

LHRC

Legal and Human Rights Centre

newsletter

Legal and Human Rights Centre,
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Word from the Executive Director



DEAR friends and colleagues. It is our sincere hope that all is well with you and that no one is stamping on your rights as we speak. Welcome for another issue of our esteemed newsletter as we share with you what has been happening in regard to human rights issues in the country.

Welcome for the first issue of our newsletter for this year. LHRC began with the campaign to eradicate the Female Genital Mutilation where through the anti FGM coalition members held several sessions to ponder through how to go about in the next step owing to mutilators changing their modality where they now mutilate toddlers. Eventually, on February 6th, 2014, the duo went to Ngimu Singida to mark the International Zero Tolerance Day.

March was a very special month to us as we managed to mark the International Women's Day where our organization in collaboration with others marked the day in Dodoma while at the same time launching a Big Bang Campaign for the Central Zone. The campaign is meant to create public awareness over the Second Constitution Draft as well as the Constitution Review Process in general.

March 8 came at the time when the Constituent Assembly is in its session in Dodoma trying to ensure that the country comes up with a new Constitution.

LHRC believes that there is still so much work ahead of us to emancipate a girl child who is a woman as most of them still suffer from the GBV, work twice as hard, yet they have their spouses deprive them whatever they earn, with some falling victim to rape, assaults, psychological torture and all the evil deeds one can think of.

It is our conviction that repelling all oppressive laws from our country books will help to make March 8th, a reality rather than a myth.

LHRC will keep striving to ensure ours becomes a country where everyone will learn to respect and to treat well its sisters and mothers for they are the ones who have brought us all out to this world.

Till next time, enjoy your reading.

Dr. Hellen Kijo Bisimba, Executive Director for the LHRC.

Editorial



Dear colleagues,

WELCOME for another issue of our esteemed newsletter with this one dealing with activities conducted from January to March 2014. The LHRC has been busy in this year advocating for a people's driven Constitution by holding several sessions specifically to analyze the second Constitution Draft.

The organization in collaboration with other civil societies such as Jukwaa la Katiba, NA-CONGO and Policy Forum managed to launch a Big Bang campaign to create awareness on the Second Constitution Draft. The duos then took the campaign all way to upcountry regions.

Notably, on February this year, the LHRC joined the rest of the world to mark the International Zero Tolerance Day after it had issued a strong press statement.

The organization has also managed to provide legal aid to needy members while at the same time tapping issues for advocacy.

For this and more, kindly join us and enjoy your reading. Please don't hesitate to comment in case there is something you feel ought to be improved.

Rose Mwalongo- Editor.

LHRC halts business in Dar

It was a very colourful event for it had pulled people from all walks of life. This time around, justice had been served, thanks to a coalition of civil societies under the Legal and Human Rights, Policy Forum, TGNP and Jukwaa la Katiba, SHIVYAWATA just to mention a few as not only did the session have sign interpreters, but it also had Braille, and DVDs specifically for the blind to ensure that all groups take part in the Constitution Reform Process against all odds. Better yet, the venue was friendly as humility reigned supreme at the area due to those without disabilities giving room for those with special needs to acquire all the necessary services around.

In her message to Tanzanians, the Vice Chairperson for the Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance (CHRAGG) who was also the Chief Guest at the event Mahfoudha Alley Hamid called upon Members of the Constituent Assembly to ensure that they honor the rights of majority of Tanzanians who aired their views in regard to what they wanted incorporated in the new Constitution.

Retired judge Thomas Mihayo called upon the

need for Members of the Constituent Assembly to do what is to the best interest of Tanzania rather than individuals.

The event got a major publicity with some local televisions and radios airing it live throughout the three hours. ITV, Radio One, Radio Wapo and Clouds radio were some of those who aired it live, while as national and international media gave the event a huge coverage and not to mention of more than 26 blogs giving space to the event.

Notably, hardly a day after the event the Constituent Assembly deployed sign interpreters for its session, something which prior to that was not there. Moreover, persons with disabilities issued a press statement hailing the LHRC for its efforts to accommodate them in the process.

In another move, the LHRC launched a similar campaign for the Central Zone in Dodoma. The day coincided with the International Women's Day. The event was attended by hundreds of residents of Dodoma where different materials were disseminated as was the case in Dar.



From left (Retired Judge Thomas Mihayo, LHRC's Executive Director; the Chief Guest from CHRAGG, Israel Ilunde from JUKATA and head of Constitution desk at the LHRC Anna Henga depict publications during the launching ceremony of the Big Bang Campaign in Dar es Salaam.



The multitudes that turned at the Big Bang Campaign in Dar es Salaam.



It was a colourful celebrations with thousands turning out in numbers

Bang Campaign in Mvomelo in pics



LHRC convenes press conference on Kiteto land saga

THE LHRC on February 27th, 2014 issued a press statement to unveil its findings on a land saga in Kiteto which led to clashes and claimed lives of 10 people.

The Kiteto Land saga trails way back in 2006 where peasants filed a case against the Kiteto Municipal Council with LHRC providing legal aid to them. The duo won the case at the district court. However, herdsmen appealed against the decision at the High Court where once again peasants under the assistance of the LHRC won before herdsmen filed for yet another appeal at the Court of Appeal where peasants lost. The land saga revolves around 135.00 ha of fertile land said to be under reserve with numerous water sources.

At least 30 people have lost their lives so far ever since the land saga erupted in 2009. As we went to Press, the LHRC had already gone to TAMISEMI, a ministry specifically in charge with the local government to share its findings where the later have promised to work on it.

Govt told to come with by laws to curb FGM/C

THE government has been called upon to come up with by laws which will give mandate to medical personnel to conduct a regular checkup to toddlers to spare them from Female Genital Mutilation (FGM/C).

The call comes following reports over a new wave in Dodoma, Singida and Arusha region where reports indicate that women are now sending their toddlers for mutilation in secrecy following the several campaigns against the practice.

Anti FGM coalition members made the call at Ngimu village on February 6th at the climax of the International Zero Tolerance Day to Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting (FGM/C) held at national level in Singida region.

Commenting on the practice, Sara Mwaga, Co-ordinator for the Dodoma based AFNET called upon the need to ensure by laws make it mandatory for parents to take their children to the clinic.

“The clinic checkup for toddlers has also been challenging as some parents don’t send their little ones to the clinic and as such deny them the right to undergo vaccination. We call upon the government to protect our young from these acts,”

stressed Mwaga.

A close investigation conducted by this reporter indicate that there have been several cases where grown up girls learnt about the practice only to realize later they too were subjected to it at an age they didn’t remember.

Mary Shuma, Program Officer, for Women Development, Gender and Children at the Christian Council of Tanzania said most toddlers were mutilated by midwives without knowledge of their fathers and as such knew nothing of the practice until they were too old to realize it.

The event was organized by anti FGM coalition members who are WOWAP, CCT, World Vision, BAKWATA, AFNET, DIAC, TAMWA, WLAC, Inter African Committee of Tanzania, LHRC, NAFGEM and CDF and brought together representatives from member organizations, villagers from 3 wards, students, religious leaders, retired mutilators and members of the press.

The event was graced by the Singida District Commissioner Queen Mlozi on behalf of Justice and Constitution Affairs Deputy Minister Angela Kairuki.



The various groups entertaining guests with an anti FGM message during the day





Publications on legal and human rights issues were also disseminated by the LHRC



JK nominates LHRC's experts for Constituent Assembly

AT least three Members working with the LHRC's Committee of Experts on Constitution matters were nominated in the Constituent Assembly by President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete. Those nominated are Dr. Magdalene Rwebangira, Dr. Tullya Ackson, and Dr. Ally Uki. Notably, Dr. Natujwa Mvungi and Professor Costa Mahalu from the University of Bagamoyo, as well as a Board Member with the LHRC Maria Sarungi are some of the key members who were nominated to make the composition of the Constituent Assembly. The University of Bagamoyo is jointly owned by TANLET and the LHRC

The LHRC's diary

- On January 20th, 2014 the LHRC convened CSOs for a session to ponder over publicity campaign of the second Constitution Draft. The session was held at its Headquarters in Dar es Salaam.
- LHRC through its Human Resource Unit on January 21st conducted an interview to people who had applied for positions as Monitoring and Evaluation Officer as well as Data entry officers. The interview was conducted at its office in Kijitonyama.
- The LHRC recruited 20 volunteers to enhance its activities.
- An officer in charge of the Mass Education Unit attended an anti FGM Conference in Nairobi Kenya.
- The Directorate of Empowerment and Accountability convened a session to ponder over how to successfully implement their activities for the year 2014.
- The LHRC through its Constitution Desk conducted a retreat for its Committee of Experts to enable them analyze the second Constitution Draft.
- March 11th, 2014- LHRC trained its staff on strategies on how to create public awareness on the Second Constitution Draft during its Big Bang Campaign upcountry. The team will go to eight zones namely Eastern, Central, Western and Southern, Zanzibar as well as Southern Highlands as well as Lake and Northern zone respectively.
- Experts from the Parliament Watch are currently in Dodoma to oversee the conduct of the Constituent Assembly.
- The Elections Watch Unit went to Iringa to monitor the Kalenga by-elections and there after released its report through a press conference.

From the Legal Aid Clinics

Kinondoni sub office:

The LHRC's legal aid clinic in Kinondoni has identified informal Mortgages as an issue in need of advocacy due to an increase in the number of people who engage in finance business without being properly accredited a situation that has seen them lend money with very high interest rates. The situation is said to have led to the so called informal financial institutions taking Possessions of the properties of those who failed to repay the loan by force. The issue was identified by the clinic in January while serving its 568 clients with 279 being males while as 118 were females. Meanwhile, the clinic won ten cases within its land, civil, family and labour units respectively. On the other hand, 18 clients received psychotherapy whereby 10 were males while as the remaining were female. Meanwhile, a total of 85 documents were drafted by legal officers at the clinic while 286 clients were empowered on legal knowledge to enable them represent their cases in courts.

Arusha Sub Office:

Arusha Legal Aid Clinic continued receiving clients

- **On March 19th, 2014, the LHRC launched its Human Rights and Business Report.** The report emanates from research conducted by the organization over labour rights by corporate companies in 15 regions of Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Arusha, Manyara, Morogoro, Iringa, Njombe, Mbeya, Ruvuma, Mtwara and Mwanza. Other regions where the research was conducted were Tabora, Mara, Kagera and Geita.

for legal aid assistance and in this reporting Month a total of 402 clients received legal aid services, of whom 226 were male and 176 female. Meanwhile, at least 49 documents were drafted by Legal Officers and Volunteers while as 4 reconciliations were done where 2 were successfully while the rest failed. On the other hand, Sixteen (16) clients whose cases were scheduled for hearing in Courts/ Tribunals for this reporting for January were successfully empowered by Legal Officers and Volunteers to present their cases in the courts/ Tribunals

Activities:

- **March 18th, - 20th, 2014:** The LHRC trained journalists from 30 community radio on human rights, the constitution review process, women and children's rights, gender and land matters. The training took place in Morogoro.

- Management meeting took place on March 14th, 2014. The session meant to go through the February monthly reports.

the launching of the Human Rights and Business Report in picture



- **March 22nd,** LHRC embarked into a Big Bang Campaign in the western zone whose coverage areas are the three regions of Tabora, Kigoma and Shinyanga. The campaign dwelt around two wards of each district where various materials such as audio, DVD, memory cards and Braille with a recorded and written versions of the second Constitution Draft were disseminated for free.



guests pay attention during the presentation of the report.



Kagongwa residents in Kahama district, scramble for publications during the Big Bang Campaign in Shinyanga region.



Kagongwa residents pay attention during the campaign.



Ezekiel Massanja, Director of Finance and Administration launch a special flash designated for motorcyclists during the Big Bang Campaign in Kahama.

UPCOMING

- April 8th, 2014- LHRC's Management to convene for a session to go through March Monthly reports
- Board to convene for its 60th session on April 15th, 2014.
- May 10th, LHRC's Members to convene for its Annual General Meeting.
- LHRC to convene a meeting with its partners on April 29th, 2014.