

REFRESHER TRAINING FOR KIBRA COMMUNITY PARALEGALS



Paralegals from Kebera Community Justice during the refresher training at the Heron Portico Hotel

Kituo Cha Sheria conducted one-week training for 25 Community paralegals from Kibra Community Justice Centre. The training that took place at the Heron Portico Hotel in Nairobi County from 10th to 15th May 2021 aimed to re-instill self-confidence and brush up on the legal skills necessary for the paralegals to carry out their daily activities of enhancing access to justice through public education and free legal services within the communities.

The training was organized by our Advocacy Governance and Community Partnerships program supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands under the objective to promote access to justice for the poor and marginalized.

The training saw participants introduced to Paralegalism. This included Kituo and paralegal work, roles and qualities of a paralegal. Human Rights and general provisions in relation to the Bill of Rights under Chapter Four of the Constitution were covered with emphasis on the Rights of arrested persons and Right to fair hearing as provided for under the Constitution. Participants were also trained on the difference between Civil, Socio-economic and Political Rights as well as the application of Human Rights using examples of cases they handle at the Kibra Community Justice Centre.

The participants were also taken through Criminal Law and Procedure; Who has the power to arrest, How do you arrest, How do you confirm if a warrant is valid, Arresting using reasonable force. Other issues such as Bail & Bond were discussed as well as The role of the legal place of paralegalism with regards to legislations such as the 2014 Legal Aid Act, 2014 Small Claims Court

Act, 2014 Victims Protection Act, 2016 Witness Protection Act and the 2001 Children's Act.

Group discussions were held and presentations made on provision on hearing and determination of cases and Hierarchy of Courts in Kenya. Other topics discussed during the course of the training include Land Law and Conveyance; Labour Law including rights and duties of both employees and employers; Types of Alternative Dispute Resolutions as well as its advantages; Mental Health and; Environmental Law and Environmental Management.

Topics such as Family Law and Succession as well as Gender Based Violence brought about heated discussions that fully engaged the participants. The training ended with a session from our forced migration team taking participants through means and importance of protecting one's Mental Health as well as Refugee law.

The training culminated in a graduation ceremony where certificates were issued. The event was graced by Mr. Justice Munyiithia Chairman Board the Director of Kituo Cha Sheria and Mrs Joy Asiema, Board Member.



Dianah Righa, a Kituo programs officer, taking the participants through a session on "Paralegalism"

Open Government Partnership week



Kituo Cha Sheria joined the world, Civil Society Organizations and Governments in marking the Open Government Partnership (OGP)Week that ran from 17th – 21st May 2021.

The OGP is an international platform based on the idea that an open government is more accessible, more responsive, more accountable to citizens and that improving the relationship between people and their government has long-term benefits for everyone.

Kenya has been a member of the OGP since 2011. Subsequently, for the first time ever, Kenya has an access to Justice commitment which was adopted in the National Action Plan IV. Kituo together with Mzalendo Trust, Namati, Katiba Institute and the JSC Kenya are championing for the implementation of the Legal Aid Act and the Alternative Justice Systems Policy.

Radio talk show - Syokimau FM



Bonface Muinde (Kituo) and Eveline Wamboi (Volunteer Advocate) during a radio talk show at Syokimau FM.

Kituo's Cha Sheria held a radio talk show on Radio Syokimau FM. The station covers the Counties of Kitui, Machakos and Makueni.

The talk show was attended by Kituo's Bonface Muinde, Eveline Wamboi, a volunteer advocate and Robert Nyamtai a paralegal from the Kitui community justice centre. The team sensitized the community on different topics including family law & succession, land, labour and general access to justice. The listeners were also introduced to the M-Haki platform for easy access to justice through sms.

Paralegal Training in Taita-Taveta County



Leah Juma, Kituo officer from Mombasa facilitating a session during the training for paralegals from Taita Taveta County

Kituo Cha Sheria conducted a one-week intensive training for paralegals from Taita Taveta County. The 5-days training took place at Challa Hotel, in Taveta border town aimed at enhancing legal empowerment and education to facilitate greater demand for justice and human rights in Taita Taveta county.

The training saw participants introduced to Paralegalism. This included Kituo and paralegal work, roles and qualities of a paralegal. Human Rights and general provisions in relation to the Bill of Rights under Chapter Four of the Constitution were covered with emphasis on the Rights of arrested persons and Right to fair hearing as provided for under the Constitution. The participants were also taken through Criminal Law and Procedure; Who has the power to arrest, How do you arrest, How do you confirm if a warrant is valid, Arresting using reasonable force. Other issues such as Bail & Bond were discussed as well as The role of the legal place of para-legalism with regards to legislations such as the 2014 Legal Aid Act, 2014 Small Claims Court Act, 2014 Victims Protection Act, 2016 Witness Protection Act and the 2001 Children's Act.

On completion of the training, the paralegals were issued with certificates and a new community

justice centre in Taita Taveta county for efficient legal representation and support was opened.

The Centre will be run and managed by the trained community paralegals who will offer free legal services to the surrounding communities.

The training was spearheaded by Kituo officers Timothy Kiringi, Leah Juma, Ronald baraza and Volunteer advocate Brian Mutuka.

The training was organized by Kituo Cha Sheria under the Advocacy governance and community partnerships program supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Netherlands under the objective to promote access to justice for the poor and marginalized.



Former Taita Taveta governor Mr. Mrutu with some participants

Kituo nominated by International Bar Association and AB and David Law



Kituo cha Sheria wish to express our deepest gratitude for the nomination and donation from the International Bar Association and AB and David Law. Your generous donation comes at a time when there is a widening gap in access to justice for vulnerable and indigent groups due to the adoption of technology by justice actors as a way to curb the spread of COVID-19. The impact of technology in accessing

justice has been widely felt as most Kenyans do not have internet connectivity, devices and technological know-how. The COVID-19 pandemic has required many frontline legal aid providers such as ourselves to embrace and entrench new ways and innovations in providing services to our beneficiaries. Your generous donation will enable our organization to establish an E-resource and ICT justice centre.

Extension of Public Participation on Mombasa County Budget Estimates FY2021/2022



Members of the Coast Civil Society Network at a closed door meeting the Chairperson, Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriation at the Mombasa county assembly office

Kituo Cha Sheria was delighted about the extension of public participation on the Mombasa County Budget Estimates FY2021/2022. Kituo Cha Sheria in partnership with the Coast Civil Society Network Governance Thematic Unit played a central role in presenting an urgent Petition to the County Assembly of Mombasa to extend timeline for presentation of views on Budget Estimates FY2021/2022.

In a gazette notice issued on 24th June 2021 by the county government of Mombasa, the Chairperson, Committee on Finance, Budget and Appropriation invited members of the public to submit Memoranda on the Mombasa County Budget Estimates for the FY 2021/2022.

Kituo though the Mombasa office appealed to residents of Mombasa County, to assess the documents in the website and make recommendations in the budget.

Paralegals Refresher Training in Vihiga County



Paralegals from Vihiga Community Justice during the training at the Roddys Green Lounge Hotel in vihiga county

Kituo Cha Sheria conducted a refresher training for community paralegals in Vihiga County.

The training that took place at Roddys Green Lounge Hotel brought together community legal volunteers and human rights defenders from Vihiga County. Kituo advocates shared information on emerging areas of the law and impacted legal skills to the paralegals. Thereafter, Kituo opened a new community justice centre in Vihiga county that will be run and managed by the trained community paralegals who will be expected to offer free legal services to the surrounding communities. We're delighted to have been joined by Emuhaya Constituency Member of Parliament Hon. Omboko Milemba who gave a keynote speech on the first day

of the training. Hon. Omboko appreciated the work paralegals do and thanked Kituo cha Sheria for their relentless effort in ensuring justice for the poor and vulnerable communities in Kenya. He pledged to support the paralegals in whatever way and do everything possible to defend justice.

On the last day of the one-week long training the paralegal were issued with certificates during a graduation ceremony. After this graduation the paralegals will be ready to serve the community members at the new Vihiga Community Justice Centre located at the Esibuye Interior Church, North East Bunyore Ward, Emuhaya Sub-County. The activity was supported by the Embassy of the Netherlands in Kenya and Mott Foundation.

Legal Aid Clinic at Kalundu market in Kitui County



Community Members with various legal issues being screened by Kituo Lawyers, Paralegals and Volunteer Advocates at Kalundu Market in Kitui County

Kituo Cha Sheria's AGCP team in partnership with the paralegals from Kitui Community Justice Centre and Volunteer advocates on 27th May conducted a one-day free legal aid clinic at Kalundu Market in Kitui county. 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. 55 community members presented their legal issues to advocates and paralegals and received legal assistance. Out of this, 33 were men while 22 were women. There

were 19 labour related issues, 15 land related inquires, 7 succession matters, 5 criminal related questions and 9 issues on Sexual Gender Based Violence. The clients that needed further legal assistance and representation were referred to Volunteer Advocates in Kitui while other were given appointment to visit Kituo head office in Nairobi. The legal aid activity was a success with the collaboration of the two volunteer advocates Eveline Wamboi and Mbaluka Dan, 10 Community Paralegals from Kitui community justice centre and Kituo's staff Bonface Muinde, Samfelix Randa and Jared Nyakundi.

Submissions by the Coast Civil Society Network on Access to Information Regulations 2021



Kituo programme officer Mr. Zedekiah Adika presenting the submissions to Hon. Florence Kajuju at Mission Seafarers Hall in Mombasa.

The Coast Civil Society Network on 21st of June 2021 submitted views to the Commission on Administrative Justice on Access to Information regulations. Kituo Cha Sheria being a member of the Network was central in reviewing and collating views before they were presented to the Commission.

The network underscored the critical role of enhanced access to information to the Public as a facilitator to good governance and protection of Human Rights. It is therefore our duty to ensure Access to Information Regulations 2021 is in place.

The General Concerns includes a. The question of involvement of students in accessing information, especially where they can be intimidated. There are concerns that parents who are critical to local administrations miss out on Bursaries, especially NGCDF.

a) The Commission should consider provisions of anonymous sharing of information.

b) In instances where reference is made to reasonable time, what does reasonable time really refer to There is need for specificity. Our recommendation is that in general circumstances, such information be given 21 days as required under section 9 (1) of the Act.

c) What are the consequences of noncompliance? Noncompliance with timelines, proactive and reactive disclosure?

d) How disability friendly, are the various forms in expected to be introduced?

The specific concerns touched on the Information Access Officers noting the repetition on Section 3 of the regulations, the Proactive Disclosure touching on Section 8 that refers to the obligation of public entity to disclose documents among others.

Capacity Needs assessment on Refugee-led organisations



Group photo of Refugee-led organisations together with Kituo staff

Kituo Cha Sheria's Forced Migration Program with support from Open Society Foundation/OSF, conducted three days Capacity Needs Assessments in Kakuma and Kalobeyei from 23rd to 26th May 2021.

The capacity needs assessment that was conducted in line with the ministry of health COVID-19 regulations aimed at assessing the capacity of existing Refugee-Led organizations-RELOs in Kakuma and Kalobeyei and sensitize representatives on the importance of registering ones' organization

with relevant government department to minimize unnecessary altercation and extortion from law enforcement agencies.

This also offered an opportunity for Kituo to share some basics of Global refugee initiative with RELOs in attendance and train them on basics of self-representation as well as sensitizing them on both national, County and regulations governing registration and operation of CBOs and societies.

Launch of Kisii Community Justice Centre



KITUO Board Member Mr. Okech Awiti (green shirt) together with KITUO Program Coordinator, Ms. Valarie Ang'awa (centre) and Kisii community paralegals after the launch of the Kisii community justice centre

Kituo Cha Sheria is delighted to welcome the Kisii Community Justice Centre to the family of legal empowerment centers spread across the country. The center was launched on 11th June 2021 after intensive training of the paralegals from the 7th to 11th of June 2021 at the Ufanisi Resort.

The training saw participants introduced to Paralegalism. This included being trained on definition, role, qualities and essential skills of a paralegal. Participants were also taken through Gender Law and SGBV discussing matters such as what is the difference between Gender and sex as well as the reporting process of SGBV, Human Rights and its Principles as well as Mental Health.

KITUO Program Coordinator, Ms. Valarie Ang'awa took the participants through Criminal Law and Procedures, principles governing Criminal Law, Land Law, Labor Law and Succession matters.

Participants were particularly active in sessions pertaining to Land Law, Succession matters and SGBV which are rampant issues in the Kisii community. Following the successful training, participants graduated on Friday 11th June, 2021. The Kisii Community Justice Centre located at Nyatero Plaza in Kisii town was also officially launched by KITUO Board Member Mr. Okech Awiti. The Justice Centre will be managed by the trained community paralegals who will offer free legal services to community members.

Free Legal Aid Clinic in Awasi, Kisumu County



A screening session during the legal aid clinic held at the Awasi Catholic Church

Kituo Cha Sheria's in partnership with the Nyando Community Justice Centre held a 1-week free legal aid clinic at the Awasi Catholic Church. The clinic that was held through the support of the Netherlands Embassy in Kenya sought to enhance public awareness on the mandate of KITUO as well as provide a platform for client screening. KITUO screened a total of 100 clients who were from diverse regions with some travelling from as far as Nyamira County. Out of

this, 58 were men while 42 were women. The legal issues ranged from land, succession, labour and criminal matters among others.

Out of all the matters handled, 5 escalated to the Legal Aid and Education programme for further support and allocation of advocates. For instance, a case involving a client and Telkom Company over the lease of a piece of land that had pitted two families against each other was referred to KITUO headquarters.

Radio Talk Show - Koch FM



Kituo Legal Officer, Tracy Wachira (center) and Kituo's Paralegal Michael Odhiambo (in suit) during a radio talk show at Koch FM

Kituo Cha Sheria through its Legal Officer, Tracy Wachira and Kituo's Paralegal Michael Odhiambo of the Korogocho Justice Center on 20th May 2021 attended a radio talk show to highlight the violations that have taken place during the Covid-19 pandemic and to sensitize the public on their rights and avenues they can look to get access to legal aid services.

During the live interactive session in Koch FM, the officers discussed the various violations that had resulted after the country was first locked down in 2020 which included child defilement, child marriages, gender based violence, police brutality, forced disappearances, unfair termination of employment services, unlawful evictions from rental homes and separations in marriages. They highlighted the fact that economic strife caused by the

covid-19 pandemic greatly contributed to the various issues affecting the family unit at the community level. Kituo used the forum to inform the people at the community that the courts have now been digitalized which has got both positive and negative impact on litigants who use the formal court system.

The listeners were also sensitized on the options they have when it comes to settling disputes amicably without involving the court. The officers emphasized on benefits that come with using alternative dispute resolution mechanisms such as negotiations and mediation. During the talk-shows, the officers offered legal aid support to concerns raised by listeners through call-ins and SMS. They used the platform to educate the listeners on M-Haki and how to use the platform to seek legal aid support.

MHAKI "Haki Mkononi"

KITUO clients and members of the public can access legal advice and information simply by sending an SMS to 0700777333. Send your legal question and include your name and location.



SMS

LEGAL QUESTION TO
0700777333

GET A REPLY IN 48 HOURS



OUR LEGAL SERVICES ARE
FREE !!!

STANDARD SMS CHARGES APPLY



Radio talk show at Radio Simba FM



Kituo team led by the AGCP Programme Coordinator Valary Ang'awa (extreme right) pose for a photo session after the radio talk show held at the Simba FM Studios in Bungoma

Kituo Cha Sheria held a radio talk show on Radio Simba, 91.3 FM covering Vihiga County on 26th May, 2021. The radio station covers the 4 Western counties; Vihiga, Bungoma, Busia and Kakamega besides other regions. The talk-show ran from 10:00am to 11:00am and was attended by Kituo staff led by the AGCP Programme Coordinator Valary Ang'awa, Diana Righa, and paralegals from Nyando Community Justice Centre Susan

Kanyoku and Judy Ochanda. Through the talk show, KITUO sensitized the community on different topics including the M-Haki platform, land issues, succession and general conversations around access to justice. The talk show was impactful as the team received the first client immediately after the talk show. The client who had listened in camped at the studio entrance and was attended to by the team.

Public Legal Awareness Webinar on BBI judgement

Kituo Cha Sheria together with LSK Nairobi Branch Legal Aid Committee invites you to

PUBLIC LEGAL AWARENESS WEBINAR

Dissecting and Analysing the BBI Judgment

SPEAKERS

- Mr. Charles Kanjama**
Chair emeritus of LSK Nairobi Branch
Founding partner of Muma & Kanjama Advocates.
- Hon. Priscilla Nyokabi Kanyua**
Advocate of the High Court of Kenya
Commissioner at National Gender and Equality Commission
- Prof. John Osogo Ambani**
Dean School of Law,
Kabarak Law School

MODERATORS

- Dr. Victor Lando, MCIArb,**
Advocate, Lecturer, Riara Law School
- Grace Okumu**
Advocate and Board Member,
Kituo cha Sheria

Friday, 21ST May 2021 2.30pm to 4.30pm

Registration link: <http://bit.ly/DnABBI>

Kituo Cha Sheria and Law Society of Kenya (LSK) Nairobi Branch's Legal Aid Committee organized a webinar to discuss the judgement on the Building Bridges Initiative (BBI). The key speakers who unpacked

the judgement delivered were Mr. Charles Kanjama, Hon. Priscilla Nyokabi and Prof. John Ambani and moderated by Kituo Board member Grace Okumu and Dr. Victor Lando.

Naivasha Prison Justice Centre Launch



The inmates and officers attending the 1-week paralegals training at the Naivasha Medium Prison

As part of Kituo Cha Sheria's strategy to build a movement of prison paralegals who would help sensitise communities on legal issues, the AGCP Department organised a one-week training for 35 paralegals at the Naivasha Medium Prison.

The training that targeted 30 mid and long serving inmates and 5 prison wardens majorly focused on Criminal Law. Among the topics that the paralegals were capacity built on included: Paralegalism, Introduction to Law, Introduction to Criminal Procedure, the Trial Process, Rules of Evidence Pre & Post Sentencing Proceedings, Drafting and the Appellate Jurisdiction.

The training culminated to a

graduation ceremony for the 35 paralegals and during which they were issued certificates and identification badges. The ceremony also doubled as the official launch of the Naivasha Prison Justice Centre and which was built and furnished by KITUO through the support of the Netherlands Embassy in Kenya. Among the items delivered at the Prison Justice Centre included a professional high back arm-chair, a professional desk, an HP printer, a desktop computer and a 3-seater professional steel reception bench. During the graduation ceremony, the prison paralegals committed to use the knowledge gained to help their colleagues and some of who they revealed do not have basic legal knowledge.

Virtual Prison Paralegal Training - Kisii Main Prison



Inmates and prison constable at Kisii Main Prison following a virtual prison paralegal training at kisii prison

Kituo cha Sheria organized a 5-day intensive virtual prison paralegal training for 30 inmates and 5 prison constable at Kisii Main Prison. The trainees were sensitised on the criminal trial process, drafting of pleadings and self-representation. After the

training the graduands were issued with certificates. Kituo also established the Kisii Prison Justice Center where the trained paralegals with assistance of Kituo will provide legal advice to the inmates.

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