

KITUO marks Access to Justice day at Kakamega Main Prison



Kituo's AGCP Programme manager Faith Ochieng' addressing members of the prison fraternity during the access to justice day at Kakamega main prison

On Tuesday, 14th November, 2017 Kituo cha Sheria commemorated the Access to Justice Day at the Kakamega Main Prison in Kakamega County.

The day was celebrated to acknowledge the contributions of the prison paralegals as they play a big role in educating inmates about their legal rights to appeal for justice. There were many activities organized by the prison inmates to celebrate the achievements of Kituo's paralegals at the prison justice centre. The day started-off with prayers followed by a colorful entertainment program of song, dance and poetry. Participants were entertained by the inmate's Crime Si Poa group as well as the Kakamega men's and women's prison choirs.

The centerpiece event was an enthralling moot court skit/ debate session presented by the male prison paralegals which showcased their learning and understanding of bail and bond, community service order, legal representation and other judicial procedures.

Guests present included the Kakamega Senior Resident Magistrate Erick Malesi, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution's Mr. Jeremiah Maroro and Volunteer Advocates Mildred Akinyi (Deputy President, Law Society of Kenya-Kakamega) and Ms. Susy Rauto. Others present were Pamela Masistsa, a community human rights volunteer with AVP Trust and the Butali Court CUC as well as the OCPD Kakamega Central Mr. Joseph Chebii.

Officers from the Probation Service Office in Kakamega Judith Mandillah, Lilian Angima and Judith Eperjeje were also present to grace the occasion. Kituo Cha Sheria was represented by the AGCP programme manager Faith Ochieng' and officers Martha Ogutu, Sylvia Wetta and Imoli

Shivega.

The day's host-Senior Assistant Commissioner of Prisons Mr. Emaase Nicholas; the officer in charge of Kakamega prison and Regional Prisons Commander for the Western Region welcomed visitors to the facility. The 400 capacity prison facility is currently at 1,200 occupancy and the officer-in-charge expressed gratitude to Kituo for setting up the prison justice centre by training 23 prison inmates and officer in October, 2016 to assist with reforms and decongestion. About 1,600 cases have been handled by the justice centre paralegals within the past year with many successes.

The Kakamega prison justice center together with other prison centers around the country have contributed in a big way to the decongestion of prisons and at the same time made justice accessible to those who could not afford the services of an advocate. Addressing participants, various speakers appreciated the work done by the prison paralegals and expressed their willingness to support inmates to self-represent and access justice within the prison.

Kituo Cha Sheria remains a constant friend of the poor and the marginalized helping them to access free legal aid to ultimately achieve justice.



A group photo of Kituo staff and the Kakamega prison paralegal together with prison officers during the justice day celebration

People's Land Summit 2017



The 2017 People's Land Summit forum at Tudor Pastoral Centre on 16th December 2017

Kituo Cha Sheria in collaboration with the Coast Land Non State Actors held the People's Land Summit 2017 under the theme; Civil Society National Land Summit: Putting the land agenda back on the National Agenda.

The Convention targeted the Civil Society, autonomous rural and urban organizations, squatters, slum dwellers, independent pro-poor initiatives, state actors among other actors to put the land agenda back on the national agenda.

The forum took place at Tudor Pastoral Centre on 16th December 2017. Participants deliberated on mass agrarian politics that can lead to framing of the right land questions in order to provide land answers that produce true land reforms. Kituo's programme officers Zedekiah Adika and Valarie Ang'awa led the Kituo team at the Summit.

Other key players at the Summit included Haki Yetu, Pamoja Trust, Transparency International and the Kenya Land Alliance.

Kituo Coast Regional Office feted



Kituo's certificates of recognition for the role in empowering the poor and marginalized to access justice awarded by the Mombasa Law Society

Kituo cha Sheria's Coast regional office was feted by the Mombasa Law Society; an affiliate of the Law Society of Kenya for her role in empowering the poor and marginalized to access justice. This happened during the Mombasa Law Society's End of Year Dinner party 2017 on 2nd December, 2017 which was also celebrating 105 years of the legal fraternity in Mombasa. Also honoured were Ms. Annette Mbogoh (the regional office coordinator) and advocate Mr. Allan Nyange. We appreciate the entire team at the Mombasa Regional office and members of the volunteer advocates' scheme who support Kituo in our work. Kituo remains committed to this mission by offering legal aid assistance and pro bono service not only in the Coast Region but across Kenya.

Kituo Trains Women Living with Disability in Kisumu County



Kituo Cha Sheria programme manager Faith Ochieng' leading a discussion during advocacy training activity in Kisumu County for women living with disability

Kituo cha Sheria conducted a 2-day advocacy training activity in Kisumu County for women living with disability.

The activity which took place on the 16th-17th November 2017 was conducted in partnership with the Kenyan Network of Women and Girls with Disabilities and This-Ability Consulting; a social enterprise focused on advancing Disability Rights and Inclusion in Kenya. The event presented an excellent opportunity for community conversations amongst women living with disability in Kisumu on land and property rights.

The overriding message from the training was that - "women with disabilities need empowerment, not sympathy and self advocacy begins with you knowing yourself as a woman with disability".

Deliberations also focused on how women with disabilities claim their spaces within the existing leadership networks within the county. Other sessions were on the Feminist Leadership, Movement Building, and Rights Institute (FLAMBRI) principles and building voice and agency among women with disabilities. Kituo's AGCP programme manager Ms. Faith Ochieng' took lead in the training activity.

Key Upcoming Activities Jan - Feb 2018

1. Program and Organizational Workplans for the year 2018 Jan
2. Client legal advice and representation Jan - Feb
3. Legal aid clinics within Nairobi and Mombasa Jan - Feb
4. Pro bono lawyers training on refugee laws-Feb
5. Public interest litigation caucus in Malindi - Feb
6. Radio Talk show in Kwale - Feb
7. SGBV forum in Kwale - Feb
8. Serving of clients through M-Haki platform
9. Kamiti Maximum Prison paralegal Training- Jan
10. Langata Women's Prison Paralegal Training-Feb

Asian Leadership Colloquium in Thailand



Participants who attended the Asian Leadership Colloquium on Legal Empowerment and Access to Justice in Bangkok, Thailand pose for a group photo

Kituo Cha Sheria's Executive Director Gertrude Angote attended the Asian Leadership Colloquium on Legal Empowerment and Access to Justice in Bangkok, Thailand from 13th to 15th December 2017.

The Colloquium was organized by the Centre for Peace and Justice of BRAC University-Dhaka, Bangladesh with support from the Open Society Justice Initiative.

The main objective of the colloquium was to learn about the various activities and programmes being undertaken by various players on legal empowerment and access to justice, showcasing successes and challenges. The colloquium allowed participants to collectively brainstorm on legal empowerment innovations that may lead to more sustainable efforts;

contribute ideas on how the various legal empowerment organizations in the region can collaborate and contribute to each other's success and strength; and forge a consensus on the way forward and immediate next steps on possible regional collaboration for legal empowerment.

The Executive Director, Ms. Angote was also part of the African Centre of Excellence for Access to Justice (ACE-AJ) team at the colloquium that shared experiences on ACE-AJ's African legal empowerment programmes as well as international programmes and best-practice.



Ms. Gertrude Angote, the Kituo Executive Director makes a point during a panel discussion at the Asian Leadership Colloquium

Nomination of Kituo's Executive Director



Kituo Cha Sheria Executive Director Ms Gertrude Angote has been nominated to be part of a panel of judges that consist of leaders and visionaries in the field of legal empowerment set to spearhead and select the best award winner of the 2017/2018 NAMATI Grassroots Justice Prizes.

NAMATI is a Global Legal Empowerment Network consisting of 4,000+ lawyers, community paralegals, human rights activists and grassroots organizers, researchers, journalists,

and public servants who are working together to make justice a reality for the 4 billion global citizens who live outside the law.

The NAMATI Grassroots Justice Prize competition recognizes grassroots organizations and institutions, large and small, across the globe, that are working to put the power of law in people's hands.

The panel of judges will select the winners under the two Categories; the Achmed Sesay Memorial Prize for Innovation and the -- Nomboniso Nangu Maqubela Memorial Prize for Scalability and Sustainability while The #WalkTogether Prize for Courage which is the third category will be determined by a public vote.

Each of the three winners will receive \$10,000 USD and will be honored at a high-profile ceremony in Argentina on World Justice Day (20 February 2018).

Viva Kituo!

Kituo conducts refresher training for Community Paralegals in Nairobi



A group photo of Kituo staff together with Nairobi community paralegal showcasing their certificates after the successful training

Kituo cha Sheria conducted 5-day training for community paralegals in Nairobi at the Marble Arch Hotel, Nairobi.

The paralegal training which started on 4th December 2017 brought together 45 community legal volunteers and human rights defenders from Nairobi's informal settlements- Kibera, Kamukunji, Korogocho and Mukuru. Day 1 of the training covered the legal framework for addressing Sexual and Gender Based Violence with focus on the Sexual Offences Act, Children's Act, CEDAW and the Penal Code.

Discussions during Day 1 were mainly around paralegals, children officers and gender defenders' experiences on handling Sexual Gender Based Violence cases. Other topics the paralegals were taken through focused on Land Laws Amendment Acts-2016,

legislations and the procedure in the law of Succession.

The training also provided an opportunity for Kituo and the community paralegals to discuss sustainability of the community justice centres and the paralegals' code of conduct. Participants then had a recap of the week's deliberations and got awarded certificates.



Kituo's Faith Ochieng' AGCP programme manager, facilitating a session during the community paralegals training at the Marble Arch Hotel, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria's Annual General Meeting 2017



Kituo's Annual General Meeting (AGM) at the Panafric Hotel, Nairobi.

Kituo held her 2017 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 19th December, 2017, at the Panafric Hotel, Nairobi. The annual event brought together Members of the Kituo AGM including the Board of Directors, Program heads, Board of Trustees and representatives of staff. Led by the Board of Directors chair, Mr. Anthony Mulekyo and the Executive Director Ms. Gertrude

Angote, the Members were taken through various reports concerning the organisation including the programmatic and financial reports.

They lauded the effort put in by Kituo members of staff and the Board of Directors throughout the year 2017 and encouraged them to continue in the same spirit.

KITUO holds the Annual Candle Light Memorial Dinner 2017



Participants holding lit candles in honor of the lives lost to gender based violence in Kenya

On 19th November 2017, Kituo held the annual candle light memorial dinner with SGBV survivors at the Panafric Hotel in Nairobi. The year's theme was 'Amani Haki na Maridhiano' (Peace Justice and Reconciliation).

The classy evening event brought together members of the civil society, Members of Parliament, Members of County Assemblies, gender champions, community members and government officials.

This was the center-piece event of the 16 Days of Activism campaign on sexual gender based violence against women and girls. In honor of the lives lost to gender based violence in Kenya, participants lit candles with different speakers giving messages of hope to the survivors as well strategies that need to be put in place to curb SGBV and programs to be implemented to empower survivors.

Kituo's Executive Director Ms. Gertrude Angote in her speech called upon the government to take stern action against the perpetrators of sexual violence and to put measures to ensure that violation against human rights are not repeated. She added that the government needs to set up more gender based recovery centers that will host the victims and offer psychological support to the survivors.

Ms. Jacqueline Mutere, a survivor and founder of Grace Agenda; an SGBV advocacy organization and partner of

Kituo urged Kenya's women representatives to appreciate and show their immense support to SGBV survivors especially girls by using the affirmative action funds to help the girls complete their studies.

Mr. Ken Obuya, MCA Imapa Daima ward-Nairobi, recognized the importance of women in society and promised to push, in the next assembly, for the County Government of Nairobi to put up a rehabilitation center for the victims' developments and welfare.

Speaking during the event, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) Commissioner, Ms. Jedidah Wakonyo Waruihu who was the key note speaker called upon the government to declare SGBV a national disaster as it has formed a repeated culture of impunity contrary to what the law. "SGBV has become dominant and deprives us of our rights. It is a power dominance tool. KNCHR strives to maintain a culture of human rights" added Ms. Wakonyo.



Ms. Roselyn Mukabana a representative from the Nairobi City County government makes her remarks during the candle light dinner at Panafric Hotel.

KITUO Conducts a Legal Aid Clinic and Volunteer Advocates recruitment drive in Makeni County



A group photo of Kituo legal aid officers together with volunteer advocates from Makeni County

Kituo Cha Sheria on 22nd of November 2017 conducted a FREE legal aid clinic in Wote, Makeni County.

Kituo's Legal Aid and Education Department (LAED) officers together with the newest members of our Volunteer Advocates' Scheme from Makeni County on this day attended to a total of forty one (41) clients who sought legal assistance on land, labour and housing matters.

The legal aid clinic came a day after a public interest litigation caucus with volunteer advocates in Makeni. The caucus was aimed at identifying public interest cases in the region and discussing co-operation with the volunteer advocates in filing the cases.

A total of eight (8) advocates agreed to register with Kituo as volunteer advocates to serve Makeni county residents on legal matters. The

recruitment came after Kituo's Legal Aid and Education Department noted that more often clients from Makeni County travel all the way to our Nairobi offices seeking legal services mainly on land, succession, family and labour related issues.

Kituo continues to engage and recruit volunteer advocates in almost all the 47 counties in Kenya to assist the organization reach its clientele from these far-flung areas.



Kituo's Executive Director Ms. Gertrude Angote attending to a client during the legal aid activity in Wote Makeni County

Annual Team Building Activity 2017



Kituo Staff during one of the team building exercises

Kituo 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 18th December 2017, the Kituo team of all staff drawn from the Head office, the Nairobi branch office and the Coast regional office in Mombasa converged at the Brackenhurst Hotel, Limuru in Kiambu County for the 2017 team-building activity.

The staff was joined by Kituo Board member Joy Asiema. The event was facilitated by a team from Face to Face Kenya; an organization specializing in team building and outdoor recreation activities. 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 Celebrates International Human Rights Days 2017 in Mombasa



Participants pose for a photo at the Shimo La Tewa Prison during the International Human Rights Day 2017 celebration

Kituo Cha Sheria Mombasa regional office in partnership with Muhuri Kenya and Stretchers Youth Organization on 10th December 2017 joined millions of people worldwide in commemorating the International Human Rights Day 2017. In line with the year's theme 'Stand Up For Human Rights', Kituo participated in providing legal advice services to the Shimo La Tewa Prison inmates (Both Men and Women sections) as well as conducting several social activities including sports, prisoner's skits and an award ceremony for the outstanding officers. The international Human

Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December. This is the day that the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This year, Human Rights Day kicked off a year-long campaign to mark the upcoming 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document that proclaimed the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being -- regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

KITUO Conducts Refugee Protection Training for Law enforcement Officers in Tana River County



Kituo's legal officer Mr. Osborn Kitonga leads a session during the refugee protection for law enforcement officers in Tana River County

Kituo cha Sheria's through the Forced Migration Programme conducted an intensive training on refugee protection for law enforcement officers at the Laza Leisure Lodge in Hola, Tana River County.

The training conducted on the 15th-16th November, 2017 saw 24 police officers drawn from various police divisions

across Tana River County successfully completing the two-day program. UNHCR Kenya and Kituo cha Sheria alongside other partners attempt to promote or provide legal and physical protection, and minimize the threat of violence-including sexual assault-which many refugees are subject to, even in countries of asylum.

KODIAGA PRISON PARALEGAL REFRESHER TRAINING



Ms. Sylvia Wetta Kituo legal officer leading refresher training for prison paralegals at the Kisumu Maximum Prison-Kodiaga

Kituo Cha Sheria conducted a refresher training for prison paralegals at the Kisumu Maximum Prison-Kodiaga. The training which started on 13th November, 2017 continued up to the 18th November, 2017. The Kodiaga Prison Justice Centre is managed and run by trained paralegals to assist other inmates self-represent in court, offer legal advice to the other inmates, educate them on criminal law and guide them on how to confidently represent themselves in court and empower the entire prison community. Kituo has played a big role in supervising the centre and provides technical assistance in legal matters that need the attention of an advocate. The Centre has recorded major

milestones since the launch in 2016 with 252 petitions of appeals lodged to various High Courts within the Western Kenya region pending hearing and determination. A further 202 notices of appeal have been lodged on behalf of inmates to the Court of Appeal at Kisumu pending hearing and determination. The prison paralegals at the centre have also been able to peruse and write submissions of about 150 files from both convicts and remand prisoners. The refresher training was a joint activity conducted by officers from the advocacy, governance and community partnerships and the legal aid and education programmes of Kituo.

KITUO Conducts Refresher Training for Community Paralegals in Vihiga County



A group photo of Kituo staff, community legal volunteers and human rights defenders from Vihiga County

Kituo Cha Sheria conducted five days-from the 15th to 19th December 2017-refresher training for community paralegals in Vihiga County. The activity which took place in Chango Village at the Umbrella of Civil Society Organization Community Justice Center (UCSO) premises brought together community legal volunteers and human rights defenders from Vihiga County with the aim of Capacity building paralegals, further Training in Advocacy, and Capacity building in Organization Development and Systems Strengthening.

The participants were taken through a series of topics including; Alternative Dispute Resolution Mechanisms, general provisions relating to the Bill of Rights (Art 19-51), human rights, qualities and skills of a community paralegal, Land Rights Awareness, Labour rights, Environmental Law and Criminal Procedure among others.

This came after Kituo noted that the Community Justice Centre continually faces several challenges which mostly centered on the need for further training and capacity building of paralegals in order to serve the community better.

KITUO CONDUCTS END YEAR FREE LEGAL AID CLINIC



A group photo of Kituo Staff with visitors from Misereor Ms. Antje Hauten and Ms. Caroline Lunani (centre, holding gift bags) during the legal aid clinic

Kituo is driven to offer free legal aid which is essential to guaranteeing equal access to justice for all. Kituo has conducted various free legal Aid clinics where Kituo invites volunteer advocates and various practicing lawyers to convene so as to offer legal aid services to clients who otherwise find it expensive to engage a lawyer in their quest for justice. The lawyers attend to all the clients regardless of their gender, economic status, age, and ethnicity by interviewing and offering appropriate advice.

On Monday, 27th November, 2017, Kituo held a one day FREE LEGAL AID CLINIC at the Head Office. During the legal aid clinic Kituo Cha Sheria also gladly hosted our partners-Ms. Antje Hauten and Ms. Caroline Lunani from Misereor who visited Kituo for a progress update. We have mapped out core areas in which our mandate extends. This includes land, housing, labour, succession and forced migration.

The annual event was the last legal clinic for the year 2017 and presented an opportunity to interact with the public

Kituo serves. We continue to provide legal empowerment to the poor and marginalized. The much awaited endeavor attracted clients from all over Kenya who thronged Kituo's head office as early as 6.30 am. Clients were given legal assistance free of charge with people coming from as far as Kajiado, Bungoma, Laikipia, Machakos and Nakuru.

The event is normally dedicated to giving a chance to the large number of clients that Kituo may not be able to accommodate in our daily busy schedule.

During such events Kituo welcomes volunteer advocates and various practicing lawyers as well as University of Nairobi's Student's Association for Legal Aid and Research (SALAR) to convene so as to offer Legal Aid services to various clients who otherwise find it very expensive to engage a lawyer in their quest for justice. The lawyers interview the clients and offer appropriate advice. If need be a follow up process is initiated through appointments.



Kituo advocates together with the volunteer advocates attend to clients during the end year legal aid clinic at Kituo Head Office in Nairobi

ECOSOC PRO BONO LAWYER OF THE YEAR 2017



Kituo cha Sheria Advocate Allan Nyange (Centre) received the award during the Annual ECOSOC Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Awards

Kituo cha Sheria's Advocate Allan Nyange was honored with the pro bono Advocate Award (2nd Runner's-up) during the 5th Annual ECOSOC Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year Awards. The awards were organized by Amnesty International Kenya, The Law Society of Kenya (LSK), The East African Centre for Human Rights and Peace Brigade International in Nairobi on 7th December 2017 at Hilton Hotel.

Mr. Nyange was awarded for his resilience and commitment in taking up matters and effectively representing people in Mombasa who have been harassed and/or falsely accused by the police. His work has gone a long way in ensuring that the police are becoming more accountable for their work and conduct.

This year's theme for the awards was "Safeguarding Human Rights and

Fundamental Freedoms through Improved Law Enforcement" which was informed by the fact that in the recent past, there has been the emergence of numerous cases of Extra-Judicial Killings and Police Brutality witnessed within the country which poses specific challenges to the nature of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

The award ceremony which takes place annually is meant to recognize members of the Bar that have excelled in pro bono work in different aspects. The award recognizes the sacrifices they have made in advancing the course of justice. Team Kituo takes great pride in the award honoring and celebrating pro bono lawyers in advancing the cause of justice.

We care for justice. Viva Kituo!

16 Days of Activism Campaign launch in Mombasa



Guests follow proceedings at Mtopanga Primary School, Mombasa during the launch of the 16 Days of Activism campaign in Mombasa

The first step to recovery is admitting that there is a problem. Kituo cha Sheria's Mombasa regional office team took part at the launch of the 16 Days of Activism campaign at Mtopanga Primary School together with the Pwani Gender Based Violence Network. The theme for the campaign in Mombasa was "Advocate for a Violence Free Society".

KITUO Holds Community Outreach on SGBV in Nairobi



Participants keenly follow proceedings during an outreach forum on sexual and gender based violence in Korogocho, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria in partnership with Grace Agenda, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Mathare, The Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW) and the paralegal justice centers in Nairobi during the 16 Days of Activism conducted ten Community outreach fora on sexual and gender based violence in Nairobi's urban informal settlements.

The meetings were conducted in areas that were mostly affected by the 2017 post-election disturbances like Korogocho, Kibera, Dandora, Kawangware, Mathare and Babadogo. The meetings brought together at least 60 participants including SGBV Survivors at each sitting. The participants were taken through proactive measures to be taken in preventing sexual and gender based violence in cases where women and children have been raped and/or defiled, dissemination of

information on immediate action and referral pathways.

Kituo not only provided physiological counseling to the SGBV Survivors but also interviewed and collected statements from over the 100 witnesses and survivors of sexual violence in the said areas with the main goal and objective of bringing to account State security agents and other non-state actors who committed these heinous acts.

The participants reported Gender Based Violence as one of the wicked acts used to suppress political and civic participation of marginalized groups including but not limited to women who vote, protest, campaign, or mobilize within civil society as witnessed in opposition strongholds in Nairobi and Western Kenya.



Ms. Elizabeth Atieno from Grace Agenda facilitating a community forum in Mathare