

REFRESHER TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY PARALEGALS IN NAIROBI COUNTY



The Chair of the BOD Mr. Justus Munyitya, the Executive Director Ms Annette Mbogoh, members of staff and paralegals pose for a group photo after the refresher training

One of the sustainable strategies used by Kituo Cha Sheria to promote access to justice within the communities is the establishment of justice centres. The Justice Centres are managed and run by trained Kituo paralegals who in turn offer legal advice to clients who walk into their offices. Kituo has played a role in supervising these centres and providing technical assistance in legal matters that need the attention of an advocate.

A total of 50 paralegals, from Nairobi's Kamkunji and Korogocho justice centres benefited from a refresher training on Labour Laws, Mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution, Children's Rights, and Drafting of letters among other topics. The one-week training that was held at the Best Western Hotel, Nairobi County.

The first day of the training covered introduction to paralegalism including qualities and skills of a community paralegal and Sexual and Gender Based Violence. The training was conducted by programme officers from Kituo, volunteer advocates and other partners.

On day 2 of Kituo Cha Sheria's Valerie Ang'awa, the Coordinator- Advocacy, Governance and Partnerships (AGCP) programme took the participants through Introduction to Criminal law and Procedures, client Interviews, types of

clients and roles.

Kituo Cha Sheria's Volunteer Advocate Julie Okech took the paralegals through a session on Gender Law and SGBV on day 3. The participants were also sensitized on Charges, Bonds, Bails and Plea Taking.

On the fourth and last day the participants were trained on Family Law and Succession, Land and Tenants and on Labor Laws.

The training was organized by Kituo's Advocacy Governance and Community Partnerships Programme supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Netherlands under a joint objective to promote access to justice for the poor and marginalized.



Attentive paralegals during the refresher training

Visit to Kamiti Maximum Security Prison



Officer in Charge Senior Sergeant Joseph L. Loktari receives the administrative materials from Kituo's officer Diana Righa

On 18th February 2021 Kituo paid a courtesy visit to Kamiti Maximum Security Prison. During the visit, Kituo's officers Dianah Righa, Steve Biko and Ben Ouko briefed the Officer in Charge Senior Sergeant Joseph L. Loktari and Kamiti Prison Justice Center Coordinator and Prison Officers Mr. Kennedy Okombo on the current programmes that Kituo is implementing in prisons and the plans for 2021 including refresher trainings for prison paralegals and the commemoration of the International Prisoners' Day 2021.

The Kituo delegation then handed over administrative support material including stationeries, tonners and printing papers to the Prison Justice Center to facilitate processing of legal documents at the centre. Through support from the Embassy of Netherlands, Kituo continues to support the prison justice centres and provide technical assistance in legal matters

Demystifying the Building Bridges Initiative Constitutional Amendments



Kituo's Program Officer Zedekiah Adika and Josephine at the Radio Salaam's studio

Kituo Cha Sheria's Programmes officer Zedekiah Adika on 6th February 2020 had an interactive radio talk show at Radio Salaam on demystifying the Building Bridges Initiative constitutional amendments.

Adika together with Josephine Nyamai, a public finance expert based in Mombasa discussed a number of issues including; the cost of the whole process and its financial implications.

M-Haki training in Mombasa



Kituo's Samfeliix Orimba takes the participants through the M-Haki training in Mombasa

On 3rd February 2021 Kituo Cha Sheria successfully trained volunteer advocates, paralegals and Kituo layers in Mombasa on the use of M-Haki platform.

Kituo launched M-Haki platform in December 2016 to assist marginalized clients access justice efficiently and cost effectively. The sms platform is a medium through which the public can access legal aid or advice from Kituo at a minimal cost. The platform provides opportunity for clients to send Legal questions to the number 0700777333 and a response is forthwith issued within 48 hours.

The training took place at Pride-Inn Hotel in Mombasa following the

completion of enhancements of the M-Haki platform in 2020. This training will assist Kituo's volunteer advocates and paralegals to contribute towards enhancing justice for the poor and marginalized. The platform uses SMS technology to disseminate legal information to clients. It has a dedicated mobile number 0700777333 where the public can text legal questions to be answered by Kituo lawyers and volunteer advocates without the need to travel to our offices.

This has reduced the logistical costs of accessing justice and saves clients' time. The technology is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Netherlands.

Coast Non-State Actors on Land hold consultative meeting in Mombasa



Members of the non-state actors on land during their consultative meeting at Tudor Pastoral Centre

On 12th February 2020 the non-state actors on land held a consultative meeting at Tudor Pastoral Centre to review advocacy and legal strategies on the matters touching on collective Public Interest Litigation, including the Mombasa County regeneration of the County Houses, the matter of Mwamdu public land and Mwakirunge dumpsite.

The meeting that was convened

by Kituo Cha Sheria through the support of UNDP-Amkeni Wakenya and European Union in Kenya saw members also discuss strategies for land adjudication. Land is a controversial matter in the coastal region of Kenya.

Kituo Cha Sheria continues to work closely with similar networks in connecting and mobilizing the land sector actors to influence land governance in the country.

Memorandum to the County government of Mombasa



The Coast Civil Society Reference Group pose for a group photo outside the Mombasa county Assembly

Kituo cha Sheria was part of the team that presented a memorandum to the County Government of Mombasa on 24th February 2020.

The memo touched on views on county fiscal strategy paper for financial year 2021/2022 and specifically pointed out the gaps under access to information, incomplete and absence of institutions for enhancing public participation as well as priority areas like water, health, Persons with Disabilities (PWDS) and Waste management.

The memo also raised concerns on the place of common citizens, noting that the documents remain

so technical for their understanding, while at this time of Covid-19, the means of engagement with Communities have completely changed.

Other issues raised included scrutinizing ceiling, performance and projections of the county fiscal strategy paper. Noting for instance, that high projections would be unrealistic due to covid-19 and the need to respect ceilings as set in the county fiscal strategy paper.

This was done under the Governance Thematic area which is a unit in the Coast Civil Society Reference Group.

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.

Eviction of the KIBOS community in Kisumu County



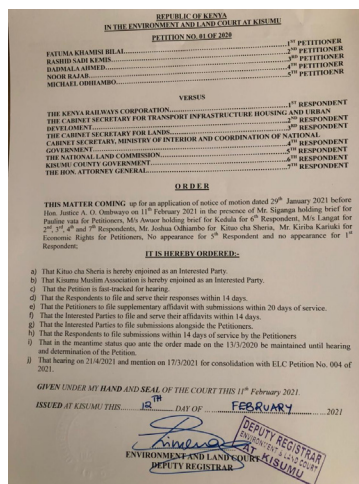
The Kibos community houses in ruins after a forceful eviction

The Kibos community in Kisumu County can now breathe a great sigh of relief after a Court allowed them to return to the disputed land and to erect temporary structures for their shelter.

This was after seven traumatic days when the community suffered the greatest injustice when their hopes, homes and livelihoods were shuttered in less than six hours. The forced eviction attracted public interest and parliamentarians from both houses while the community sheltered in Kenya Red Cross make shift tents.

Kituo Cha Sheria is enjoined as an interested party in the Kibos case that saw more than 3,500

individuals in Kibos village in Kisumu illegally evicted to pave way for the rehabilitation of the old railway line from Nakuru to Kisumu.



COURTESY VISIT BY FOUNDER MEMBER



Prof. Gutto receives a gift pack from the Executive Director Ms. Annette Mbogoh at the Head Office while Kituo staff Tobias Mwandime and John Mwaniri look on

The secretariat was excited to receive one of Kituo Cha Sheria's founder member Prof. Shadrack Gutto who paid us a courtesy call at the head office in Nairobi.

He was received by the Executive Director Dr. Annette Mbogoh who introduced him to staff and briefed him on the current state of affairs and the many projects and programs that Kituo is

currently implementing. He later donated a copy of his book titled "THE REFUGEE AND ASYLUM SEEKER" for our Library. This gesture was highly appreciated.

Prof. Gutto is well known for his contributions in the areas of constitutional law, Human and people's rights, Environment law, property rights and land reform.

Coast Civil Society Reference Group meeting



Members of the Governance Network, under the Coast Civil Society Reference Group pose for a group photo after their meeting.

On 2nd February the Governance Network, under the Coast Civil Society Reference Group held a meeting supported by Kituo Cha Sheria to review strategies for civic engagement and access to justice in the Coast region.

The meeting held at Tudor Pastoral Centre, Mombasa County brought together 25 Civil Society Organisations who canvassed issues touching on

the budgetary process, Petition No. 187 of 2018 - on budget process in Mombasa county and the Criminal matter against civil society activists who were arrested for voicing concerns against 'Covid-19 Millionaire'.

The meeting was organized under the project Njia Za Haki supported by UNDP Amkemi Wakenya in collaboration with EU.

People living with disability trained as paralegals in Kwale County



A group photo of the paralegals, Kituo board member, and kituo staffs at the Mtakuja Adult Centre in Kwale County

Congratulations to our community paralegals in Kwale County for successfully completing their training on 5th February 2020 and joining our network of paralegals.

15 paralegals living with disabilities benefitted from a week long training by Kituo Cha Sheria in partnership with the Outstanding Abilities Kenya. Madam Grace Okumu, a member of the Board of Directors - Kituo cha Sheria, officially opened the training that took place at the Mtakuja Adult Centre in Kwale County from 14th December 2020 to 18th December 2020

The aim of the activity was to enlighten the paralegals in matters concerning law such as Constitutional Law, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Criminal Law, and Human Right.

The event was also attended by Hon Joe Omido (the Senior Resident Magistrate- Kwale County), and Brenda Dosio from the Kenya National Commission of Human Rights (KNCHR) among others.

The paralegals will go a long way in supporting community members access justice in the Coastal counties.

Visit to Langata Women Prison



Kituo officers Jacquelyn Jephchirchir, Diana Righa and Imoli Shivega handover administrative materials to Langata Women prison officers.

Kituo Cha Sheria paid a courtesy visit to Langata Women prison and the Prison justice centre.

During the visit, Kituo's officers Jacquelyn Jephchirchir, Dianah Righa and Imoli Shivega donated administrative materials including stationeries, tonners and printing papers to Langata Women prison justice center to facilitate processing of legal documents at

the centre.

Kituo continues to play a big role in supervising prison justice centres and providing technical assistance in legal matters that need the attention of an advocate.

This activity is supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Netherlands.

Mental Health session in Kawangware and Eastleigh in Nairobi County



Kituo's Alice Kwenda taking participants through the mental health Support session at Kawangware

Kituo Cha Sheria is sensitizing the refugee communities in Ruiru Eastleigh and Kawangware on Kituo's role with the focus on mental health Support. This activity was lead by the Mental Health & Psychosocial Support (MPHSS) team.

Covid-19 pandemic has put pressure and is heavily weighing down on the mental health of the

community at large. More so for the refugees, migrants and asylum seekers who are a vulnerable community! It is for this reason that Kituo MHPSS team decided to visit to visit the refugee communities residing in Ruiru, Eastleigh and Kawangware regions.

The activity was supported by GIZ

THE SUCCESS STORY OF ALICE WAIRIMU KINYAGIA



Alice Wairimu Kinyagia (right), Francis Muingai (Middle) and Kituo officer Imoli Shivega pose for a photo at Wairimu's homestead.

It is a huge reprieve for Alice Wairimu Kinyagia after getting back her piece of land that she has fought for over 40 years. The 78 years old granny who hails from Tinganga village, Ndumberi in Kiambu county has been living on a piece of land 0.35 acres for over 60 years since she got married to her late husband in 1947.

The land was however registered in the name of the brother to her diseased husband. At the time of registration, he was to hold it in trust for his brother (our client's husband) who was in detention.

When her husband was released from detention, he had no problem with the arrangement as the land was registered in his elder brother's name and that was the normal practice then.

Alice husband died before the land was subdivided and title deed issued. Her husband's brother Benson Muroki Thiong'o took advantage of the situation and sought to have the land registered under his name and issued with title deeds.

According to Alice, the two families co-existed peacefully for a long time and there was no reason to suspect that Benson would defraud, lie or take advantage of her.

Alice approached the village elder to try and settle the case through mediation. The village elders subdivided the land equally for Alice and Benson. However, the land title was still in the custody of Benson. When Benson died, her wife Joyce Wanjiku Muroki filed a succession case. A certificate of confirmation of grant was issued to her. The parcel of land was then granted to the daughter, Gathoni Muroki.

Alice claims that she did not know about the succession case until Wanjiku Muroki and Gathoni Muroki invaded her land. They cut

napien grass, started threatening and continued threatening her with eviction while at the same time hurling insults at her for occupation of the suit land.

Alice encounter with Kituo

Alice visited Kituo on 31st January 2011 to seek for legal advice. She was referred to Kituo by the local administration. According to Joseph Njihia Wangai the senior chief Tinganga location, the two families failed to agree on the issue. He therefore referred Alice to seek for legal advice from Kituo after mediation failed.

Kituo did a demand letter to Gathoni Muroki (the defendant) opening for further negotiation. The defendant was adamant which forced Kituo to seek court intervention for and on behalf of Alice (our client).

The case was filed in Nairobi high court in 2013. However, Gathoni Muroki, the defendant at some point changed her mind and opted to have the issue solved out of court as the case determination was taking too long and she too could not afford the cost of hiring an advocate to represent her in court. Kituo officers called both parties for mediation. The defendant agreed to sign a consent letter on 30th September 2020 before Hon. S. Atambo, Senior Pricipal Margistrate at the chief Margistrate court in Kiambu where the case had been transferred to. She consented that the title of the parcel of land known as LR. NO NDUMBERI/TINGANGA/1689 that was under her name be cancelled and transferred to Alice. The filled consent was adopted as agreement of court. The transfers were duly signed and the defendant has released the original land title deed to Alice Wairimu.