

## KITUO Hosts the Paralegals' Summit in Nairobi



Paralegals posing for a group photo after the summit in Nairobi

On September 8th and 9th 2016 hosted the Paralegals' Summit at the Laico Regency Hotel, Nairobi. The two-day summit was organized by Kituo Cha Sheria in conjunction with the Legal Resources Foundation (LRF) and was attended by community paralegals from various counties in Kenya.

The summit addressed pertinent issues affecting paralegals key among them: clarifications on the Legal Aid Act, 2016, accreditation of paralegals, development of a syllabus for paralegal training by the Paralegals Support Network (PASUNE) and clear outline of the duties of a Paralegal and their work ethics.

Addressing the paralegals during the Summit's day two, Kituo Cha Sheria's Executive Director, Ms. Gertrude Angote welcomed and appreciated the work done by paralegals. She encouraged them to continue serving the poor and marginalized saying that it is GOD that would see their work and appreciate them more than any man would. Giving an example of a meeting she had just attended in Norway, Ms. Angote said that the work of paralegals is recognized globally and that our paralegals here in Kenya were doing great work.

"Let's take advantage of the developments in the Constitution to be able to work more efficiently and serve better," she told the paralegals. This was in reference to the Legal Aid Act, 2016 that had been signed into law. The Director lauded the move saying this was a milestone in provision of legal

services to the poor in as far as access to justice is concerned.

Also present at the Summit was Kibra MP, Hon. Ken Okoth who gave a keynote speech on day one and also responded to various questions raised by the participants. He appreciated the work paralegals do and civil societies like Kituo Cha Sheria in general. He assured the participants that Members of Parliament will do everything possible from their end to defend justice. This would be through, legislation, oversight and representation.

During the Summit, officers from both Kituo Cha Sheria and Legal Resources Foundation led by Kituo's Ashioya Biko took the paralegals through the Legal Aid Act, 2016 allowing them to ask questions for clarifications. Pivotal points of discussion were accreditation of paralegals and qualification to be a paralegal.

In response to some of the issues, the Officers said issues of accreditation would be clearly outlined once the Legal Aid Act is operationalized and Legal Aid Board setup. On the issue of training and syllabus, officers from PASUNE said that they were in the process of developing a new syllabus for paralegal training which will encompass new areas such as a chapter on Migrants. They added that refresher courses were necessary for paralegals. The officers also cautioned that a certificate of participation is not an accredited certificate of a paralegal.

## PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION CAUCUS



Legal officer John Mwariri (Standing) leads participants through the Public Interest Litigation (PIL) caucus

Kituo Cha Sheria hosted a very successful and informative Public Interest Litigation Caucus on 22nd, September 2016 at the Heron Portico Hotel, Nairobi. During the caucus, participants who included lawyers from Kituo Cha Sheria and our volunteer advocates shared their experiences in terms of best practices and approaches in litigating cases of public interest. The Caucus mainly looked at the alleged cancer cases in Marsabit County with the report on a fact finding mission conducted in Marsabit being presented and discussed.



Participants who took part in the caucus in a group photo after the deliberations

## KITUO SUPPORTS BUTERE YOUTH WITH IEC MATERIAL



Kituo Cha Sheria's Jairo Ounza hands over the materials to Mirikau Ombayo at Kituo Head office

Kituo cha Sheria continued with their community partnership work by supporting Butere Youth For Change Group with Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material for their advocacy work. The group's representative Mr. Mirikau Moses Ombayo received the materials from Kituo Cha Sheria's Jairo Ounza.

## The 6th Africa Leadership Awards



AFRICA NGO  
LEADERSHIP AWARDS

7<sup>th</sup> December 2016 | Le Meridien, Mauritius



Kituo cha Sheria's Executive Director Ms. Gertrude Angote will attend the 6th Africa Leadership Awards on 7th December, 2016 at Le Meridien in Mauritius. Ms. Angote will be conferred with the NGO Leadership Award for 2016. The award is conferred on "Outstanding professionals who have the vision, flair, acumen and professionalism to demonstrate excellent Leadership and Management skills in an organisation, making changes and achieving results.

## KAMUKUNJI RESIDENTS RECEIVE FREE LEGAL ADVICE



Kituo officers and paralegal pose for a photo after the legal aid clinic in Eastleigh

A three day legal aid activity in Kamukunji organized by Kituo Cha Sheria ended on 15th September, 2016 at Muyuyu, Eastleigh Third Avenue where over 110 clients were attended to by Kituo lawyer Maureen Thuo and Paralegals from the Kamukunji Community Justice Centre.

Previously Legal Aid clinics were held at Kiambui, PAG church which saw 110 clients attended to and at the Assistant Chief's camp, opposite California Police station in California ward where over 60 clients were attended to. A total of over 280 clients, drawn from various parts of Kamukunji Sub County were attended to during the entire three - part legal aid clinic activity.

Addressing the participants yesterday, Airbase Location chief, Minichah Hamisi Otieno welcomed and appreciated the initiative by Kituo Cha Sheria, coming to the grassroots and helping community members. She encouraged residents to feel free to present their legal questions or problems saying that the lawyer and paralegals present could help and save them a great deal since the services were free.

Kamukunji Community Justice Centre Coordinator, Ezekiel Njenga thanked Kituo staff who participated in the activities and paralegals from the centre for having contributed greatly to the success of the activity. "We started on a little bit low note in Kiambui but I am happy we are finishing on a high note here at Muyuyu, Eastleigh. Throughout the process, we have learnt various lessons and we have room for improvement next time," he said.

Nuria Abdi, a resident at Muyuyu, Eastleigh confirmed that residents in the area have got many problems

that require legal help/advice. According to her, family and marital problems were top on the list affecting residents (including her) in the area.

"We hope that the intervention by Kituo will at least see us breathe a sigh of relief and hope for tangible legal help since our efforts to local authorities and even the police have proved futile," she said. She remembers her husband leaving her in April this year for another woman within the same locality. The husband, whom she identified as Abdikadir chased her away with their three young children from the house claiming that Nuria had continually given birth to girls whereas he wished to have boys.

Since then, Nuria, who is currently pregnant, has been living in abject poverty with her three children. She says getting the daily food is a hurdle, leave alone school fees for her children.

Nuria compares the life she and her children are living to that of an asylum seeker. She says many more women experience the same problem in the area and it is their hope that the intervention of Kituo Cha Sheria will offer a ray of hope in salvaging them and restoring, dignity and womanhood to them. The CRADLE-The Children's Foundation joined Kituo at Muyuyu, Eastleigh to deal with children rights matters.



Kituo's legal officer Maureen Thuo advises a client as Ezekiel Njenga(Kamukunji Community Justice Centre) looks on

## Key Upcoming Activities NOV - DEC 2016

1. Turkana market research on M-Haki and legal awareness forums
2. Access to justice and human rights radio talk shows-Turkana
3. Kilifi Markert research on M-Haki and legal awareness forums
4. November legal aid clinic-Kituo Head office
5. 16 Days of activism activities-November 25th- 10th Dec
6. Access to justice day event-Lang'ata Women Prison
7. Nyando legal aid and awareness forum
8. Access to justice day event in Kodiaga Main Prison-Kisumu
9. King'ong'o Prison paralegal training and justice centre launch
10. Paralegal Mentorship programme-Nov
11. Launch of M-Haki- 13th Dec 2016
12. Kituo end of year meeting-15th Dec 2016
13. 'Just how long' Kinamba IDPs film and Comic Book launch- Dec 2nd
14. International Human Rights Day; 16 Days of Activism Candlelit dinner - 10th Dec
15. NGO Africa Leadership Awards 2016 in Mauritius 7th Dec
16. Kituo Cha Sheria Annual General Meeting (AGM) - Dec 15th
17. Police Training and Legal Aid clinic in Mombasa - Nov

## KITUO Visits Shimo La Tewa Prison Justice Centre



Kituo officers Zedekiah Aika, Faith Ochieng and Valarie Ang'awa handing over materials to prison paralegals at the Shimo La Tewa women's prison

On the 8th September, 2016, Kituo Cha Sheria officers spent the day at the Shimo La Tewa Men's and Women's Prisons Justice Centers. The two prison centers are the only centers in the coast region run by Kituo trained prison paralegals and the Kenya Prison authorities.

Trained prison paralegals find solutions to the day to day justice problems of fellow inmates from within the prison through legal advice, drafting petitions of appeal

and writing submissions which has seen inmates undergo successful trials and being acquitted.

The sessions with the inmates and prison authorities highlighted the different successes and challenges in the two prisons even as they requested additional training of paralegals. Kituo's Faith Ochieng, Valarie Angawa and Zeddy Adika presented the centers with administrative materials for the centers' legal empowerment work.



Prison paralegals at the Shimo la Tewa men's prison receive administrative material for the centre

## KITUO CONDUCTS M-HAKI TRAINING IN MOMBASA



Kituo officers Faith Ochieng and Valarie Ang'awa during the radio talk show at Baraka FM

On 6th and 7th September, 2016 Kituo Cha Sheria conducted training on M-Haki for volunteer advocates and community paralegals from the Coast region. The advocates were drawn from Malindi and Mombasa and paralegals from our justice centres in Lamukhani, Kwale County and Kisauni in Mombasa.

number 0700777333. M-Haki seeks to reduce the time and distance taken to access legal advice-Haki Mkononi!

The M-Haki message in the region was also taken to the people in the coast region on Baraka FM ahead of upcoming community outreach forums.

The successful sessions were held at the Bliss Resort in Nyali, Mombasa and were meant to introduce our key stakeholders to M-Haki as Kituo cha Sheria is piloting the M-Haki platform to promote access to justice through which Kenyans can access legal aid through mobile phones, using the



A community paralegal makes a point during the paralegals' training in Mombasa

## KITUO'S ANNUAL LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY DIALOGUE 2016



Nominated MCA Mohamed Hatimy addresses participants during the dialogue forum in Mombasa

“The reasonable voice to Kituo is the voice of the people and our essential mandate is to remain steadfast in supporting the people by initiating their participation in any form of decision making and involvement in development plans.”

This was the message at the Annual Leadership and Community Dialogue forum held on 30th September 2016 at the Flamingo Beach Resort in Mombasa.

The forum brought together the leadership and community members from the Coastal Counties of Mombasa, Lamu, Kilifi, Taita-

Taveta and Kwale and witnessed robust deliberations with about 150 Coast residents talking with their leadership emphasizing the role of community participation in development activities while seeking accountability.

Kituo has engaged communities at the Coast with support from USAID Kenya over the last 2 years involving diverse segments of society in the various counties under the Coast Conflict Intervention and Action Project and this forum served to mark the end of CCIA.

## KITUO AT THE LEGAL AWARENESS WEEK 2016



Kituo legal officers listen to clients during the legal awareness week at the Milimani Law Courts

Kituo Cha Sheria participated at the Law Society of Kenya Legal Awareness Week 2016 held from Monday, 26th September to Friday, 30th September 2016 at the Milimani and Mombasa Law Courts. This year's theme was, “Improving access to justice through the use of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)”.

The acting Supreme court President Judge Mohammed Ibrahim opened this year's awareness week and called on Kenyans to embrace alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to help ease pressure on the country's legal system. Kituo Board of Directors Chair Anthony Mulekyo and member John Chigiti represented Kituo at the opening ceremony. Speaking at the function Advocate Mulekyo noted access to justice is a fundamental right enshrined in the Kenyan constitution and the government is now expected to fund legal aid as per the Legal Aid Act 2016.

Kituo's advocates from the Legal Aid and Education Department (LAED) devotedly sat at the 2

stations to offer free legal advice to the public. About 200 clients received legal advice on land cases, succession, human rights violations, and employment issues among others in Nairobi and Mombasa. The objective of the Legal Awareness Week is to extend legal literacy and awareness to members of the public by providing an opportunity of engagement with lawyers.

Speaking at the close of the activities, LAED coordinator Ms. Rhoda Maina said that the week had been a success with the public receiving pro bono legal services and legal aid as well as showcasing our work to them. The week also saw 37 advocates recruited into Kituo's volunteer advocate scheme.



Mr. Anthony Mulekyo (BoD Chairman) screens a client during the awareness week

## KITUO HOSTS KIOS



Katja Ippola (Centre) from KIOS Foundation joined by community human rights defenders and Kituo staff at Kituo head office

On the 23rd September, Kituo Cha Sheria gladly hosted Katja Ippola from KIOS Foundation joined by community human rights defenders from various parts of Nairobi. Human rights are the foundation of sustainable peace and development.

## KITUO UNDERTAKES UNIVERSITY FORCED MIGRATION TRAININGS



Daniel Kahura of UNHCR takes students through a session at Egerton University law school

Kituo cha sheria through the Forced Migration Program (FMP) conducted 2 one-week long trainings for law students. The trainings were conducted between 10th – 28th October 2016. The objective was to train law students from Moi, Egerton and Kabarak Universities Law students on Forced Migration, Inspire the university students to develop an interest in the study of Refugee law, Advocate for the universities to introduce the Refugee Law studies in their curriculum, Distribute the Refugee Law Training Manuals already developed by KITUO to the said universities as reference material and seek partnership with the respective universities for future lectures, training and other engagement. A total of 46 students attended the training in Moi university School of Law facilitated by officers from UNHCR, RAS, ODP, Kabarak, Judiciary & KITUO. The training was successful with a colorful graduation on the last day of the training. The

graduation was graced by the Moi University Acting Vice Chancellor Prof. Laban Ayiro, representative of KITUO Board Madam Joy Asiema, Moi University School of Law Dean Mr. Maurice Oduor. All the 46 students graduated with each receiving a certificate of participation. Books were donated to the Moi University School of Law library.

At Egerton university a total of 35 Egerton University School of Law students and 25 from Kabarak University Law School students attended. The training was also successful with a colorful graduation on the last day of the training. The graduation was graced by the representative of KITUO Board Madam Sally Mbeche, Kabarak Dean Mr. Elisha Ongoya and Egerton associate Dean representing Egerton Dean Prof. Michael Wabwile. 70 students graduated with each receiving a certificate of participation. Books were also donated to Egerton university school library.

## SUCCESS STORY – MOSES HINZANO

Moses Hinzano approached Kituo Cha Sheria's Mombasa office for assistance regarding his terminal dues. After seeing Kituo advocate Ms. Nyawinda Aoko and stating his case a demand letter was issued to his former employer, Mombasa Slaughter House. They however failed to respond. Kituo then on behalf of Moses proceeded to file a suit in court for unfair termination of employment. Moses was dismissed from employment after being alleged to have stolen money from his employer. The matter was before Justice Makau. On 10th July 2015 Judgment was entered against the former Employer and ordered to pay Ksh 108,000 to our client. They however failed to pay and Kituo proceeded to file warrants for attachments of property. The former employer being dissatisfied by the court judgment filed an Objectors Notice claiming that Kituo sued the wrong party. They claimed that

the items Kituo had listed to attach were of Mombasa Slaughter House Ltd and NOT Mombasa Slaughter House. The matter proceeded for hearing and eventual on the 15th July 2016 they were ordered to pay our client 180,000/= plus a certificate of service. Our client, Moses was paid the amount in full and the matter was settled.



## SUCCESS STORY - ALEX MMERA MWALATI



Alex Mmera received his cheque from Christine Obiero as LAED staff join in at Kituo Head office

Alex Mmera Mwalati from Kakamega worked as a radio producer at Sauti Ya Rehema (Sayare RTVN) for seven years until October 2015 when he voluntarily chose to resign and pursue other things. He duly followed the process required in terminating one's employment by giving a notice period and diligently completing his tasks as he'd always done.

At the end of the working relationship with Sayare RVTN, Mmera requested payment of his outstanding arrears something which he got verbal commitments from the network management but which was not forthcoming. After several unfruitful attempts to get his dues, he decided to seek legal assistance. He approached the Milimani Commercial Court in Nairobi. "The Courts are where justice resides", he said. At the Commercial Court he was directed to Kituo Cha Sheria for further assistance. He walked through the gate at Kituo Cha Sheria, an organization he'd heard about but never interacted with before, in April 2016. Mmera was registered as a new Kituo client and given legal advice on the actions he needed to take to get his arrears. This was done before he was given another date to come and see a lawyer with all the relevant documents.

On 25th May, 2016 Mr. Mmera presented all the relevant documents (appointment

letter, resignation letter and bank statements) necessary for his claim to Ms. Christine Obiero, a Kituo lawyer who advised the client, drafted demand letters and pleadings in pursuit of his claim. The employer remained non-committal to all communication from our client until the matter was filed in Nakuru-the nearest labour court to where Mmera was working. On being served the employer finally acknowledged the employee status of Mr. Mmera and the amount owed in arrears. After negotiations an agreement was put in place giving the formula of payment with Mmera receiving a cheque of Ksh. 138,000-the first installment in September 2016. The employer is expected to clear the balance by December 2016.

A beaming Mmera received the cheque as reward for his labour and persistence in pursuing his rights; he urges people to follow-up their issues where they feel deprived but as a good journalist warns that patience is key. He remains grateful to the team at Kituo for their work in giving hope to the poor and marginalized that they too have rights safeguarded in law that deserve to be pursued.

## KITUO'S ANNUAL TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY



The 'Blue Team' strategizes before kicking off an activity during the team building

**K**ituo Cha Sheria always seeks to have proper and well coordinated working relationship between and among its staff members and to ensure it meets this objective, the organization holds annual team building events to strengthen the staff bond and empower them on the need to work as a team to achieve results.

On 20th October 2016, the Kituo team of all staff drawn from the Head office, Nairobi branch office and the Mombasa regional office converged at the Travellers Beach Hotel and Spa in Mombasa County for this year's event. The staff was joined by members of the Kituo board; Joy Asiema and John Chigiti. The event was facilitated by Elijah Changa, Muriuki Muigai and Thomas Muli of Face to Face, an organization specializing in team building and outdoor recreation activities.

### Fun activities...

The facilitators began the day by introducing themselves and stating the overall objective of the day as "bonding and having fun". They continued by setting agreed ground rules before embarking on the first activity christened "Mingle". This was meant to warm up the body and stretch muscles in readiness for the other activities. The next activity was meant to improve team work, innovativeness and communication skills followed closely by another

one for non verbal communication before the team took a deserved break to hydrate.

After the break there was an activity on effective ways of communication and decision making, leadership and the essence of good planning. "Paty ball" followed and was meant for effective ways of solving problems and adapting to new ways of working. The most interesting and participatory event was the "Ball in bucket", this showed how to appreciate the effort of other colleagues and to be a brothers or sisters keeper. It emphasized on the values of Respect and Trust.

Having travelled to Mombasa the event would have been incomplete without water activities, which happened in the pool with rounds of water polo before staff members extended the party to the Indian Ocean.

### Achieving results...

One of the most powerful reasons for team building is to get results as team bonding brings people together by encouraging collaboration and teamwork with fun activities that help them see each other in a different light allowing them to connect in a different setting. Team Kituo came back refreshed and re-energized ready to close-out the year and achieve even greater results.



Kituo members of staff take a breather after one of the team-building sessions in Mombasa

## KITUO IN KITUI



Community paralegals in Kitui pose for a group photo after the training

**D**uring the week of 11th-15th October, 2016 Kituo Cha Sheria (Kituo) was in Kitui County for a series of activities. Through the support of the Netherlands Embassy in Nairobi Kituo conducted M-Haki market research and awareness, trained volunteer advocates and community paralegals in Kitui together with various radio talk-shows.

The Kitui Region Community M-Haki piloting sessions and market research were held on 11th October, 2016 with community paralegals from Kitui, Mwingi and Mutomo at Talents Hotel in Kitui. The sessions held in Kitui introduced 25 community paralegals in the region to the M-Haki platform and served Kituo in gathering information on the situational analysis of legal justice in the region from their point of view.

On 12th October, 2016 at the Talents Hotel in Kitui; Kituo had the opportunity to engage about 40 community members from the region on the M-Haki platform as well as getting their views on matters access to justice in the region. Present on this day included community leaders who included village administrators, chiefs, women and youth leaders.

On the 13th October 2016 Kituo cha Sheria again conducted a volunteer advocates' training on M-Haki at Talents Hotel in Kitui. Present at the training were advocates who volunteer their professional services from Kitui and Mwingi towns. Kituo's Executive Director Ms. Gertrude Angote encouraged the advocates to continue partnering with Kituo as key stakeholders



Kituo officers John Mwariri and Boniface Muindi during a radio talk show at County FM

in promoting access to justice for all. The advocates lauded the innovative thinking behind the M-Haki platform in delivering legal information to the poor and marginalized people in society.

The volunteer advocates joined Kituo for a FREE legal aid clinic at the African Brotherhood Church in Kitui town on the 14th October, 2016. The legal aid clinic saw enthusiastic members of the public with various legal problems turn up to be advised. Various cases were brought forth by those attending including issues of land, labour, succession, sexual gender based violence and human rights. The legal aid activity was a success with the collaboration of the advocates led by the Kitui Bar Chairman Mr. Japheth Mwalimu and Kituo's lawyer John Mwariri.

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 Syokimau FM and County FM radio stations broadcasting out of Kitui Town.