



Just & Equitable Society



JANUARY 2015

Word from the Executive Director

Dear colleagues, welcome for another issue of our newsletter with this one depicting activities conducted for the month of January 2015. The year has begun with so many activities at the Centre including our legal aid clinics providing legal aid to needy members in both our Arusha and Dar es Salaam offices.

The LHRC has also been busy with other sessions inclusive of its campaigns towards a people's driven Constitution. The LHRC is now concerned with the number of people who have decided to take law in own hands where in January this year, they invaded a police post killing its officer.

The LHRC issued a strong statement while calling upon civilians to respect the rule of law and to stop from invading law enforcing agents,

January was overwhelmed by human rights violations matters for hardly days, the Chairperson of the opposition party the Civic United Front with his followers were beaten and arrested after they made an attempt to hold a peaceful march to commemorate the killings of their colleagues in 2001.

Again, the LHRC will always continue to campaign for respect towards the rule of the law and denounce any acts that violate the same.

So much has happened and so much has been done. For more on this, kindly take a glance on our newsletter and never hesitate to comment in case there is something in need of doing so.

Dr. Helen Kijo Bissimba.

Executive Director for the LHRC.



Editorial



Dear colleagues,

Welcome for another issue of our esteemed newsletter dwelling on activities conducted in January 2015. The year has begun with so much activism and so much to do with most of our efforts geared towards, the Biometric Voters' Registration exercise, referendum, general elections as well as our campaigns against child marriage, an issue that has in recent days taken toll in the country.

Section 13 (1) of the Marriage Act of 1971 has over the years sparked a public debate due to the latter embracing child marriage. The said provision mentioned the proper age that a girl child can get married as 15 contrary to most children's laws as a person of that age is considered a child.

Ironically, Tanzanian laws do not allow a person of such age to vote. It is due to this reason and several others that the LHRC convened a meeting in January and thereafter formed a task force to campaign upon the amendment of this unfriendly provision.

This is owing to Tanzania leading supreme in child marriage, a situation that has called lobby groups to campaign against it.

Tanzania is among countries with high rate of child marriages with statistics from the Tanzania Demographic Health Survey 2010 indicating that an average of 2 out of 5 children are married before the age of 18, with 37 percent of 20 and 24 years of age found to have been married below 18.

The LHRC will continue to campaign against violations of women and girls rights by advocating for law reforms and change of mindset until there are some positive changes.

For this and more, kindly enjoy your reading and please don't forget to comment in case you feel there is something in need of so doing.

Rose Mwalongo- Editor.

LHRC conducts staff performance appraisal

In the very beginning of 2015, LHRC conducted a staff performance appraisals to its 99 staff whereby 76 of them are long-term employees: 50 Male & 26 Female, 23 Volunteers of which 11 are Male and 12 are Female. The staff performance appraisal is one of the activities implemented to improve efficiency among LHRC staff and to adhere to LHRC's 2015 Annual work plan.

Awareness creating is on move as 2015 is at hand.

As one of its major activities, LHRC ensures the rise of awareness on human rights and legal matters among Tanzanians. In January LHRC prepared and aired 5 TV programs (4 recorded & 2 live programs) and 6 Radio programs. This is through the TV programs like Pambanua and Kipima Joto as well as radio programs like Mlinzi wa Haki and Changamoto.

To make the programs more alive and active the responsible unit has established an email through which viewers of Pambanua program will be able to comment online. The email is pambanua@humanrights.or.tz.

Apart from mass media LHRC is also actively utilizing the potential of social networks as it informs public through its website and Facebook page and the LHRC has just prepared and uploaded 49 items in website and 12 times in its facebook page in January attracting 4566 likes. The number of visits for the page has been shooting as time go by.

MPs make use of the THRR-2014 as reference

Some members of parliament (MPs) have been using the Tanzania Human Rights Reports (THRR) in citing some issues of importance or interest to public during parliamentary sessions. In January two members of parliament; Hon. Mohamed Mnyaa and Hon. Felix Mkosamali used the THRR-2014 as reference to make points during the debate on "Excessive use of force by police against citizens." Both of the two MPs used the report to underline the magnitude of the problem and demand accountability on the part of the government on the issue.



Hon. Felix Mkosamali makes a point from the THRR-2014, during the Parliamentary session.



Pambanua live TV program

LHRC conducts 2 fact finding missions

LHRC commenced a year by conducting two facts finding missions on the issues of public interests.

The first fact finding was conducted from 11th to 17th January in Bariadi Simiyu on land dispute , It involved evictees and Marcos Magese. The LHRC embarked on finding the solution after Marcos Magese won the case against residents of Bariadi where the court ordered eviction of victims from their land. The team managed to meet with the said decree holder Marco Magese, District Authorities and Victims and discussed the issue. In return to the discussion, the District Commissioner (DC) convened a session namely the District Security Committee and the latter visited the area. The DC assigned the District Security Committee to call a meeting with victims and decree holder Marco Magese to resolve the issue and request Marco Magese to provide land to them .

Another fact finding conducted in January was a fact finding on land conflict between pastoralist and farmers in Kabwere, Kilosa. The mission took place from 26th to 29th, January after a report that pastoralist attacked peasant's residents burning their houses leaving them homeless. The LHRC team met with Regional, District and village authorities to find out how to resolve the conflict after ascertaining the extent of human rights violations in the area.



LHRC officials (in blue attires) take notes from victims of land grabbing in Bariadi

LHRC convenes two press conferences to slam Human Rights violation acts.

LHRC always uses media to condemn human rights violation acts. In January, LHRC conducted two press conferences to slam two occasions that were illegal and against human rights. First instance was raiding of Ikwiriri Police Station by armed bandits. The raid took place in January 21, 2015 in Rufiji district where two police officers were killed and 7 firearms and 60 rounds of ammunition were stolen.

Another instance that made the LHRC call for press conference in January was the “arrest of Pro. Ibrahim Lipumba” who is a chairperson of CUF. Prof. Lipumba. The latter announced a peaceful procession and public rally in Dar es Salaam to commemorate the 14th anniversary of the killings of CUF members in Zanzibar who were shot by police in 2001 at a rally in Pemba as they demanded a re-run of the 2000 General Election, which they claimed to have been rigged. On 27th January, 2015 before the start of the demonstration, Ibrahim Lipumba was arrested and charged at the Kisutu Resident Magistrate’s Court for holding illegal demonstration. The accused denied the charge. He was released on bail.

LHRC trains 40 paralegals in January

The LHRC on January 30th, 2015 trained paralegals to enable them understand elementary laws and procedures for conflict resolutions. The LHRC facilitated a one day paralegal training organized by MWEDO (Maasai Women's Education Development organization) in Monduli district. The training brought together 40 participants (Male 20, Female 20) from Maasai community.



Maasai paralegals at the training

LHRC attends network meeting in Nairobi

On 19th to 21st January, 2015, the LHRC representative attended consultative meeting on extractive industries in Nairobi. The meeting was organized by Centre for Human Rights University of Pretoria in collaboration with the Institute of Human Rights and Business, Kenya.

The meeting brought representatives from the governments, civil societies, national Human Rights institutions, extractive industries, private sector and academia. The meeting also included a working group on extractive industries from the African Commission, which is commissioned to prepare a comprehensive report on extractive industries, environment and human rights violation in Africa.

The LHRC presented a situation paper and activities of extractive

LHRC teams with other East African Civil societies in the meeting with EAC-Secretary General, for preparation of Africa Zinduka Festival.

On 13th -14th January, 2015, the LHRC joined a team of civil societies from East Africa for a meeting with EAC General Secretary to discuss issues as part of the preparation of Africa Zinduka Festival which is conducted yearly on 30th November, 2015. The meeting was successful and the EAC agreed to provide technical support to the festival arrangements.

On top of that the EAC General Secretary recommended that the team conduct the festival one week presiding to the EAC summit.

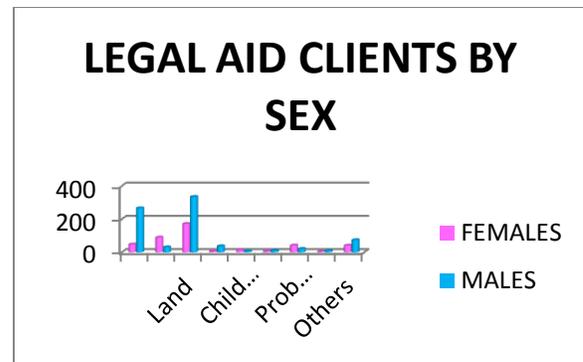


The LHRC's representative, Mr. Lengai (first right) alongside Zinduka team with EAC General Secretary at the center.

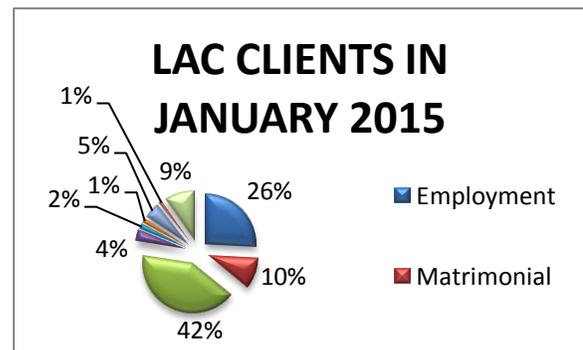
LHRC serves 648 clients

Through its legal aid clinic; the LHRC goes on with provision legal services to its clients in its two legal aid clinics in Arusha and Kinondoni. In the month of January a total number of 648 clients were received whereby the number of clients served were 505 in which males were 360 and 145 were females. New clients are 143 in which among them Male are 100 and 43 are Female.

Also the clinics managed to empower 441 clients whose cases are scheduled for Pre-trial Conference and hearing.



The graph shows the number of clients served per issue by sex



The chart above shows the number of clients served per issue in percentage

61 apply for various posts

Meanwhile, in showing interest on LHRC, 61 people sent applications in January to request for different posts like;

Internship

24 applications (Male 12, Female 12) were received from Universities and Higher Learning institutions, inside and outside the country (4male, 1Female) students were accepted to undertake their internship at Kinondoni and Arusha Legal Aid Clinic

Recruitment

14 job applications (Male 9, Female 5) were received for the month of January. No one was recruited due to unavailability of an open vacancy.

Volunteers

10 applications (Male 1, Female 9) were received and replied and no one was recruited

Research

13 applications were received (11male, 2 female) all students were assisted to acquire the information