



Mlinzi wa HAKI



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Dear esteemed readers

Greetings from the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC).



I welcome you to read this newsletter so that you can stay informed on what LHRC is up to and familiarize yourself with activities that are taking here at the organisation.

Dr. Anna Henga
(Advocate)
LHRC Executive Director.

With support from our devoted staff and developmental partners, including the Embassies of Sweden, Norway, and Ireland, LHRC is delighted to welcome you to our June 2023 Mlinzi wa Haki Newsletter.

June was dedicated to fieldwork and visiting our human rights club in different schools and universities across Tanzania.

In the spirit of progress and engagement, June saw LHRC embarking on a dynamic journey of fieldwork and outreach. Our mission to uphold and champion human rights has taken us to various schools and universities across Tanzania.

Through these visits, we've had the privilege of connecting with the vibrant minds of our future leaders, nurturing the flames of awareness and activism for human rights.

We are thrilled to share these remarkable experiences with you, underscoring our continuous dedication to fostering change and amplifying voices. The engagement of our human rights clubs in different educational institutions has been a source of inspiration, reaffirming our belief in the power of education to shape a just and equitable society.

In our relentless pursuit of human rights advocacy, LHRC's commitment to understanding and amplifying the vital work remains unwavering. During the month of June, our journey led us to the heart of the Manyara Region, where we had the privilege of visiting the legal aid offices and witnessing firsthand the impactful activities carried out by dedicated paralegals.

Also, our Program Officers visited different regions, including Mtwara, Morogoro, and Songea, providing legal aid to the community. The impact of LHRC's presence was palpable, and we witnessed the strength of community engagement as our Program Officers actively listened to concerns, shared knowledge, and empowered individuals to assert their rights confidently.





LHRC program officers provide legal aid services to Nanhyanga, Tandahimba citizens

Program Officers from the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) this month provided legal aid services in Nanhyanga and Tandahimba wards in Mtwara, where they addressed, among other issues, land and marriage disputes.

In June 2023, the dedicated program officers embarked on a critical mission to provide much-needed legal aid in Mtwara and Morogoro in Tanzania.

Focused on resolving complex land and marriage disputes, the officers played a pivotal role in ensuring access to justice and upholding human rights in the local communities.

This content highlights their efforts in addressing conflicts and promoting fair resolutions in Nanhyanga, Tandahimba, Kimamba, Magomeni, and Dumila wards.

Nanhyanga and Tandahimba Wards have been grappling with land disputes arising from inheritance. In the aftermath of the passing of a family member, disagreements over land ownership and distribution have become increasingly common.

These conflicts can deeply divide families and communities, making legal intervention necessary for equitable solutions.

LHRC's program officers stepped in to help navigate the legal intricacies of these disputes, ensuring that the rightful heirs receive their due inheritance and fostering a sense of justice within the affected communities.

Marriage and divorce disputes are significant issues in the regions of Mtwara and Morogoro, with the wards of Kimamba, Magomeni, and Dumila experiencing these challenges. Matters such as property division, child custody, and alimony often become points of contention, leaving individuals and families distressed.

The LHRC program officers provided invaluable legal assistance to guide individuals through the complexities of marriage and divorce laws.





Their expertise helped parties reach fair and amicable settlements, reducing emotional stress and promoting a sense of justice.

In Kilosa, Morogoro, land disputes have been a recurring concern between pastoralists, farmers, and investors. These conflicts can escalate and disrupt the livelihoods of those involved, leading to strained relationships and economic hardships.

LHRC's program officers extended their reach to Kimamba, Magomeni, and Dumila wards, where they actively mediate these disputes. Through their efforts, the officers.

sought to foster dialogue and understanding among the conflicting parties, encouraging sustainable solutions and peaceful cohabitation.

The intervention of LHRC's program officers in these regions has been transformative, yielding positive outcomes for the communities involved.



By resolving land and marriage disputes, they have provided much-needed legal aid and promoted a culture of peace, respect for human rights, and cooperation within the communities.

Through their work, they have demonstrated the power of legal advocacy in fostering social justice and creating a conducive environment for development and progress.



LHRC marks International Albinism Awareness Day in Songea

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) joined other national stakeholders to commemorate the 2023 International Albinism Awareness Day, whose celebrations occurred in Songea, Ruvuma.

This year's event focused on the theme, 'Eradicate Skin Cancer; Promote the Rights, Dignity, and Well-being of Persons with Albinism.' During the celebration, LHRC provided legal aid services to persons with albinism, empowering them to access justice and promoting a society that respects their rights and dignity.

International Albinism Awareness Day is an annual event that shines a light on the challenges faced by individuals with albinism.

It serves as a platform to raise awareness about the discrimination, stigmatisation, and health risks they encounter daily. LHRC recognises the importance of this day and actively participates in the event to advocate for a more inclusive and empathetic society.

The chosen theme for this year's event highlighted two critical aspects of supporting persons with albinism.



Firstly, it aimed to raise awareness about the heightened risk of skin cancer faced by individuals with albinism due to their lack of melanin, underscoring the urgent need for preventive measures and healthcare support.

Secondly, the theme underscored the importance of upholding the rights, dignity, and well-being of persons with albinism, urging society to treat them with respect and inclusivity. During the event at Majimaji grounds, LHRC set up a booth to provide legal aid services to various clients who visited seeking assistance.

The organisation's experienced legal professionals were on hand to listen to the concerns of persons with albinism and their families, offering guidance and support on various legal matters, including discrimination cases, access to education and healthcare, and protection against violence and abuse.

LHRC provides legal aid services, believing that doing so empowers persons with albinism by equipping them with the knowledge of their rights and the legal protections available. Through personalised consultations and support, LHRC ensured that individuals with albinism gained the confidence to assert their rights and defend themselves against any discrimination or injustice they might face.

Also, on promoting Inclusivity and sensitisation, LHRC's presence at the event contributed to the larger goal of promoting inclusivity and sensitisation within the community. By engaging with visitors and raising awareness about the challenges faced by persons with albinism, LHRC fostered empathy and understanding among attendees, breaking down stereotypes and dispelling misconceptions.



Advocate Rose C. Nyatega, LHRC Legal Officer In-Charge, provides legal aid services to clients during the International Albinism Awareness Day in Songea.





LHRC, UDOM partner to advance gender equality in Tanzania.

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) and the University of Dodoma (UDOM) announced a partnership this month that will see the two institutions working together to promote and advance human rights and good governance in Tanzania.

On June 8, 2023, a delegation from UDOM, a state university, visited LHRC's office in Kijitonyama, Dar es Salaam, to discuss areas of possible collaboration in addressing pertinent gender-related issues that affect the lives of women and girls throughout Tanzania.

As advocates for human rights and champions of gender inclusivity, LHRC has been steadfastly dedicated to creating a more equitable society in the economy, education and decision-making spheres.

With a shared commitment to empowering women and dismantling barriers hindering their progress, LHRC and UDOM have promised to work together to address the challenges women and girls face in Tanzania, particularly those affecting their rights and welfare as citizens.

Issues of mutual interest between the two institutions include gender disparities in educational opportunities and the barriers women encounter in accessing economic resources, agreeing to explore innovative strategies to deal with the challenges.

Collaboration between academia and civil society is significant as it allows knowledge to meet action and transforms ideas into impactful initiatives. It stood as a testament to the power of collective efforts in advancing human rights and social justice.

LHRC and UDOM vowed to work hand in hand, leaving no stone unturned in their pursuit of a society where every woman and girl can flourish, unrestricted by societal constraints, and truly celebrated for their invaluable contributions to the nation's prosperity.







LHRC provides legal aid services to Masasi residents

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) this month provided legal aid services to Masasi residents in Mtwara, on the wards of Mkuti, Jida, and Mtandi.

Advocate Rose Nyatega, a dedicated representative from LHRC, reported a significant trend in the types of cases affecting the local population.

Many residents were entangled in complex land-related disputes, with the root cause often tracing back to inheritance issues. This revelation shed light on the pressing need for legal support and advocacy in resolving these matters.

The outreach yielded eye-opening results, revealing that approximately 80 per cent of the cases faced by the citizens pertained to land disputes related to inheritance.

Adv. Rose Nyatega highlighted the urgency of addressing these land-related challenges and providing appropriate legal assistance to those in need. By doing so, LHRC aimed to empower the local population and ensure their access to justice and fair resolution of disputes.



The impact of LHRC's presence in the Mtwara region extended beyond just legal aid services. As part of their ongoing endeavours, they also undertook the crucial task of imparting Legal Aid Education to the citizens.

By increasing awareness and knowledge about their legal rights and responsibilities, LHRC sought to equip the community with the tools to navigate legal complexities more confidently.

The LHRC's dedication to providing free legal assistance services to the people of Tanzania exemplified its commitment to safeguarding human rights and promoting justice for all.

As they worked tirelessly to bridge the gap between the law and the people, their efforts served as a beacon of hope, fostering a society where fairness, equality, and access to justice were not just ideals but tangible realities.

The positive impact of LHRC's endeavours in Masasi reverberated throughout the community, leaving a lasting impression on the lives of those they assisted.

Through their continued commitment to upholding the rights of every individual, LHRC played a pivotal role in building a stronger, more just nation. Their work remains a shining example of the profound impact organisations dedicated to human rights and legal aid can have in creating a better future for all.





A delegation from the Swedish Embassy in Dar es Salaam accompanied the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) to visit the SAUT Human Rights Club at the prestigious St. Augustine University of Tanzania in Mwanza on June 13, 2023.

The primary purpose of this visit was to witness firsthand the positive impact the Club has made on its members, fostering a deeper understanding of human rights and promoting their protection within SAUT and the broader Mwanza community.

During the visit, the students, enthusiastic members of the SAUT Human Rights Club, had a unique opportunity to share their various advocacy and empowerment activities with none other than Her Excellency Charlotta-Ozaki Maciaz, the Swedish Ambassador of Sweden in Tanzania.

The gathering served as a platform for the students to showcase their ongoing initiatives, each aimed at making a difference in promoting human rights.

Among the club's impressive initiatives is creating and presenting radio programs that educate and raise awareness about human rights through SAUT FM, the university's radio station.

These programs have become a valuable tool in disseminating knowledge and fostering a culture of human rights awareness in the community.

Moreover, the SAUT Human Rights Club is proactive in conducting fact-finding missions, delving into real-life situations to understand better the challenges individuals face regarding their rights.

Additionally, the club offers essential legal aid services to those in need, with the invaluable support of legal experts from the university.





The visit also extended to the studios of SAUT FM, where LHRC and the Swedish Embassy had the opportunity to learn more about the station's radio programs. The insight gained into program production and radio operations further enhanced their understanding of effective communication and outreach strategies.

The Embassy of Sweden expressed its commitment to supporting LHRC's endeavours to promote youth human rights knowledge.

The Human Rights Clubs Program, which has proven to be instrumental in empowering young individuals to become champions of human rights, will benefit from the Embassy's sustained involvement and encouragement.



The joint visit by LHRC and the Sweden Embassy to the SAUT Human Rights Club symbolised the power of collaboration and shared dedication to the noble cause of promoting and protecting human rights.

Through these meaningful interactions, the club members received encouragement and recognition for their efforts, motivating them to pursue their advocacy with even greater passion and determination.

The impact of such initiatives resonates far beyond the university walls, inspiring positive change in the broader Mwanza community and contributing to the collective aspiration for a more just and rights-respecting society.

As LHRC and the Swedish Embassy continue their partnership, the future shines brightly with the promise of a generation that values and upholds the principles of human rights for all.





LHRC raises concerns about Tanzania-Dubai agreement

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) has raised concerns about the shortcomings of the partnership agreement between Tanzania and Dubai in developing Tanzania's ports, including the onerous terms of the contract.

Dr. Anna Henga, the Executive Director of LHRC, stated in a press conference on June 13, 2023, that the agreement does not specify the ownership of the investment by the Tanzanian government or its citizens.

This lack of clarity regarding ownership raises concerns. It creates ambiguity, as it does not provide opportunities for Tanzanian citizens to directly own a portion of the investment through purchasing shares or government ownership.

“One company being given a wide scope of investment, Article 2 of the contract aims to enter into legally binding agreements for cooperation in the development, improvement, and operation of various areas, including seaports, economic zones (EPZs), large cargo storage areas, trade zones, and other strategically important infrastructure areas,” said Dr. Henga.

Dr. Henga said it is evident that there is still confusion among the public regarding compliance with procurement procedures as required by the Public Procurement Act No. 9 of 2011.

According to Section 64 of the Act, any public institution intending to conduct procurement must use a competitive process under the law. This competition means openly competing with multiple institutions and ultimately selecting one.

LHRC's recommendations are based on the principles of Article 22 of the contract, which allows for contract amendments when necessary.

The suggestions focus on the government of the United Republic of Tanzania revisiting the contractual provisions that have legal challenges, especially those that have sparked significant public debate.



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Dr Anna Henga
The Executive Director at LHRC



Amending the contract to clarify the conditions that will establish the stability of the contract, such as the "Stabilization Clause," is one of the recommendations.

For example, if there are tax-related conditions, it is essential to clearly define them to avoid potential exploitation for personal interests and harm to public interests.

Article 23 addresses the duration and termination of the contract. The second clause of Article 23 stipulates the continuation of the contract even after its termination, arguing that the contract has been terminated beyond the stipulated period. Thus, the contract sets difficult conditions for its termination.

The LHRC also suggests explicitly stating the extent of ownership in the investment to enable citizens to understand the benefits that will be derived from the investment, especially in the implementation contracts of the project.



LHRC organises awareness session on gender, human rights for police officers

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) this month organised an impactful awareness session on human rights and gender for police officers in Moshi, Kilimanjaro.

LHRC's Director of Empowerment and Accountability, Ms. Felista Mauya, along with the Senior Program Officer for Women, Children, and People with Disabilities, Advocate Getrude Dyabene, visited the district on June 15, 2023, to undertake the three-day initiative to equip police officers with the essential knowledge and skills required to uphold Human Rights principles and effectively address Gender-related issues within their professional duties.

The engagement was a testament to the commitment of the Empowerment and Accountability team to promote a rights-respecting and inclusive society.

Through this initiative, they sought to foster a deeper understanding of Human Rights among law enforcement officers, recognising their pivotal role in safeguarding and promoting the rights of all individuals.

During the session, the team engaged the police officers in interactive discussions, enlightening them on the fundamental Human Rights principles and emphasising the importance of applying a gender-sensitive approach in their daily operations.





Sharing real-life scenarios and case studies encouraged the officers to critically analyse situations and respond with heightened sensitivity to Human Rights and Gender-related concerns.

The initiative also focused on strengthening the capacity of the officers to recognise and address gender-based violence, discrimination, and other related issues effectively.

By empowering the police force with this knowledge, the aim was to create a more compassionate and responsive law enforcement body that actively contributes to protecting and promoting Human Rights for all members of society.

The team's dedication in conducting this awareness session exemplified the significance of collaborative efforts between governmental and civil society organisations.



Through such partnerships, the drive to build a more just and rights-centric community gains momentum, ensuring that the principles of Human Rights and Gender equality are integrated into every aspect of society.

The impact of this initiative reached far beyond the confines of the West Pori Camp, as the knowledge and insights gained by the police officers would undoubtedly resonate in their daily interactions with the public.

By equipping law enforcement personnel with the tools to protect and promote Human Rights, the Empowerment and Accountability team took a crucial step toward building a safer and more inclusive society for everyone.

As the echoes of this enlightening session reverberated through the corridors of law enforcement, the promise of a more just and equitable future shone brightly on the horizon. The Empowerment and Accountability team's unwavering dedication to nurturing a culture of respect for Human Rights and Gender equality inspires positive change, propelling Tanzania towards a brighter and more inclusive tomorrow.





LHRC marks African Child Day with Children's Parliament

The Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) this month collaborated with the Raising Up Friendship Foundation and the Ministry for Community Development, Gender, Women, and Special Groups to commemorate African Child Day through a Children's Parliament.

The event occurred at Kisenga Hall, Millennium Tower in Dar es Salaam, On June 17, 2023.

The Guest of Honor at the event was the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Community Development, Gender, Children, and Special Groups, Hon. Mwanaidi Ally Khamis. The theme of the Children's Parliament was, 'The Rights of the Child in the Digital Environment.'

Children from 19 schools in the Dar es Salaam region and the Pwani region, specifically from Bagamoyo, participated in the Children's Parliament. The discussions during the Children's Parliament included questions and answers, allowing children to dialogue about issues that concern them.

This is important in raising children's awareness of their rights and their societal role. Additionally, ensuring child safety in the digital world is crucial in today's technological age. Events like these give children a voice and encourage them to actively participate in matters that affect them.

Also, the Executive Director of the LHRC, Dr. Anna Henga, participated in the African Children's Children from two regions, discussed the challenges they face in schools and shared their opinions on the existing marriage law.

"The purpose of this parliament is to actively listen to the perspectives of children, particularly in the implementation of laws, and to serve as a catalyst for changes in legislation and policies that safeguard the rights of children in Tanzania," she said.

"We believe that the government will heed the voices of these children and consider the suggestions they offer to improve the rights and well-being of children in Tanzania," Dr Henga added.



She explained that children continue to encounter numerous challenges on a global scale, including within Tanzania, impeding their ability to exercise their rights fully.

“Tanzania Human Rights Report of 2022 documented a notable escalation in violence perpetrated against children. Specifically, reported cases in 2020 amounted to 15,870, whereas in 2021, the figure decreased to 11,499. Regrettably, in 2022, the incidents surpassed the threshold of 10,000,” Dr. Henga said.



Within the incidents of child abuse, sexual violence has been persistently prevalent, with alarming daily increments. According to the aforementioned report, approximately 85% of cases of sexual violence primarily affect male children, and the number of victims continues to rise steadily.” said Dr. Henga

Dr. Henga added that many children face challenges such as child marriages, teenage pregnancies, child abuse and exploitation, an increase in children living and working on the streets, and other ongoing issues that undermine the well-being of children in Tanzania.





LHRC tours Manyara to inspect legal aid offices

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) Executive Director Dr. Anna Henga, along with esteemed LHRC Board Members and the Public Education Program Officer from LHRC's Arusha office, Advocate Naserian Guga, this month visited legal aid offices in Manyara Region, specifically in Babati District.

The visit was a testament to LHRC's unwavering commitment to promoting justice and upholding human rights for all individuals, especially those in vulnerable and underserved communities.

The LHRC team aimed to strengthen further the organisation's efforts in ensuring access to legal assistance and education for those in need.

During their visit, Dr. Henga and the LHRC delegation engaged with the legal aid offices' personnel, exchanging valuable insights and experiences in their collective pursuit of justice.

They shared knowledge, best practices, and strategies to improve the quality and efficiency of legal aid services provided to the local community.

The presence of LHRC's Executive Director and esteemed Board Members underscored the organisation's genuine interest in connecting with the grassroots level and understanding the challenges faced by individuals seeking legal support.

Through this on-the-ground engagement, LHRC continued to bridge the gap between the organisation and the communities it serves, fostering a stronger sense of unity and partnership.

Moreover, the involvement of Advocate Naserian Guga, the Public Education Program Officer from LHRC's Arusha office, exemplified LHRC's dedication to empowering individuals with knowledge about their legal rights and responsibilities.



Education and awareness enable individuals to assert their rights confidently and navigate legal complexities more effectively.

The visit to Manyara Region and Babati District reaffirmed LHRC's commitment to providing legal aid services and an opportunity to assess the unique challenges faced by the local community.

This firsthand experience will further inform LHRC's initiatives and advocacy efforts, ensuring they remain responsive to the needs of the people they serve.

Through their collaborative efforts, LHRC strives to build a society where the rule of law prevails and every individual's rights are respected and protected.



Our development partners



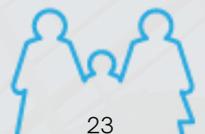
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