUO Turns 43!



From left: Kituo's Aimee Ongeso, Lady Justice Ang'awa, Frances Singleton from Kingdom of Netherlands, Kituo founder member, Steve Adere and Kituo Executive Director Ms. Gertrude Angote during the celebration of Kituo 43rd birthday in Norfolk hotel, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria marked its 43rd birthday Wednesday, 6th July 2016 at the Fairmont Norfolk hotel, Nairobi. The event which was full of pomp and color saw various dignitaries attend the occasion whose theme was, "Use of mobile technology in promoting access to justice"

In line with the day's theme; Kituo through the Advocacy Governance and Community partnership's programme coordinators, Ms. Aimee Ongeso, gave a presentation on M-haki, a mobile platform where a client sends an SMS to 0700777333 stating their legal problem and receives legal advice within 48 hours.

Ms. Gertrude Angote, the organization's Executive Director welcomed all the guests and reiterated that M-haki would ensure affordable and reliable access to justice especially on the less fortunate. She said that clients will not have to travel all the way from far regions like Turkana to Kituo offices for legal advice, but they would simply send an SMS and receive the necessary legal advice. She noted that there are many times where Kituo clients, who are poor, struggle to make it to the office only at times to receive very general information. This will easily be handled by M-haki..

Kituo founder members Stephen Adere and Justice Mary Ang'awa, together with other guests welcomed the M-haki technology saying that it is a good move by Kituo in terms of access to justice.

"I am always very happy when I hear that Kituo is doing something to help the needy" said Adere. The Chief guest was Ms Frances Singleton from HiiL Institute a justice technology innovation centre in Netherlands. She gave a presentation on introducing innovation to the justice system and said they have introduced an online forum to be used by those seeking divorce settlements. She also explained the steps required to establishing justice innovation.

Participants from other organizations were also present to showcase how they had embraced technology in access of certain services. This they did through PowerPoint presentations. Among them was: Harris Dindi who presented the M-health technology, Keziah Waweru from the International Republican Institute who presented the use of 'Toa Maoni' technology, a platform on civic education and governance. Linda Ikenye from Haki Jamii showcased how they are using mobile technology to track and prevent evictions. Others were; Stacy Gitau from Ushindi Forum and Gertrude Asango from the Judiciary whose presentations was about use of technology in provision of services and promotion of social justice respectively.

The day ended with the Chief guest and the Executive Director cutting a birthday cake that was shared to all the participants.

Key Upcoming Activities SEPT - OCT 2016

1. Coastal Urban Refugee Protection Network meeting - Sept
2. University Forced Migration Training – Moi University, Sept
3. University Forced Migration Training – Egerton University School of Law, Oct
4. Market pep-talks in Taita Taveta Lamu and Kwale
5. Community mobile devolution Cinemas in Taita Taveta
6. County Based Dialogue Taita Taveta
7. Q& A Ferry experience in Mombasa
8. Community Budget consultation Mombasa and Kilifi
9. Government and Beneficiaries dialogue Kwale and Mombasa
10. Kitui Region market research on Mhaki Oct
11. Shimo la Tewa men and women justice day, Oct
12. Human rights awareness week in Kitui, Kilifi and Kwale, Oct

Kituo offers Legal awareness in Mathare



Participants during the awareness forum at the Undugu Vocational Training Center

On June 30th 2016 Kituo joined the Mathare Legal Aid and Human Rights Advocacy (MLAHRA) and the youth of Mathare drawn from Mashimoni, Huruma and Area 3 from 9am to 12pm at the Undugu Vocational Training Center Polytechnic on Juja road for an awareness forum.

MLAHRA organizes monthly public forums geared towards promoting active citizenship with Gibson Maina, an activist and community organizer working in Mathare slum mobilizing around 40 youth leaders from all over Mathare slum who invited Kituo for the June edition. Kituo's Advocacy, Governance and Community Partnerships coordinator Aimee Ongeso, Maureen Thuo and Ashioya Biko (Kituo Advocates)

conducted the day-long training at the forum.

Kituo used the forum to educate the participants about the history of Kituo and the work the organization does as well as update them on the status of the Legal Aid Act including accreditation of legal aid providers legal advice and assistance by paralegals and persons who may apply for legal aid. The participants also taken through Kituo's M-Haki – a mobile legal aid platform through which the public can send in legal questions and get a response within 48 hours. The forum present an opportunity to share Kituo's work with the youth including how we engage with communities together with a Q&A session for legal questions from the participants.



Kituo's Maureen Thuo conducts a session during the legal awareness forum

KITUO recruits volunteer advocates in Nanyuki and Isiolo



Kituo Lawyer Rhoda Maina attends to clients during the clinic in Isiolo

Kituo's volunteer advocates (VA) scheme is an important pillar in the realization of Kituo's mandate and fulfillment of its mission. The scheme has registered advocates from all the major towns in the country who commit to give pro bono services to indigent clients. Kituo processes many clients with legal issues during its daily clinics. Clients who are needy but do not fall under the core mandate areas of labour, land, housing and refugee rights are normally referred to volunteer advocates for assistance. Similarly clients coming from far- flung areas are also referred to volunteer advocates near their home areas in order to save them from travelling long distances.

In the week of 1st-6th August, 2016 Kituo embarked on an exercise to enhance its VA network by carrying out recruitment drives in Nanyuki (Laikipia County) and Isiolo (Isiolo County) towns.

The recruitment exercises began with brief opening remarks about Kituo Cha Sheria given by legal officer Ms. Rhoda Maina touching on when Kituo was founded, the reason behind Kituo's inception, founders, and our growth to-date and more importantly the need for volunteer advocates. Kituo's VAs provide pro bono services to the poor citizens of this country who cannot raise legal fees but are in need of justice. Together with Kituo lawyers Rhoda Maina and Janet Machoka, the newly recruited VAs thereafter took part in organized free legal aid clinics in Nanyuki and Isiolo where the respective communities benefited.

The VAs expressed gratitude to Kituo Cha Sheria for seeing the essence to engage them in offering pro bono services to the poor and marginalized, they unanimously agreed to support Kituo in carrying out its mandate as guided.

Success Stories - Forced Migration Programme

FORCED MIGRATION PROGRAM (FMP)

Championing Promotion and Protection of Refugee Rights



LEONCE KAHAMBU MAOMBI

Leonce is a Congolese refugee who lived in a residential house along the Kirinyaga Road. She had stayed in the said home for over two years and could no longer afford the rent. She notified the landlord of her intent to vacate the house but the Landlord declined to return her deposit that amounted to 30,000.00

Kituo conducted a telephone intervention with the said landlord and it was agreed the landlord Refund the deposit to the client less the legal expenses. The client received her cheque of Ksh. 15,360 .00

JOSEPH KAGULIRE

The client is a Ugandan Refugee who used to work for African Voices Dubbing Company as a voice over to translate from English to Luganda. A demand letter was drafted by Counsel for the complainant M/s Joan Nyongesa to the said company. He claimed 104,512.00.

The demand letter was duly served and the said company did not need court issues and therefore paid the client part of the money being 48,324.00. He will get the balance once he provides an invoice to the Organization as is mandated by the company policies.

KITUO CONDUCTS POLICE TRAINING IN KILIFI



Kituo's Osborn Kitonga takes participants through a session during the forum

Kituo Cha Sheria, in partnership with the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and Trace Kenya conducted training for Kenya Police officers in Kilifi County.

The police officers were drawn from various police stations in the county were trained on various elements of refugee protection, human trafficking and smuggling of persons. The training was meant to build the knowledge capacity of the police officers on how to handle forced migrants. The noble endeavor involved about 21 police officers drawn from different stations within Kilifi County.

Such trainings help police officers understand and appreciate human rights given that they most interact with forced migrants.

Community sensitization on Voluntary Repatriation in Malindi

Kituo Cha Sheria organized a community sensitization on voluntary repatriation in Malindi, Kilifi County. This followed the government's directive on repatriation of May 06, 2016. This forum was meant to advise the clients on the process of repatriation and the effects of the directive that had been issued. This interactive forum also raised an opportunity to find out the challenges that the refugees were facing. The issues raised by the attendees ranged from resettlement, registration and documentation. Representatives from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), and the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) participated in the event.

KITUO's Legal Aid Forum at Eastleigh – Mama Fatuma



Members of the refugee community who attended the forum follow proceedings

Kituo Cha Sheria held a Legal aid forum on 31st August 2016 at Mama Fatuma, Eastleigh. It was attended by refugees who were mostly of Somali and Ethiopia nationality. It focused on hearing issues raised by the clients on specific matters that affected them.

The refugees raised issues mainly of police harassment. They were advised on the proper procedures on how to contact Kituo officers and why it was important to have the right documentation with them. The other issue raised was attacks from unknown persons.

KITUO LAUNCHES MERU GK PRISON JUSTICE CENTRE



Graduands from the Paralegal training in Meru G.K. Prison joined by Kituo Staff Imoli Shivega (far left), Ashioya Biko (centre) and Maureen Thuo (right) after the graduation ceremony at the prison grounds

Kituo Cha Sheria welcomed the Meru Main GK Prison Justice Center to the family of legal empowerment centers on the 10th August, 2016. The Center was launched after a paralegal training on Criminal law and procedures was conducted from the 1st to 9th of August 2016 at the Prison facility.

August 10 is the International Prisoners Justice Day and this year the day was marked under the theme of Access to Justice toward decongestion of prisons. One of the goals of Kituo's prison paralegal trainings is to decongest correctional facilities by empowering the prisoners and remandees on self-representation in court, how to adduce evidence if any, how to cross examine witnesses, how to write their submissions, how to make mitigation statements, how to make interim applications such as those for bond, bail and making applications for Community Service Order.

The following topics covered were; Basics of Paralegalism, Introduction to Human Rights, Bill of Rights (Chapter 4 of Constitution), Criminal Procedure Code Chapter 75 Laws of Kenya, Powers of Court, Provisions relating to all Criminal investigations, Mode of taking and recording Evidence in Trials, Procedures in Trials before a Subordinate Court and High Court, Sentences and Executions, Appeals, Self representation (Criminal Approach), Power of Mercy Act, The Prisons Act and Community Service Order.

The training was conducted by Kituo lawyers Maureen Thuo and Ashioya Biko together with Kituo Volunteer Advocates within
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Branch Office-Nairobi, Forced Migration Program (FMP), Jogoo Road Plaza, Jogoo Road, Tel: 202451631, 0736867241, 0720806531 E-mail: fmp@kituochasheria.or.ke
Regional Office - Mombasa, Opp Ganjoni Primary School, P. O. Box 89065, Mombasa, Kenya. Tel. : 254-041-2230282, 0731129739, 0700638379, Fax: 254-041-2230283
E-mail: msa@kituochasheria.or.ke

Meru. The training on Community Service Order was an important session as the inmates were taken through the process of applying for a community service as it presents some inmates with the option of serving from outside hence decongesting the prison. The newly acquired knowledge on the Bail and Bond Guidelines was equally important in the process of decongestion. Giving inmates the tools to represent themselves in legal matters will increase access to justice and also empowers inmates to challenge situations of injustice and abuse of certain rights inside the prison.

Bringing prison constables on board was also important in creating awareness on inmate's rights and their obligations to ensure the rights of the inmates are protected as well as offer oversight in ensuring that prison paralegals work with the officers and raise awareness about the activities of the paralegals in prison.

The eventful ceremony was witnessed by representatives from partner organizations and agencies including the Kenya Prisons Service, Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), CEFA, EU, Legal Resources Foundation (LRF), ICJ-Kenya, Haki Mashinani and Embassy of the Netherlands. A total of 37 participants were trained, 30 of whom were inmates and 7 prison constables. The inmates comprised of those on long sentences, pre-trial detainees charged with capital offences as well as the condemned. Kituo urges the trained paralegals from Meru to work hard and use skills they have acquired to benefit themselves and fellow inmates.

MUKURU Residents receive free legal aid



Mukuru residents during the access to justice day

Friday, 26th August, 2016 access to justice was brought closer to residents of Mukuru in Nairobi. This was in an event organized by Kituo Cha Sheria in partnership with Wangu Kanja Foundation and actionaid which was dubbed, Access to Justice day.

The event which took place at the Ruben Centre saw the residents receive free legal advice from Kituo lawyers and volunteer advocates. This was followed by awareness on sexual and gender based violence and sensitization on court processes and procedures and keynote speeches from some of the attending guests.

Speaking at the event, Makadara law courts Chief Magistrate, Mr. Nyaga said that they were working hard not only in Makadara but also in other courts countrywide to transform the image of the judiciary. He said they were working towards delivering justice timely and with impartiality. Mr. Nyaga also took advantage of the event to encourage residents to always report mainly defilement cases to court assuring them that in court, they would ensure justice prevails.

"As long as I am in Makadara, I am not going to let you down," he said. He added that the court had received 129 defilement cases this year alone, a shocking statistic, he said calling on residents not to keep quiet about sexual and gender based violence but expose the perpetrators and also educate rest of the community.

Kituo Cha Sheria's board member, John Chigiti also took it to the platform encouraging

participants to come to Kituo Cha Sheria for legal advice since it was free of charge. He took time to explain what Kituo does and assured the residents of quality pro bono services at the centre.

Kituo's Executive Director, Gertrude Angote encouraged the community members to embrace the various community justice centres set up by Kituo for legal advice from the paralegals. "We can hold each other's hand to ensure everybody access justice," she said.

Ms. Angote also took time to introduce the M-haki platform to the participants and rest of the community. Here she explained what M-haki does saying that the platform was a perfect avenue to enable access to justice timely and affordably from wherever you are provided you have or can access a mobile phone. She said this would go a long way in saving the residents the cost of travelling to Kituo or any other justice centre.

Residents led by Alice Wanini, a community representative, thanked Kituo Cha Sheria for training them as paralegals and for offering legal advice. She urged judges present from the Makadara law courts to be handling defilement cases swiftly and with the seriousness it deserves.



Kituo Board member John Chigiti addressing participants during the forum