

LHRC

Legal and Human Rights Centre newsletter

Legal and Human Rights Centre,
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Word from the Executive Director



Dear colleagues,

WELCOME for another issue of our monthly newsletter, with this one dwelling on activities conducted in May 2014. During this month, the LHRC in collaboration with the Rosa Luxemburg managed to launch a booklet depicting the health hazards of Uranium, following a conference conducted in Dar es Salaam last year. Our call for the day as has always been the case is upon the government to take precautionary measures before it can embark into Uranium mining as failure to do so, would be fatal.

Elsewhere, our staff members have been travelling to various places to conduct fact finding missions, training and attending various meetings with other stakeholders just to ensure ours becomes a society which respects the principles of human rights and good governance.

Our organization has also been busy with the Constitution process where it managed to attend a meeting to contemplate through over bringing to a reconciliatory table the two groups in the Constituent Assembly whose difference has made one of the groups under UKAWA walk out of the session, a move critics feel will weaken the process owing to its importance.

Elsewhere, our organization was invited to attend a session to ponder through the rights of refugees and asylum seekers. In short so much has happened in this month.

Kindly enjoy your reading and please don't hesitate to comment on what you feel can be done to improve the situation.

Dr. Helen Kijo Bissimba- Executive Director, LHRC.

Editorial



Dear colleagues,

WELCOME for another issue of our newsletter, with this one dwelling on activities conducted in May 2014. During this month, our staff managed to travel to various places to conduct training to paralegals, councillors and heads of units in several municipal councils in the Southern part of Tanzania.

Furthermore, the LHRC managed to train journalists from various media houses as part of the LHRC's core mission to ensure ours becomes a society which is well informed.

Our legal aid clinics also have been busy to provide legal aid to needy members and thus taping issues for advocacy.

For this and more, kindly enjoy your reading.

**Rose Mwalongo -
Editor.**

LHRC, Rosa Luxemburg cautions govt. on uranium

THE LHRC in collaboration Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung Foundation on May 28th, 2014 launched a booklet on uranium calling upon the government to immediately suspend its plans to explore uranium mining, citing health hazards. In the booklet, the two organizations said Tanzania is not in a position to deal with the numerous effects of uranium and thus called upon the government to consult citizens and foreign stakeholders and come up with a consensus.

“The risks associated with uranium mining are too big a monster for Tanzania to deal with effectively, given its economic and technological capacity

The booklet points out that regulatory body, such as the National Environment Management Council, do not have adequate experience in uranium mining regulations and operations raising concern that the necessary research and environmental impact assessments are not adequately carried out before the process starts

Deputy Chairperson of the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance Mahfoudha Hamid who was the Chief Guest for the day said the booklet comes at the right time—just when Tanzanians need more information on uranium mining processes.

According to the deputy commissioner, research indicates outbreaks of unusual diseases in mining regions.

The Zambian co-president of International Physicians for Preventing Nuclear War, Dr Robert Mtonga, described the booklet as a global leadership dialogue on public health and pointed out that, if not well handled, uranium could be a messenger of death.

Uranium and radioactive matter were reportedly discovered locally at Bahi swamp as early as the 1950s. A huge amount of uranium deposits have also been discovered at Mkuju River in Namtumbo and Manyoni.

The ministry of Energy and Minerals started issuing prospecting licences in 2005. Some 70 prospecting exploration licences have since been issued to companies and individuals.

Subsidiaries of the same foreign companies are also believed to be among the companies that have received licences from the commissioner of minerals albeit under different names.

About 136 guests participated on the day. Participants were from civil society, Government Ministries and Agencies, LHRC Partners, Staff from Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Staff from LHRC and Journalists.

About 480 reports on Uranium Mining Impact on Health and Environment and 210 copies of Human Rights and Business report were disseminated on the launching day



(From left)- The LHRC's Board Chairperson Professor Geoffrey Mmari, leads the Chief Guest Madam Mahfoudha Hamid (centre) to the high table. They are flanked by the LHRC's Executive Director Dr. Helen Kijo- Bissimba.



The event pulled together various representatives from all walks of life including the government as depicted in pics below. The event was colored with the LHRC's choir, whose one of the singers is its Executive Director.



Siegfried Schroeder, Regional Director for the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung makes a point during the launching of Uranium Booklet in Tanzania.

LHRC condemns abduction of school girls in Nigeria

THE LHRC under its Gender and Children Unit and in collaboration with other Tanzanian CSOs on May 15th 2014 issued a press statement to denounce the kidnapping of schools girls in Nigeria.

The session was held after a peaceful match to condemn the inhuman act of kidnapping more than 200 Nigerian girls held at TGNP grounds. CSOs held the peaceful match on the day as it coincided with the International Family Day.

A letter to the Nigerian Embassy in Tanzania was issued, demanding upon the release of all girls and send them back to their homes immediately.

It also called upon the Nigerian Government to take all necessary steps in order to save the lives of innocent girls and ensure that they return back home. For more on the statement kindly click- [Human Rights](#) and go on news, incoming news you will find the statement.



Representatives from various CSOs at the TGNP grounds as they denounced the abduction of Nigerian School girls.



Representatives from CSOs ponder through ahead of the press conference.



A school girl makes a point during the forum to press upon the release of Nigerian school girls who were abducted by the Boko Haram. LHRC was part of the CSOs which took part in the session.

LHRC ensures justice prevails

THE LHRC under its Gender and Children Unit on June this year attended a 14 years client who was a house maid of one Mary John. The minor claimed that her employer chased her from her house without paying her two months' salary.

A legal expert called her and requested her to pay failure of which will amount to legal measures being taken upon her. Mary John, the employer acknowledged to have not paid the girl and immediately after paid the said girl all her wages.

LHRC receives 34 applications for internship program

THE LHRC on May 2014 received 34 applications for internship programs from different university students from within and outside the country where 16 were female while as 18 came from males respectively.

At least 3 Female and 3 Male students were assisted to acquire information/data for their research work; while as 4 students were accepted for internship program to commence on 14th July 2014 to 12 September 2014.

Meanwhile at least 12 Security Guards attended training on security Matters on the following topics; meaning of a Security Guard, Requirements of a Security Guard, The Needs of the Employer, Standing Operational Instructions, The appearance and behavior of a Security Guard when on duty, dealing with security incidents, the victim, the perpetrator, the police, dealing with visitors, Deliveries, Staff & Management.

Notably, the Human Resource unit received 12 different guests who came at its unit to seek different services.

From the Kinondoni Legal Aid Clinic

THE LHRC through its legal aid clinic has continued to counsel and advice clients in legal related problems where the clinic provided legal assistance to 764 clients with the number of old clients being 567 where as 410 were male and 157 female.

On the other hand, new clients were 197 with 132 being Male while as 65 were Female. The number of clients in this month is higher compared to the 758 who were assisted in April 2014.

The clinic managed to distribute 356 self help kits to clients with different titles, with its legal officers drafting 203 documents for clients. The clinic also managed to empower 392 clients whose cases are scheduled for Pretrial Conference and hearing.

Meanwhile, 27 clients received psychotherapy where 18 were male while as 9 were female. On the other hand, the clinic managed to reconcile 2 families where a married couple shunned away from its plan to divorce and thus serving the lives of 3 school children who would have suffered from the separation.

Meanwhile, a nine years old child who had been living with an irresponsible father was reunited with his mother.

In another move, the Legal Aid Clinic made it possible for its client Abubakari Jumbe Makura to settle a matter out of court after he was injured in a road accident and was thus compensated with Tshs 9,521,929 million offered by the advice part Erick Robert Mushi through Heritage insurance company.

GOODLUCK NDEGE MANYAMA vs. MUHIDINI ALLY MAGHIMBI, LAND APPEAL NO. 117 OF 2010

IN this case LHRC was representing the Respondent, as the case originated from the Ward Tribunal whereby it was ruled out in favour of the Respondent, thereafter the Appellant herein above appealed to the District Land and Housing Tribunal. The judgment was entered in favour of the Respondent herein above. Thereafter LHRC assisted the Respondent to apply for execution, the application for execution has been granted and the Respondent got his right.

On 23rd April, 2014 the legal aid clinic managed to assist a client Elizabeth Masha (Administer of the estates Linda Barnabas) being the Plaintiff in Civil Case No. 13 of 2013 to win a case against James Hannan Sekwao. The matter was an insurance case to compensate Linda Barnabas a minor on damages sustained during an accident caused by the car owned by James Hannan Sekwao. In another move, Abubakari Jembe Makura agreed to settle matter of court after he was injured in a road accident and accepted Tshs 9,521,929 million offered by the advice part Erick Robert Mushi through Heritage insurance company. Notably, the legal aid clinic won all of its case for its clients in May 2014.

The Arusha sub office

THE Arusha Sub office on May 2014 received 11 rulings in favor of its clients who had sought legal assistance. At least 558 clients (316 male and 242 female) received legal assistance at the clinic with land matters continuing to dominate the number of matters attended at the clinic.

The clinic managed to assist clients to draft 96 legal documents and letters which were filed in various Courts/Tribunals and administrative authorities. Legal experts from the clinic managed further to empower 11 clients whose cases were scheduled for hearing in the court of law and tribunal while as 88 new clients received copies of self help kit to supplement legal advices given by legal officers when attending their cases. Meanwhile, at least 26 clients were represented in court by legal officers. Notably, the clinic received guests from two faith based organizations who came to learn LHRC's work on gender and children's matters.

LHRC trains 206 government officials

THE LHRC through its Cooperate and Environment Unit from May 19th to 31st trained councillors and heads of units in Tunduru, Masasi, Newala as well as Mtwara rural districts summing the number of those trained to 206. Participants in all four districts were empowered on Human rights, Constitution and constitutional review process, laws which provides powers, rights and duties of councillors, Councilors code of conduct and ethics regulations, Employment and labour relations act 2004, corruption and good governance. The LHRC fur-

thermore managed to disseminate 220 copies of Human Rights and Business Report, 200 copies of Corporate Social Responsibility in Tanzania, 200 copies of Community rights in Investment areas, 180 copies of Human Rights report and 300 copies of Randama ya Rasimu ya Katiba and about 80 stickers rebranding the LHRC. Notably, heads of units were very eager to attend the training something which was in the past next to impossible as previously, the LHRC was perceived to be an anti government agency.



Beatrice Dominic- Masasi District Executive Director officiates the training to councilors and heads of units in the district. The session was conducted by the LHRC.



Group work



Group presentation



The District Executive Director Beatrice (in red attire) takes part in group work during the session.



Adv .Rosemary Manase from the LHRC facilitates on human rights during the session.



Adv Hamisi Mkindi from the LHRC pays attention to participants as they raise questions during the session



Councilors in Newala pay attention during the session.



A group photo during the session

UPCOMING

- The LHRC's Research Unit will from 22nd June to 14th July, 2014 conduct a research on the situation of land related conflicts in selected areas in the country.
- LHRC will provide legal aid services to needy members at the Sabasaba Pavilion. The organization is in its final stage to ensure all goes well.
- The Cooperate and Environment Unit will conduct a fact finding mission to establish the extent of corruption in Tanzania