

THE NEWSFLASH

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Inside this issue

TLS ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION A SUCCESS

TLS ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION A SUCCESS	1
4TH TLS ANNUAL LEGAL AID DAY ON DECEMBER 11, 2010	2
TLS PRESIDENT ATTENDED THE INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION'S 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER,CANADA	3
NEW STAFF FOR TLS SECRETARIAT	3
SAHCA SEMINAR WELL RECEIVED	4
HON. A.S.L.RAMADHANI,CJ (RTD) ADMITED 400 NEW ADVOCATES ON 17TH DE-	4
HON. A.S.L. RAMADHANI STEPPED DOWN ON 28TH DECEMBER, 2010	5
TLS LAUNCHED MEMBERS' PAGE AND FORUM ON THE TLS WEBSITE	6
HON. OTHMAN CHANDE HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE NEW CHIEF JUSTICE OF TANZANIA	6

The Tanganyika Law Society (TLS) was granted official Observer Status in the October 2010 General Elections. For the first time, the TLS deployed almost 200 of its members to 10 regions across mainland Tanzania to take part in the monitoring of polling stations, as well as general conduct surrounding the election campaign.

As part of the lead-up to the Election Day, the TLS engaged in a number of activities including holding a press conference where the President launched the Elections Manifesto, training of observers, holding two key roundtable discussions on elections and democracy, monitoring media reports, and launching a TLS SMS Hotline.

On Election Day, the TLS Observers were sent to polling stations across Tanzania to record and monitor the events that transpired. Each Observer was given a t-shirt and cap, as well as an Observation Instrument to record all data. Specifically, the observers were monitoring for voting irregularities, ballot box safety and tampering, vote counting irregularities and tabulation of results.

Following the Observation Activity, the TLS released an interim report, finding that the overall conduct of the General Elections was free and fair. The TLS released the Final Report at a Press Conference on Sunday November 28, 2010 that was well attended by the media.

We would like to thank all of the Election Observers for their time, commitment and energy on this monumental project. Without your hard work, this project would not have been possible.



Photograph taken at the Election observers' training held at the University of Dar es Salaam on October 23, 2010



Photograph taken at the training of the Election-observers, held at the University of Dar es Salaam on October 23,

TLS HELD ITS 4TH ANNUAL LEGAL AID DAY ON DECEMBER 11, 2010



Advocates providing Legal aid services to the needy

The TLS is proud to announce that its 4th Annual Legal Aid Day was successfully held on Saturday December 11, 2010. The TLS Legal Aid Day is a project funded by the Legal Sector Reform Programme (LSRP) under the Ministry of Constitutional Affairs and Justice (MOCJA).

Annual Legal Aid Day was officially launched in year 2007 as a TLS initiative. The event was launched in Dar es Salaam, with eight chapters providing Legal Aid services for indigent individuals. This activity is an outreach initiative geared towards the free provision of legal aid and assistance, by advocates, to those who cannot afford to hire private practitioners for their legal needs.

Last year, the TLS together with other NGOs hosted the Legal Aid Day in 8 regions, providing legal assistance to over 2000 individuals.

The theme for the 2010 Annual Legal Aid Day was *Sera ya Msaada wa Sheria, SASA!* - Need for a Legal Aid Policy Now. The TLS together with other NGOs, volunteers, students, paralegals and other legal aid providers provided legal aid in 9 regions: Mwanza, Tabora, Dodoma, Mbeya, Tanga, Arusha, Moshi, Mkuranga and Dar es Salaam. About 90 volunteers from the Law School (Bar Entry Candidates) and paralegals were trained on how to do intake and screening process of legal aid applicants. T-shirts and caps were freely distributed to organizers, advocates, volunteers and legal aid applicants.

Legal aid applicants who came in the respective grounds received legal aid services from the advocates.

TLS has awarded two (2) CLE points to the advocates participated in Dar es Salaam Legal Aid Day and four (4) CLE points for advocates participated in upcountry regions.



Law school students do an intake for legal aid clients during 2010 Legal Aid Day

TLS PRESIDENT ATTENDED THE INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION'S 2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN VANCOUVER,CANADA

The IBA Annual Conference is the very finest opportunity for lawyers all around the world to meet one another and to discuss legal developments in various jurisdictions. In the current economic climate, it is crucial for lawyers to be fully informed and to practice at the top of our game. As the global voice of the legal profession, the IBA is in a unique position to facilitate this process.

The 2010 IBA conference lined up three exceptional showcase sessions that were of great interest to lawyers of all disciplines. The Professional and Public Interest Division reviewed the threat to legal aid as governments slash budgets in response to the challenging economic climate. The Legal Practice Division reported on critical issues related to the credit crunch based on the work done by the IBA Task Force on the Financial Crisis, whose final report was distributed to all delegates in Vancouver. The Human Rights Institute examined the complex issues relating to the appointment of judges and the processes used to do so.

In addition to the above-noted matters, there were a variety of distinguished speakers interactively discussing the increasing erosion of the rule of law around the world and how best to promote adherence to its principles. One more important topic discussed was the promotion of the rule of law in Haiti and the IBA initiative to rebuild its judicial system.

In general the IBA provides its members with the value of ongoing education and professional development throughout the year, as well as the ability for members to be involved in and support the association's various initiatives to support human rights and the rule of law around the world.

NEW STAFF FOR TLS SECRETARIAT

The TLS is proud to announce that the position of Programme Officer – Member Services has now been filled by Mariam Othman. Mariam is a lawyer and she was formerly an Intern at the TLS. We take this opportunity to welcome Mariam to her new position.

Furthermore, we have had the pleasure of hosting another intern from the Canadian Bar Association, Ms. Nina Purewal, who is a practicing lawyer from Vancouver, Canada. Nina began with the TLS in early September 2010 and will be interning with us until the beginning of March 2011. We take this opportunity to welcome Nina to the TLS and Tanzania.

SAHCA SEMINAR WELL RECEIVED

The TLS, in collaboration with the UK's Solicitor's Association for Higher Court Advocates (SAHCA), organized three days of seminars on practical advocacy skills for practicing lawyers. SAHCA promotes the maintenance of the highest ethical and professional standards of advocacy in the Higher Courts, promotes the interests of solicitors who practise or seek to practise as higher court advocates, represents the interests of members by maintaining professional contact with all relevant bodies, including the Ministry of Justice, Courts service, Law Society, SRA, BSB and Legal Services Commission, encourages the education and training of solicitor higher court advocates and provides opportunities for members to meet and exchange ideas.

The seminar focused on practical aspects of advocacy and was facilitated by resource persons from SAHCA who were assisted by experienced practitioners from Tanzania, namely Fatma Karume, Beatus Malima and Zephryne Galeba, all of whom were trained by the SAHCA resource personnel before the seminar for the said purpose. The seminar was well attended and highly interactive.

Members from SAHCA return for another training session next year and members interested in becoming trainers during their seminars are asked to show their interest via email at info@tls.or.tz.

HON. A.S.L. RAMADHANI,CJ (RTD) ADMITTED 400 NEW ADVOCATES ON 17TH DECEMBER, 2010

The Chief Justice of Tanzania admitted about 300 new advocates to the Bar on Friday, 17th December,2010.

The ceremony was held at the Karimjee Hall and went down in Tanzanian history as the largest admission ceremony. Under normal circumstances the usual admission of advocates has never surpassed 100 advocates per year.

Indication that the trend of admission will increase started in June whereby the Chief Justice admitted into the Bar about 120 new advocates signaling a new era in the legal practice in Tanzania.

The upsurge in the current admission rate is attributed to the increasing number of ses-



Group photograph of SAHCA attendees.



SAHCA resource person making presentation during SAHCA Seminar

-sions which the Council for Legal Education has undertaken in the year 2010 as well as the graduation of many would-be advocates from the newly established Law School of Tanzania.

The TLS will be one of the beneficiaries in this admission in terms of increasing income from subscriptions.

It is expected that the newly admitted advocates will venture into new territories up-country in search of clients and hence affording rural dwellers access to legal services at affordable fees.

HON. A.S.L. RAMADHANI,CJ (RTD) STEPPED DOWN ON 28TH DECEMBER, 2010

The Chief Justice of Tanzania Hon. Justice Augustino Ramadhani will stepped down from the post of the Chief Justice of Tanzania on 28th December 2010.

The Chief Justice who has had an illustrious career both in the legal field and in the military will go down the history as one of the judges who pioneered the use of Swahili language in the court system.

During his tenure as the Chief Justice he has lobbied intensively for an increased budget allocation for the judiciary, increased number of judges and magistrates and better pay for judges magistrates and court workers.

The TLS will also fondly remember the CJ as a person who loved and appreciated human dignity and especially the poor whose access to the temples of justice is impeded by their status in life. He has been invited and gladly approved to grace the occasion for the TLS Annual Legal Aid day and on both occasion he also rendered legal advice.

Several Remarks made by different members of the society at the farewell ceremony for the retired Chief Justice has been posted on the TLS Website.



TLS President, Mr. Felix Kibodya presenting his speech during admissions ceremony



Some of the newly admitted advocates sitting at the Karimjee ground

TLS LAUNCHED MEMBERS' PAGE AND FORUM ON THE TLS WEBSITE

The TLS has launched the Members' Forum which is only accessible by TLS Members. Like any other web forum, the TLS Members' Forum will provide an interface for members to communicate and discuss topical issues and developments in the law by posting topics or by commenting to posts from TLS members.

This is an exciting opportunity for the TLS as its members will be able to communicate with one another on any issue that is relevant to the profession, whether it be practice issues or legal matters.

Members will be able to access their own password-protected member's page, which will also provide them with up-to-date information on membership details such as the number of CLE credits attained. Members will also be able to update their contact information.

To access the forum please go to www.tls.or.tz/forum . Please look for TLS website-User guide to be conversant on how to access members' forum and database.

Should you have any questions/concerns/queries about the Members' Forum, please forward them to mariam_othman@tls.or.tz.

HON. OTHMAN CHANDE HAS BEEN APPOINTED AS THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF TANZANIA

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency, Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, has appointed the Hon. Othman Chande to be the Chief Justice of Tanzania. The Hon. Change was formerly a justice of the Court of Appeal of Tanzania.

The ceremony for the appointment was held at the State House in Dar es Salaam on Monday, 27th December, 2010 and was attended by judges, magistrates, the TLS President, advocates and government officials

The TLS takes this opportunity to congratulate the Hon. Othman and wish him all the best in his new position as the CJ of Tanzania.