

KITUO Conducts Paralegal Refresher Training in Nyeri GK Prison



Nyeri Prison paralegals joined by the Chief Guest Nyeri High Court Judge Teresia Mumbua Matheka (centre), Kituo Board Chair Antony Mulekyo (2nd left) and other guests pose for a group photo after the graduation.

Kituo cha Sheria conducted a paralegal refresher training in Nyeri GK prison. The training sought to empower the prisoners to enable them access justice with emphasis on fundamental human rights, legal representation and the judicial procedures.

The facility also houses a Kituo supported Prison Justice Centre 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 centre and provides technical assistance on legal matters that need the attention of an advocate. The prison justice centre has recorded major milestones since its launch in 2016 with many petitions of appeal lodged to various High Courts within the Central Kenya region pending hearing and determination. Kituo trained both inmates and prison officers.

The refresher training was 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.

On Friday, 25th January, 2019 Kituo joined the Nyeri Maximum Prison - King'ong'o

Prison Justice Center to commemorate Access to Justice Day and graduation of 30 prison paralegals. The prison paralegals that undertook the week-long legal training included 20 inmates and 10 prison officers. The main activity taking place during the 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 Chair Mr. Anthony Mulekyo, Officer-in-Charge (OIC) - Nyeri Maximum Prison, Mr. Bison Madegwa, the Deputy OIC among others. The Nyeri High Court Judge Teresia Mumbua Matheka graced the occasion as the chief guest and lauded Kituo for the noble project which seeks to ensure that Justice is not only accessible to the prisoners but that it is also realized at the Prisons. Kituo also donated law materials and equipment including a computer, printer and stationeries to support the prison justice centre.



Kituo BoD Chair Advocate Anthony Mulekyo presents a certificate to a prison paralegal

KITUO organises a meeting on Public Participation in Governance



Participants during the public Participation in Governance meeting at the Royal Court Hotel, Mombasa

Public Participation in Governance processes is central to realization of the gains in the Constitution of Kenya, 2010. Even though progress has been made to effect this, some counties are still struggling with the processes, Mombasa County included. It is with this in mind that Kituo Cha Sheria in collaboration with members of the Mombasa County CSOs Governance network, organised a strategy meeting on how to expand space for citizenship engagement in the county. The event took place at the Royal Court Hotel, Mombasa.

The meeting was organised under the continuation of legal aid empowerment for people in need in Kenya supported by Misereor.

KITUO Hosts Officials from the Dutch Embassy



The visitors- Ms. Kirsten Hommes and Ms. Nina Pouls from the Dutch Embassy together with Kituo's ED Gertrude Angote and Kituo staff at the M-Haki Hub in the Head Office

Kituo cha Sheria on Wednesday- 30th January, 2019 hosted officials from the Dutch Embassy in Nairobi at the Kituo Head office. The two visitors- Ms. Kirsten Hommes and Ms. Nina Pouls from the Embassy's Political Affairs, UN and Public Diplomacy unit were welcomed by Kituo's Executive Director Gertrude Angote. She was thankful for the visit and expressed appreciation to the Dutch Embassy for their support to Kituo. This was an opportunity for Kituo to present a status update on the access to justice project and especially the innovative M-Haki SMS platform.

KITUO Conducts Legal Aid Clinics and Community outreach in Kisumu County



A Kituo Volunteer Advocate screens a client during the Legal Aid Clinics and Community outreach in Kisumu County

Key Upcoming Activities Mar - Apr 2019

1. Kitui paralegal refresher training, radio talk show, legal aid clinic and documentation of successes- Mar/Apr.
2. Conducting of mobile legal aid clinics in 10 counties - Nyahururu, Kitale, Makeni, Kerugoya, Kitui, Isiolo, Narok, Kajiado, Nyeri ,Busia - Mar-Jul
3. 4 day dialogue forums with the communities in Endebess and Cherangany together with the commissioners - AJS project- Apr
4. Turkana paralegal refresher training, radio talk show, legal aid clinic and documentation of successes - Mar/Apr.
5. Kituo citizens' community forums on citizen participation in the County Budget process in Kisumu County- Mar
6. Implementation of the Citizen Justice Network (CJN) project in Nairobi and Mombasa- Mar/Apr
7. Prison sector working group meetings in Nairobi- April.
8. Capacity building forums on legal aid for Kericho County Assembly members and volunteer advocates in Kericho- Apr
9. Annual Judges' dinner in Nairobi-Mar
10. Client legal advice and representation- Mar/Apr
11. Legal advice to clients through the M-Haki platform- Mar/Apr
12. M-Haki Regional conference on 'The Use of ICT in Making Access to Justice a Reality- Apr
13. Trainings in Isiolo, Nairobi, Malindi & Kwale (Imarisha Haki Mar/Apr
14. Legal Aid clinics with the Refugee Community in urban settlements in Nairobi and Mombasa- Mar/Apr

KITUO Hosts Officials from GIZ's Civil Peace Service (CPS) programme



GIZ's Civil Peace Service (CPS) programme visitors and Kituo staff in a group photo at the Head Office in Nairobi

Kituo cha Sheria hosted officials from GIZ's Civil Peace Service (CPS) programme in Nairobi at the Kituo Head office.

The CPS delegation was led by the outgoing programme coordinator Dr. Verena Waldhart and was welcomed by Kituo's Executive Director Gertrude Angote.

The visit was an opportunity for Kituo to present a status update on the Alternative Justice Systems (AJS) project which Kituo has been implementing since 2015. Through the project, Kituo continues to lead conversations with survivors of the 2007-2008 Post Election Violence

(PEV) across the regions that were heavily affected by the violence. The aim is to offer redress to crimes against property ownership and molding a safe platform of settling civil disputes towards fostering reconciliation amongst the communities. With the support from CPS, Kituo Cha Sheria has also set up a unit to deliver psychosocial support for displaced persons and has provided staff training on the effects of trauma, along with basic services for traumatized persons and IDPs.

GIZ/CPS recognizes Kituo as a leading partner organisation in the field of transitional justice and victim support in Kenya.

in Kisumu County Kituo was also encouraging people from the region to embrace M-Haki- 'Haki Mkononi' (SMS 0700777333) as a convenient mode of access to justice, brought right to their mobile phones. As an advocacy tool, M-Haki is also used by Kituo advocates, paralegals from community justice centers to build their capacity on legal issues and create awareness among the general public on how to access the service directly.

Kituo's Advocacy Governance and Community Partnerships (AGCP) Programme coordinator, Valarie Ang'awa and programme officer Samantha Oswago implemented this activity under the promoting access to justice for the poor and marginalized project supported by the Royal Dutch Embassy.



Kituo's Valarie Ang'awa screens a client at Muhoroni's Kamukunji Grounds during the legal aid clinic

Kituo cha Sheria in partnership with the Nyando Community Justice Centre conducted successful legal aid clinics and community outreach forums in Kisumu County. The activities were held from the 21st-23rd February 2019 in Kibos, Ahero and Muhoroni. The Kibos Nubian Nursery School Compound was the first venue to host the activity in a series of 3 legal clinics and community outreach forums to be conducted in conjunction with the Nyando Community Justice Centre. The activities involved local government administration officials and community paralegals in mobilization for the legal clinics as well as civic education on pertinent issues.

During the events also held at Ahero Nyabende Support Programme Hall near Ahero Police Station and Muhoroni's Kamukunji Grounds; about 300 clients were guided and offered legal aid on matters ranging from labour, land and succession, arbitrary police arrests and child maintenance.

Also happening in conjunction with the legal aid clinic and community outreach forums in the various Kisumu Sub-Counties was a radio talkshow on Kisumu's Radio Nam Lolwe - 97.3FM. During the activities

Kituo Trains Youth Champions in Magarini, Kilifi County



Youth Champions in Magarini Sub County, Kilifi County are taken through a session by a facilitator during the human rights training

Kituo Cha Sheria recognizes the duty of informed citizenry in safeguarding human rights in Kenya. Kituo's Coast Regional office - Mombasa trained 30 Youth Champions in Magarini Sub County, Kilifi County to take the battle of protecting and safeguarding human rights in Kilifi.

The content of the training was; basic legal knowledge and strategies for advocacy by the Youths. This will go a long way to inform vigilance and community participation in governance and to elevate awareness in the region. The Youths were largely from Activists, Malindi Rights Forum, Sauti Ya Wanawake and Bunge la Wananchi.

In pursuit of access to justice for the underprivileged, Kituo officers and volunteer advocates also held a FREE legal aid clinic in Sogorosa, Magarini Sub County on 24th February 2019. The major issue that came about during the clinic among the community was land conflicts.

Community members from the area were able to access services of advocates from Kituo and Volunteer Advocates working with the organization. While other community members were advised on their legal questions, other matters were taken up for further legal pursuit in court and relevant fora.

Kituo Hosts Senior Officers from the office of the Senator, Mombasa County



Senior officers from the office of the Senator - Mombasa County and Kituo officers during the meeting at the Mombasa office

Kituo Cha Sheria, Mombasa office hosted senior officers from the office of the Senator - Mombasa County. The teams deliberated on matters of public participation at County and National levels. It is Kituo's considered view that establishment of institutions, effecting policy and legal standpoints ensuring effective

public service will propel citizen engagement to the desired standards.

Kituo called on the Senator to follow up on the Public Participation Bill at National level, and be vigilant on division of revenue allocation Bill to ensure equitable allocation and effective engagement of the people. Emphasis was on the plight of refugees, persons living with disabilities and the elderly in budget making process among other issues.

The office of the Senator committed to follow up on the issues as canvassed during the session.

Success Story of ALBERT AKIRAPA from Busia County



Kituo's Legal Aid and Education programme Administrators speaks to clients as they wait to be served at the Head Office

“As fire when thrown into water is cooled down and put out, so also a false accusation when brought against a man of the purest and holiest character, boils over and is at once dissipated, and vanishes and threats of heaven and sea, himself standing unmoved.” Marcus Cicero

Albert Akirapa in the case of Hotfilms Ltd v Albert Akirapa CMCC 945/ 15 was a Kituo Cha Sheria client who hails from Busia County, Western Kenya. The lanky middle aged man was sued in the above case and accused of owning a vehicle that was involved in a tragic road accident. Mr. Akirapa only came to know of the case at the point of the application to have him committed to civil jail. Kituo exists to empower the poor and marginalized and to enhance equity and access to justice for all; ideally we would not be involved in the case of a vehicle owner. Mr. Akirapa; our client is extremely poor and has never owned a car! In fact he had never set foot in Nairobi and had remained a casual labourer in his rural Busia County all of his adult life.

However, the decree holder having nothing to attach sought to have him committed to civil jail. At the time of visit to our offices in December 2018; Mr. Akirapa

did not even have transport to go back home let alone a place to spend the night. He was luckily offered a place to spend the night by a fellow client whom they met at the Head office client's waiting area. In the meantime Kituo's legal officers stepped up efforts to quickly prepare court documents for his defence. Due to Mr. Akirapa's financial need Kituo urgently intervened; legal assistant Boniface Muinde worked on the establishment of the vehicle ownership at National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) while officers Nathan Kivungi and John Mwariri worked on the stay orders and the defence.

On 22nd February 2019; the Plaintiff withdrew the case following Mr. Akirapa's defence mounted by Kituo advocates and our client was awarded costs of Kshs. 21, 000. Mr. Akirapa and his brother were very happy after the Court ruling and with tears in his eyes Mr. Akirapa said had Kituo not intervened he would be now rotting in civil jail.

At the end of the day - accusations fit on a bumper sticker; the truth takes longer; a grateful Mr. Akirapa thanked Kituo for coming in to rescue him and wishes the officers to continue serving the poor and marginalized in society.

KITUO Attends 'This can happen to anyone of us ...' IDP Radio Drama Launch & World Radio Day 2019 Celebration



Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET) panelists during the 8th World Radio Day (WRD) at Reuben Centre, Embakasi South, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria joined the Kenya Community Media Network (KCOMNET) and partners to celebrate the eighth edition of the World Radio Day (WRD), an annual commemoration held on 13th February 2019. The annual event was held at Reuben Centre, Mukuru-kwa-Reuben, Embakasi South, Nairobi.

This year's event was held in an environment meant to enable participants to celebrate community radio broadcasters and enhance cooperation among them and their audience. Local and international CSOs were also part of the celebration under the theme "Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace".

Kituo was represented by programme officers Jack Odiwa, Martha Ogotu and Ruth Nzembi who took part in a panel and plenary discussion on "Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace" and the Launch of the IDP Radio drama Production

season 2 "This can happen to anyone of us".

The event brought together 23 community radio stations and Ruben FM in Mukuru kwa Ruben, Nairobi County. Kituo was recognized as a key partner and stakeholder in championing media growth, social change and defense of human rights.

WorldRadioDay was proclaimed by UNESCO to celebrate gains in radio broadcasting, improve international cooperation among radio broadcasters and encourage decision-makers to create and provide access to information through radio, including community radios.

It's normally an occasion to draw attention to the unique value of radio, which remains the medium to reach the widest audience and is currently taking up new technological forms, devices and systems.



KITUO Conducts Free Legal Aid Clinic in Umoja, Nairobi County



Kituo FMP legal officer Maureen Elavisa talks to refugee clients at the Voice of Gospel International Ministries church premises in Umoja, Nairobi

Kituo Cha Sheria through the Forced Migration Programme (FMP) conducted a one day free legal aid clinic in Umoja, Nairobi County. The event held at the Voice of Gospel International Ministries church premises on 28th February, 2019 saw 126 clients advised and was held in collaboration with UNHCR Kenya and the Refugee Affairs Secretariat (RAS).

The legal aid clinic also served as a forum to raise awareness of legal and protection needs among the urban refugees and asylum seekers and highlight the available referral mechanisms for refugee communities. Legal aid clinics are aimed at reaching a larger number of refugee populations who due to a number of reasons (such

as financial constraints, physical disability) are unable to access the Forced Migration Programme (FMP) offices or lack knowledge of the existence of the office (mainly for new arrivals). The clinic aims to provide services to those with security issues, police arrests, those facing harassment or even unlawful detention from both the law enforcement agencies such as the police and the public.

Refugees of Congolese, Burundian and Rwandese nationalities attended the activity which was coordinated by the Umoja Urban refugees leader John Nkunda and undertaken by officers Maureen Elavisa, Jean Paul B. Kasika and pro-bono Advocate Kule Wario.

MHAKI "Haki Mkononi"



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KITUO Holds Community Forums on Citizen Participation in the County Budget in Kitui & Nairobi



Members of the Community follow proceedings during the County Budget forum at the ABC Church Hall in Kitui town

Kituo Cha Sheria's Legal Aid and Education programme joined other Kenyan citizens in engaging with the county planning and budgeting process. Kituo held community forums on citizen participation in the County Budget process in Kitui County at the ABC Hall on 7th February 2019 and the Ayiera Community Hall-Korogocho, Ruaraka Sub-County in Nairobi City County on the 26th February 2019.

The separate activities are meant to trigger and guide the citizenry to actively engage in the formulation of the Annual Development Plan in various counties. In Kitui and Nairobi Counties, participants are in pursuit of an ideal Annual Development Plan (ADP). All 47 counties are required by law to develop ADPs every year (check Article 126 of the Public Finance Management Act, 2012). Every County shall prepare an Annual Development Plan in accordance with Article 220 (2) Constitution of Kenya 2010.

Kituo runs programmes in the areas of legal aid education, forced migration, advocacy, and governance and community partnerships; thus is strategically placed to provide the public with services through enhancing the already established programs which are aimed at empowering poor and marginalized people to effectively access justice and enjoy human and people's rights. One of the ways in which Kituo does this is through capacity building. This mechanism amplifies the voice of the citizens on matters

that affect most. The community forums on citizen participation in the County Budget process were based on the realization that good public participation practices promote accountability and responsiveness to the community's needs. Through capacity building, citizens were able to participate in the budgeting process through recommendations, holding leaders accountable and budget monitoring.

Kituo officers John Mwariri, Boniface Muinde and Janet Kosgei; who are spearheading the forums introduced the County Fiscal Strategy Paper (CFSP) 2019/2020 to the participants in the two (2) counties to help them familiarize themselves with the County's priorities and their budget allocation in the proposed estimates.

In light of the fact that residents of Kitui and Nairobi Counties were not well versed with the budget documents, Kituo has developed a memorandum of views addressed to the Chief Officers - Economic Planning; to reflect the citizen's views and recommendations. The whole county government budget process in Kenya is a cycle. Each cycle contains a financial quarter of three months. Thus, there is the: First Quarter that begins from 1st July to 30th September; Second Quarter that begins from 1st October to 31st December; Third Quarter that begins on 1st January to 31st March; and Fourth Quarter that begins from 1st April to 30th June.

KITUO Visits Pamoja FM in Kibera, Nairobi County



Kituo's Nzemi Ruth and the Kibera community justice centre coordinator Jamia Abdulrahim together with Pamoja FM's Philip Mubatia and Sulciman Shaban

Kituo cha Sheria's paralegal coordinator Nzemi Ruth and the Kibera community justice centre coordinator Jamia Abdulrahim paid a courtesy call on Pamoja FM-99.9 FM in Kibera on 28th February, 2019. Pamoja FM station, also known as 'the voice of Kibera' is the first one of its kind, owned by one of the slum dwellers and produces programs based on participatory production formats.

The visit was part of preparation for implementation of the Citizen Justice Network

(CJN) project; an award-winning media innovation which builds journalism capacity for paralegals to develop stories on social justice issues in under-reported areas.

Kituo through CJN shall provide technology, editorial guidance and connect paralegals with local community radio stations so that they can broadcast their stories in African languages.

The CJN project was first developed in South Africa and is in the process of being duplicated in Kenya.

KITUO TRAINS MERU PRISON PARALEGALS



A prison paralegal receives a present from a guest during the graduation ceremony at the Meru Prison

Kituo cha Sheria conducted a refresher training on paralegals at the Meru Main GK Prison, Meru County. This training culminated to a graduation on Friday, 25th January, 2019. Kituo joined the Meru Prison Justice Center to celebrate the graduation of 43 prison paralegals. The prison paralegals that undertook the week-long legal training included 33 inmates and 10 prison officers. The graduation day was a celebration of human rights within the prison which included a moot

court skit presentation entailing aspects of the bail and bond policy guidelines, community service order, legal representation and other judicial procedures. Kituo also donated law materials and equipment including a printer and stationeries to support the

prison justice centre. Kituo welcomed the Meru Main Prison Justice Center to the family of legal empowerment centers on the 10th August, 2016; since the launch prisoners have been empowered to enable them access justice with emphasis on fundamental human rights, legal representation and the judicial procedures. This was an activity supported by the Royal Dutch Embassy.