

KITUO Conducts Paralegal Training in Kisumu and Kakamega Prisons



Kisumu Prison paralegals with Kituo staff pose with their certificates after the successful training

Kituo cha Sheria conducted paralegal refresher trainings in the Kisumu Maximum Prison (Kodiaga) and the Kakamega Main Prison in Western Kenya. The activities started on 16th December 2019, going on up to 22nd December, 2019.

The trainings sought to empower the prisoners to enable them access justice with emphasis on fundamental human rights, legal representation and the judicial procedures. The two prisons house Kituo supported Justice Centres. The centres are managed and run by trained paralegals to assist other inmates self-represent themselves in court, offer legal advice to the other inmates, educate them on criminal law, give guidance on how to confidently represent themselves in court and empower the entire prison community. Kituo has played a big role in supervising the centres and provides technical assistance on legal matters that need the attention of an advocate. The prison justice centre have recorded major milestones since their launch with many petitions of appeal lodged to various High Courts within the Western Kenya region pending hearing and determination. Kituo trained both inmates and prison officers.

The refresher trainings were an activity in support of promoting access to justice for the poor and marginalized in detention centres through establishment of prison justice centers and was supported by the

Royal Dutch Embassy. The prison paralegals that undertook the week-long legal training included 20 inmates and 10 prison officers in both prison centres. The main activity taking place during the graduation day was a moot court skit meant to aid the prisoners in learning about bail and bond, community service order, legal representation and other judicial procedures.

In attendance at the celebrations were Kituo Cha Sheria's board of directors' representatives, the Officers-in-Charge (OIC) among others. Volunteer Advocates from Kisumu and Kakamega, Judiciary officers and regional probation officers were also in attendance. Kituo also donated law materials and equipment including a computer, printer and stationeries to support the prison justice centre. The two training activities were spearheaded by Kituo advocates led by Mr. John Mwariri and officers Jacquelyn Jepchirchir, Janet Kosgei and Ojunni Ojullu.



Kituo Advocate John Mwariri takes prison paralegals through a session during the training at the Kakamega Prison

KITUO Holds Community Land & Housing Forum in Voi, Taita-Taveta



Kituo' Mombasa regional office coordinator Allan Nyange stresses a point during the community land and housing forum at the Two Oceans Hotel Voi, Taita Taveta County

Kituo Cha Sheria's Mombasa regional office held a Community Land and Housing forum at the Two Oceans Hotel Voi, Taita Taveta County. The Forum hosted on 6th December 2019 was organized by Kituo and the Coast Land Non-State Actors (CLNSA) which is a network of over 20 CSOs in the Coast and was spearheaded by Allan Nyange, Tim Kiringi and Reuben Kuto of Kituo Cha Sheria.

Kituo has been an instrumental player in ensuring land justice and reforms are achieved and work for the poor and lowly. The forum discussed different land issues that affect the local community including the issue of squatters, title deeds and many other issues.

KITUO Joins the World in Campaign Against Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV)



Kituo Cha Sheria joined the World to call for the prevention and elimination of violence against women and girls to mark the beginning of the 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

Kituo as an integral part of Kenya's rights crusaders took part in the 16 days of activism against Gender-Based Violence, an international campaign aimed at stopping violence against women and girls which kicked off on 26th November 2019. Under the year's theme- "Orange the World: Generation Equality Stands against Rape!" Kituo called for increased awareness and sharing knowledge for the effective prevention of violence against women.

KITUO Joins a Public Awareness and Dialogue Forum in Mombasa



The Mombasa Chief Magistrate Edna Nyaloti speaks to participants of the public forum at Ziwa La Ng'ombe Social Hall (KICODEP) in Nyali Sub County, Mombasa

Kituo cha Sheria's Coast Regional office- Mombasa joined over 120 community members at the Ziwa La Ng'ombe Social Hall (KICODEP) in Nyali Sub County, Mombasa for a Public Forum.

The public awareness and dialogue forum was held on Saturday, 14th December 2019, spearheaded by Collaboration of Women In Development (CWID) and CSOs partners working around security issues and human rights at the Coast. The forum brought together the Legal Aid Service Providers, Magistrates and Advocates based in Mombasa. The Kenya Community Support Centre (KECOSCE), Nyumba Kumi Initiative representatives, community paralegals, women

groups, Community Health Volunteers, Youth groups and the community members from Nyali Constituency and its environs attended the forum.

Participants sought to dialogue on issues affecting the community and offer possible solutions to peace and security, parenting, P3 filling; addressing SGBV issues, among others. Participants at the day-long forum also discussed issues around women rights and youth involvement in preventing Violent Extremism. Kituo offered free legal aid and advice services to participants during the activity led by legal officer Zedekiah Adika. The Mombasa Chief Magistrate Edna Nyaloti graced the event.

KITUO Hosts Coast Civil Society Reference Group Meeting



Members of the Coast Civil Society Reference Group pose for a group photo after a security thematic group meeting in Mombasa

Kituo cha Sheria Coast Regional office- Mombasa on 25th November 2019 convened the quarterly meeting of the security thematic group of the Coast Civil Society Reference Group. The Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG)- Mombasa; a broad coalition of CSOs, religious organizations and non-state actors operating in the Coast Region with the core mandate of protecting and upholding

Human Rights. The meeting took place at the Tudor Pastoral Centre; Mombasa also marked the start of Kituo's 16 days of activism campaign in Mombasa. During the network meeting, members were taken through the Legal Aid Act 2016, how it influences access to justice and the role of civil society in ensuring its implementation to enhance access to justice. Participants were drawn from organizations based in Mombasa County (Kisauni, Nyali, Likoni, Changamwe and Jomvu sub-counties) to discuss the state of human rights in the Coastal region. The quarterly meetings are being undertaken under the Njia Za Haki project supported by UNDP Amkeni Wakenya. The meeting was ably facilitated by legal/programme officer Zedekiah Adika.

Key Upcoming Activities Jan - Feb 2020

1. Program and Organizational Workplans for the year 2020- Jan
2. Client legal advice and representation Jan - Feb
3. Legal aid clinics within Isiolo, Garissa Nairobi and Mombasa under Imarisha Haki project Jan - Feb
4. Legal advice to clients through the M-Haki platform Jan - Feb
5. Legal Aid clinics with the Refugee Community in urban settlements - Nairobi and Mombasa-Jan - Feb
6. Legal Aid clinics with CJsCs in informal settlements - Jan - Feb
7. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) group sessions- Jan - Feb
8. International Women's Day Celebration- Feb

KITUO Hosts Bi-Annual Community Paralegals Conference



Community paralegals following proceedings during the Bi-annual Stakeholders Conference at the City Blue Hotel, Mombasa

Kituo cha Sheria's Coast Regional office, Mombasa conducted the Bi-annual Stakeholders Conference at City Blue Hotel, Mombasa on 11th December 2019. The Conference aimed at providing a brief on Community Paralegal practice in Mombasa. Participants were taken through the Legal Aid Act, 2016 and the progress in developing regulations. Community members, paralegals, the Judiciary, NLAS, and members of the Coast CSOs Network were in attendance. The Conference was held under the Njia Za Haki project. The project is implemented

by Kituo with the support of UNDP Amkeni Wa Kenya; it seeks to facilitate access to justice for the poor and marginalized communities in Mombasa County. Mombasa County is the centre of the Coastal region. It reflects challenges affecting people along the region. Access to justice remains a challenge for the residents with inadequate access to legal representation, cumbersome processes at the registries together with case backlogs are just some of the key challenges hindering access to justice in the county. These are widely mirrored in cases recorded at Kituo office.

MHAKI
"Haki Mkononi"



KITUO Conducts Legal Aid And Awareness Forums



Kituo's Boniface Muinde advises community members during the free legal aid and awareness clinics in Kitui County

Kituo Cha Sheria conducted free legal aid and awareness clinics in Kitui County from the 9th to 14th December 2019. The activities were undertaken in collaboration with Community paralegals from the Kitui Community Justice Centre and Volunteer Advocates based in Kitui. The events sought to promote a better understanding by the public of the law; pro bono legal services and legal aid as well as Kituo's work and our role in the advancement of legal literacy and advocacy.

The Kitui Community Justice Centre paralegals took time to enlighten members of the public on Alternative Dispute Resolution methods in Kenya i.e. Mediation, Negotiation, Arbitration and Conciliation. ADR and Traditional Dispute Resolution Methods (TDRM) processes contribute to enhanced access to justice by all, and in particular among the poor people; enhanced access

to justice also strengthens the rule of law. Public awareness sessions were also undertaken on land and environmental law with participants being taken through the new land laws, types of ownership in land, and an overview on the National Land Commission. The activities in Kitui County were led by the Advocacy, Governance and Community Partnerships (AGCP) programme coordinator Valarie Ang'awa.

Kituo Cha Sheria officers and community paralegals were later hosted at Syokimau FM for a Radio talk show in Kitui town. The main topic of discussion for the 3-days talkshows was access to justice and Kituo took the opportunity to re-introduce the M-HAKI service. An SMS legal information service that seeks to save clients time and money as they do not have to visit Kituo offices or the Justice centres to receive legal advice.

KITUO Supports Riara University Legal Clinic



Riara University Law Society students and Kituo staff pose for a group photo after the students received material support for a legal aid clinic in Kibra, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria on 25th November 2019 provided material support to the Riara University Law Society students for a free legal aid clinic conducted in Kibra, Nairobi County. The materials were mainly in the form of legal publications

on different areas and were received by the University's student leaders at Kituo Head office. Kituo regularly engages partners in the promotion of access to justice to the poor and marginalized in society which is in line with Kituo's core vision.

KITUO Presents On Clinical Legal Education In Indonesia



Kituo's Executive Director Dr. Annette Mbogoh and Ronald Rogo, a lecturer at the University of Nairobi making a joint presentation on Clinical Legal Education at the 10th Global Alliance for Justice Education (GAJE) Conference in Bandung, Indonesia

Kituo Cha Sheria's Executive Director Dr. Annette Mbogoh and Ronald Rogo, a lecturer at the University of Nairobi made a joint presentation on Clinical Legal Education in the Market place: The Importance of Collaborative Approaches in Justice Education at the 10th Global Alliance for Justice Education (GAJE) Conference in Bandung, Indonesia. GAJE is a global alliance of persons committed to achieving justice through education. GAJE has sponsored eight worldwide conferences since it was formed in 1999, with delegates at each conference representing every region of the world. The 10th Worldwide Conference took place from 4th to 10th December 2019 and

was hosted by Pasundan University. The session presentation was attended by experts in the field from various countries. The presentation highlighted the importance of collaboration between civil society and academia in addressing justice and legal empowerment issues within communities whilst at the same time supporting the training of holistic law graduates. The presentation received positive responses from conference participants who generally noted that collaborations were important but organizations ought to be strategic and wise in choosing partners, define and manage expectations for a fruitful collaboration and finally complement one another's strengths and weaknesses.

KITUO Conducts Paralegals Training In Mombasa



Kituo's Kuto Reuben training community paralegals at the KICODEP Hall in Kisauni

Kituo Cha Sheria, Mombasa regional office conducted trainings for community paralegals in Mombasa County. The activities which took place in Kisauni at the KICODEP Hall and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Chagamwe began on 19th - 25th November 2019. Kituo advocates led by Zedekiah Adika and Dorcas Akinyi with the assistance of volunteer advocates facilitated

the trainings where a variety of topics were covered. Some of these include gender & gender-based violence, labour relations laws, family law, human rights, laws of succession, devolution governance in county governments and public participation in budget-making. This activity was supported by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Amkeni waKenya programme and were aimed at equipping the community paralegals with the necessary knowledge on different aspects of the law in line with our mission of promoting access to justice to the poor and the marginalized in society.

KITUO Conducts Refresher Training For Lang'ata Women's Prison Paralegals



Invited guests during the Lang'ata Womens' Prison access to justice day on Wednesday 4th December 2019

Kituo Cha Sheria held a 5-days refresher training for inmates and prison officer paralegals at the Lang'ata Womens' Prison in Nairobi. The event kicked off on 28th November 2019 and went on until Wednesday 4th December 2019 with the support of the Dutch Embassy in Kenya and was capped with a graduation ceremony held at the facility.

The activity saw inmate paralegals as well as several officers trained on a number of topics related to the justice court system processes including arrests, arraignment in court, defense, prosecution, judgment, appeals processes and many others.

Kituo regularly trains prison paralegals in different prisons with the aim of equipping them with the requisite legal knowledge that will enable those who are still in the process

of appealing against their cases as well as those in remands to understand how the court system works so that they can be efficient and confident as they go through the process. These paralegals also assist their fellow inmates in the legal matters such as launching their defenses and appeals.

Kituo does this regularly with the aim and hope of promoting access to justice to the poor and marginalized, which is in line with its vision of a society of justice and equity for all.

Kituo Cha Sheria's advocate Ms. Martha Ogutu who spearheaded the training with the help of a volunteer advocate, Ms. Tina Owuor was joined by fellow Kituo staff led by Ms. Valarie Ang'awa-AGCP, Mr. John Mwariri-LAED and Ms. Lydia Awiti-HR Manager, among others for the graduation day's event.

KITUO HOSTS CLNSA MEETING



Members of the Coast Land Non-State Actors (CLNSA) during the day-long meeting held at the Tudor Pastoral Centre focusing on the Housing Regeneration Program in Mombasa County

On 22nd November 2019 Kituo Cha Sheria's Coast region office in Mombasa held

a meeting with the Coast Land Non-State Actors (CLNSA) which is a network of over 20 CSOs in the Coast. Kituo is an instrumental player in ensuring land justice and reforms are achieved and work for the poor and lowly. Discussions during the day-long meeting held at the Tudor Pastoral Centre focused on the Housing Regeneration Program in Mombasa County with the County Chief Officer for Lands gracing the event.

KITUO Kituo Presents Garissa University Terror Attack Victims Petition



Kituo Advocate John Mwariri addresses clients at the High Court during a previous hearing date

Kituo Cha Sheria representing 30 parents of students who were killed by terrorists at the Garissa University filed a petition at the High Court seeking a report on the attack on 20th November 2019.

The parents want the court to compel the Independent Policing and Oversight Authority (IPOA) and the Commission on Administrative Justice to furnish them with details touching on the massacre of 148 people. The issues raised in the petition are social and touch on terrorism, human rights and national security, which have not been considered in any other forum in the country," said Kituo Advocate John Mwariri.

The parents say their petition raises questions on whether there is an obligation on the part of the State to provide security in times of a terrorist attack. The parents, who are seeking compensation for the loss of their children's lives, also want to know what time an elite squad of the General Service Unit arrived at the university. They want to know if the Recce squad faced delays before arriving in Garissa, and the effects of such a delay in preventing and mitigating effects of the

attack. "My clients are seeking information on the response and coordination of security officers," said Mr Mwariri.

The petitioners also want to know whether any State officers were found culpable following the attack and whether they were interdicted. "There is great public interest in disclosure of the information to ensure they obtain a remedy from the court and promote accountability among public bodies and servants," said Mwariri. IPOA Director Jeremiah Arodi had said operational information cannot be disclosed because it may imperil ongoing security operations against terrorists and undermine national security. However, Mwariri said the country's security will not be prejudiced, adding that the courts can apply various measures to protect any sensitive disclosures. Justice James Makau directed the parties to exchange their submissions and set hearing for 24th February 2020.



The Garissa University terror attack memorial

KITUO Holds 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM)



Kituo staff, BoD and AGM members pose for a group photo after the 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 19th December, 2019, at the Kituo Gardens

Kituo Cha Sheria (Kituo) held its 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 19th December, 2019, at the Kituo Gardens, Head office-Nairobi. The annual event brought together Members of the Kituo AGM including the Board of Directors, Program heads and representative of staff to receive program and financial reports and the financial audit of the previous year. Led by the Board of Directors chair, Mr. Justus Maithya Munyithya, the Members were taken through programmatic as well as financial reports. The financial Audit of the previous year was also presented to the members. They lauded the effort put in by Kituo members of staff and the Board of Directors throughout the year in pursuit of access to justice for the poor and marginalized people in society. The Executive Director (ED), Dr. Annette Mbogoh presented to the members the Secretariat's progress report during the AGM. Kituo's AGCP programme also launched the M-Haki toolkit during the AGM. The toolkit is a collection of tools that can assist

professionals and practitioners who strive for better access to justice by the public. M-Haki; an innovation which offers legal aid information through a mobile phone text messaging (SMS) empowers the public through information. The meeting ended at around 3.00pm with lunch being served at the venue and each member carrying home a gift voucher as a way of thanking them for their dedication in service. Kituo wishes to thank its development partners notably, Misereor, UNHCR, GIZ/ CPS, Commonwealth-Redress, American Jewish World Service, and the Royal Dutch Embassy for providing financial and technical assistance towards the implementation of our various programmes/projects in an eventful 2019. Kituo also extends our gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Kenya for providing a conducive environment for our operations and for the collaborations that Kituo has enjoyed through the various Ministries and government agencies.

KITUO Attends CSOs Quarterly Meeting



Participants of the Coast CSOs Quarterly meeting at the Tudor Pastoral Centre, Mombasa

On 8th November, 2019 Kituo Cha Sheria held a CSOs Quarterly meeting at the Tudor Pastoral Centre, Mombasa. Central to the day's

discussions was Access to Justice and the role of CSOs in ensuring Article 48 is realized. Article 48 states that the State shall ensure access to justice for all persons and, if any fee is required, it shall be reasonable and shall not impede access to justice. Participants at the meeting were drawn from organizations based in Mombasa County (Kisauini, Nyali, Likoni, Changamwe and Jomvu sub-counties) to discuss the state of human rights in the Coastal region. The quarterly meetings are being undertaken under the Njia Za Haki project supported by UNDP Amkeni Wakenya. The meeting was facilitated by legal/programme officer Zedekiah Adika.

KITUO Attends the Hiil Challenge 2019



Kituo's ED Dr. Annette Mbogoh speaks during the Hiil. Innovating Justice Challenge 2019 Regional Finals in Nairobi

Kituo cha Sheria joined the Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (Hiil) Innovating Justice Challenge 2019 for Startups from Africa Regional Finals in Nairobi on 14th November 2019. Noting 2019 as the year of justice innovation and the mission to improve access to justice for poor people; Kituo's ED, Dr. Annette Mbogoh was a panelist and Judge at the Challenge Finals.

At the Nairobi Regional Finals, justice innovators and entrepreneurs pitched their work to an international jury of experts. The very best had been selected for a place in Hiil's Justice Accelerator program with a chance to receive up to 20,000 Euros in grant funding, potential third party investment, mentorship and tailored business development

support, and access to Hiil's international network of experts and global exposure. The Nairobi Regional Final presented an opportunity to innovators to be at the cutting-edge of new justice innovations and startups in East Africa. The event brought together key players, judges, investors, government officials, justice innovators and civil society members. Speaking at the event, ED Dr. Mbogoh shared Kituo's M-Haki innovation (a Challenge finalist in 2017) and emphasized on the need to look for alternative ways for access to justice. She said it was encouraging to see the inclusion of technology in judicial systems, particularly commending the Kenyan Judiciary for embracing ICT in their day to day operations.

KITUO Joins Coast CSRG to Petition Ferry Services



Kituo's Zedekiah Adika presents a petition by the Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG) to the Director, KFS

Kituo cha Sheria Coast regional office - Mombasa joined the Civil Society Reference Group (CSRG); a broad coalition of CSOs,

religious organizations and non-state actors with the core mandate of protecting and upholding Human Rights to petition the Managing Director, Kenya Ferry Services (KFS). The purpose of the Petition was to raise with KFS, a number of issues emanating from CSRG membership and the Community at large about operations of the KFS in recent times.

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