

AFRICA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ACCESS TO JUSTICE LAUNCHED



An ongoing panel discussion during the Kigali Conference on Collaboration for Access to Justice

Kituo cha Sheria was represented at the Kigali Conference on Collaboration for Access to Justice held from the 22nd - 24th August, 2017 at the Park Inn by Radisson in Kigali, Rwanda.

The three-day continental conference on collaboration between the Judiciary and community justice institutions drew participants from more than 15 countries across Africa.

The main theme for the conference was derived from the vision of a three-fold transformation of Practice, Policy and Perceptions in Judiciary and Community Justice Institutions (CJI) collaboration.

The Conference's main aim was to influence attitudes and behaviors across the entire value-chain of justice delivery from the community to the highest courts of the land in order to foster greater synergy, mutual support and collaboration.

The Formal Judiciary System and Community Justice Institutions (CJI) are two complementary systems working towards a common goal, which is "access to justice" and judicial officials from the different African countries called for ways to harmonize formal justice with community justice systems in order to ease access to justice. Kituo was represented by the Executive Director Ms. Gertrude Angote and Programme Manager Faith Ochieng'. The Executive Director moderated a session on "The case for strengthening collaboration between the Judiciary and Community Justice Institutions" majoring on performance management, impact and results. Speaking at the conference; Ms. Angote said that community justice is about two essential things- partnerships and problem-solving. "No single organization can

solve community problems without investing significant time and energy in engaging the community", she said.

Chief Justices Abdulai Charm (Sierra Leone); Mogoeng Mogoeng (South Africa), Prof. Sam Rugege (Rwanda) and Judge Luka Kimaru (Kenya) included some of the guests at the Conference that brought together senior judges, lawyers, paralegals and academics. Sierra Leone, Malawi, Rwanda and Kenya were cited as some of the countries where indigenous knowledge has been applied and approaches been successful in promoting access to Justice.

The Kigali Conference also saw the launch of the African Centre of Excellence (ACE) for Access to Justice that will facilitate comparative learning for primarily African legal empowerment programmes as well as international programmes and grow a community of best-practice. ACEAJ will be a place to promote best practices for paralegals across Africa. At the end of the conference participants took time to go and visit the Rwanda Genocide Memorial in Kigali to learn, share and experience.



Executive Director, Ms. Gertrude Angote and the Kenyan team in a group photo during the Kigali Conference

KITUO CHA SHERIA IN PEACE MARCH



Members of Civil Society Organisations at the Coast region march through the Coastal city of Mombasa

Kituo cha Sheria was part of a group of some 22 Civil Society Organisations at the Coast region who said they will defend their freedom from unlawful and brazen attacks on CSOs by the national government.

The Coast Civil Society Reference Group on Security and Human Rights gave a strong unison statement on 16th August 2017 on the then attacks on reputable organizations which was extensively viewed as mere witch hunt.

The group in the statement vowed to stay and continue with their work to champion for human rights at all levels of Kenya's society. On 28th August Kituo also took part in a peace march in Mombasa to remember those who lost their lives after the August 8 elections.

Stakeholders Meeting on Election Preparedness



Kituo's Zedekiah Adika of Kituo cha Sheria (R) is joined by a Youth leader from Mumias at Elgon Youth Radio for a talkshow

Kituo Cha Sheria through Uchaguzi Wa Amani, Uwazi na Usawa Project supported by Swiss Embassy in Nairobi on 5th and 6th of August 2017 held a radio talk show at Masinde Muliro University FM and Elgon Youth Radio FM respectively to emphasize on peaceful and credible elections.

The project also conducted County Based Dialogue at Kakamega Golf Club Hotel bringing together election stakeholders, IEBC officials, the Judiciary, The Civil Societies in Kakamega, Deputy County Commissioner, the local security groups and Persons with disabilities to discuss on ways of ensuring peaceful and credible elections.



KITUO CONDUCTS LEGAL AID CLINIC & CIVIC EDUCATION AWARENESS IN KAMUKUNJI - NAIROBI



Volunteer Advocate Alice Jaoko (seated right) engages a client during the legal aid clinic in Kamukunji, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria in partnership with the Kamukunji Community Justice Centre on 2nd-4th August 2017 conducted FREE legal aid clinics and community outreach forums in Eastleigh North, Kiambu North and Pumwani in Kamukunji, Nairobi.

The first activity was held at St. Teresa Catholic Church in Eastleigh North Location/Ward, Kamukunji Constituency. The second legal awareness clinic was held in Kiambu Location in the first week of August, 2017. This activity was organized and facilitated by the Kamukunji Community Justice Centre in partnership with Eastleigh Residents Association and Eastleigh Youth Empowerment Network. The event was attended by volunteer advocates from Kituo Cha Sheria and the Ombudsman's

Office in Nairobi. The following were the nature of cases which were received and recorded - civil registration (lack of I.Ds, birth certificates etc ; arbitrary arrests; police harassment, illegal detention ;bribery ;teenage pregnancy and early marriages ;high number of school dropouts; defilement; rape; sexual and gender based violence; land; housing; assault ; divorce and labour related issues.



Community paralegals during the community outreach forum in Kiambu, Kamukunji Constituency

KITUO at 44!



Clients seated as they await legal aid at Kituo Gardens, Head office during the Birthday celebration legal aid clinic

On 9th July, 2017 Kituo celebrated her 44th Anniversary. The celebrations with Kituo's friends, partners and the community we serve throughout the week were through open days and free Legal aid clinics. Kituo acknowledges the vision of our founders and the dedication of countless human rights champions who have passed through Kituo over the years. Kituo's vision of a society of justice and equity for all lives on!

Key Upcoming Activities Sept - Oct 2017

1. Legal Aid Clinic in Marereni-FMP, Mombasa office- 28th September
2. Border monitoring in Taita-Taveta, Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa counties- October 2017
3. Mid-term evaluation of Dutch Embassy activities in Coast- 28th September
Launch of the Coast Elections Observation Report - 26th September
4. Training of Mombasa County Assembly - October
5. Law Society of Kenya Legal Awareness Week- 25th September to 29th September 2017
6. Monthly visit to Shimo la Tewa Men's and Women's Prison - September and October
7. Video screenings in Kakamega and Kisumu counties
8. Radio talk shows in KBC, Elgon Youth Radio and Nam Lolwe FMs
9. Neighbourhood Conversations in Kakamega and Kisumu counties
10. International Mental Health Day-Nakuru Women's Prison-October 2017
11. Meru Main Prison Justice Day-September 2017
12. Vihiga Community Justice Centre Paralegals Training-October 2017
13. Forced Migration border monitoring in Kajiado, Kisii and Migori Counties
14. HiiL Innovating Justice Challenge 2017 Boostcamp-22nd September 2017

KITUO as an Observer in the General Election



Kituo observers and IEBC officials getting ready to count ballots cast during the August 8 elections

Elections make a fundamental contribution to democratic governance by enabling the participation of voters to select leaders to represent them within the government and ensure the responsiveness of democratic governments to the will of the people. Elections also reinforce the stability and legitimacy of the political community thus facilitating social and political integration. Participation in an election serves to underpin the rights of citizens to have their voices heard.

However, this is not always attained as restrictions may be initiated to limit fundamental rights that deny citizens a free, fair, credible and peaceful election. Election monitors and observers play an important role in enhancing the transparency and credibility of elections and democratic governance.

The Kituo cha Sheria Elections Observer Group witnessed as millions of Kenyan voters lined up across the country to exercise their democratic right to elect leaders of their choice. Most significant to Kituo's access to justice work was the fact that for the first time in Kenya's history inmates had the chance to exercise their prisoners' right to vote in the presidential election.

Kituo has continued to closely monitor the post-election process and the unfolding events.



An Inmate has her biometrics taken by IEBC official in readiness for voting at Lang'ata Women Prison

KITUO CONDUCTS NYANDO LEGAL AID CLINICS - KISUMU



Participants keenly following a session on voter education in Muhoroni, Kisumu County

On 2nd, 3rd and 4th of August 2017; Kituo Cha Sheria and Nyando Community Justice Centre conducted Legal Aid Clinics in conjunction with Chiefs, Ward Administrators, County Commissioners and IEBC Kisumu County office.

Nyando Community Justice Centre was formed in the year 2006 with the help of Kituo cha Sheria and it focuses on promoting holistic and integrated community-driven development with all human rights for all people in the wider Nyanza area.

The Justice Centre together with other partners played a major role in the legal aid clinic giving administrative advice as well as voter education on pertinent issues such as the electoral and voting process. This was in lieu of the just concluded General Elections-August 8 elections in Kenya.

The voter education exercise ran concurrently with the legal aid clinics in Muhoroni, Nyakach and Nyando sub counties in Kisumu County. The total number of the participants who attended the three day clinics was 486 representing 174 female and 312 male. On Concluding the activity, the following results were achieved: - 486

community members were reached through voter education exercise and legal aid clinic in Kisumu County and the same number were reached through provision of legal Aid service and voter education exercise in Kisumu County. There was increased awareness on the M-Haki platform to residents of Kisumu County leading to more people using the platform.

Kituo managed to strengthen partnership and collaborative efforts with IEBC offices at the constituency level, the local administration and Nyando community with 5 IEBC officials having attended the legal Aid Clinics around Kisumu County in the 3 sub counties. There was increased knowledge on voters' rights and responsibilities. The IEBC officials gave adequate information on the roles and responsibilities of various elective positions such as women representative, members of county assembly and governor. Kituo in conjunction with the Nyando Community Justice Centre and the Administrative guests preached peace and peaceful coexistence between the residents for the development of the community. The activity was spearheaded by Kituo officers Faith Ochieng, Martha Ogutu, Kayere Ephraim and James Anyanzwa.

Hiil Innovation Justice Awards 2017



Kituo Cha Sheria's innovation - M-Haki 'Haki Mkononi' made an application for the Hiil Innovating Justice Awards 2017 and is in the Semi-final round of the competition. The Semis take place on 22nd September, 2017 at iHub, Nairobi. M-Haki as an innovation seeks to bridge gaps around accessibility to justice as enshrined in the Kenyan constitution Article 48, affordable access to justice and finally timely justice as the answers are relayed within 48 hours. **SMS 0700777333**

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KITUO CHA SHERIA'S PARTNERS' ROUND TABLE



Friends of Kituo follow proceedings at the partners' roundtable meeting in Nairobi

Kituo cha Sheria on 27th July, 2017 held a partners roundtable at the Amani Gardens Inn in Westlands, Nairobi. The early breakfast meeting was meant to enable Kituo and her partners hold discussions about the work Kituo does with the poor and marginalized. Together with the partners who included past and present donors; the successful meeting deliberated on and offered new ideas on possible avenues of support in order to scale up our work.

The partners' table meeting was held partly to focus Kituo and her partners on addressing the high unmet demands from victims of Post Election Violence; matters of labour, land, housing, succession,

protection of asylum seekers of refugees, Public Interest Litigation and paralegals in prisons and community justice centres.

Kituo appreciates the ideas and insights into the best ways in which Kituo can build its future shared during the meeting which saw the launch of a feature film on Kituo which can be found HERE >>> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygPuq6clGP0>



Members of the Kituo family pose for a group photo after the meeting

KITUO ATTENDS AFRICA CAPACITY ALLIANCE Cluster Based Learning Network Workshop



Kituo's Philip Wanjohi during the Cluster Based Learning Network workshop conducted by the Africa Capacity Alliance (ACA) in Kisumu

Kituo cha Sheria attended a workshop conducted by the Africa Capacity Alliance (ACA) in Kisumu. The workshop took place from 24th-27th July, 2017 where participants shared on moments focusing on the thematic areas of the Capacity Development Services program. The Cluster Based Learning Network workshop brought together ACA and its partners in the USAID supported Capacity Development Services project. The workshop also meant to examine the extent to which

the ACA program has influenced partners' efficiency and steps taken towards organizational sustainability. ACA's Monitoring and Evaluation lead officer Rohin Otieno took the participants through a session in the Cluster Based Learning Network Workshop to directly empower the beneficiary organizations including Kituo in other cross cutting areas beyond the thematic areas of focus in the USAID supported CDS program. Kituo officers Philip Wanjohi and Joan Nyongesa attended the workshop.