

OPENING REMARKS BY HON JUDGE LUCIA G. KAIRO – JUDGE INCHARGE, HIGH COURT OF TANZANIA, BUKOBA REGISTRY AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF CAPACITY BUILDING TO JUVENILE JUSTICE FRONTLINE WORKERS: 4TH - 8TH NOVEMBER 2019 AT THE OPEN UNIVESITY, BUKOBA.

Hon: the Programme Coordinator from the Institute of Judicial Administration Lushoto (IJA).

Hon. Trainers and Facilitators,

Hon. Participants,

Invited guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

First and foremost I wish to thank the Creator, the Almighty God for his blessings and grace bestowed to us which enabled each of us to travel safely from different parts; and eventually gather all if us here today. Indeed am humbled to have this opportunity to give the opening remarks to signify the official start of the training on Juvenile Justice to Frontline Workers.

Hon participants Ladies and Gentlemen; I am grateful to all of you here for taking time off your busy scheduled to attend this important training geared at building capacity on issues pertaining to Juvenile Justice to you, being the

Frontline Workers dealing with Juvenile Justice in your various capacities. This shows the extent you value and accord importance to this training which will hopefully improve the way you deal with Juveniles.

Hon. Participants Ladies and Gentlemen I further wish to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you to our cool and quiet Town of Bukoba, in short *BK @British Kingdom*. I have no doubt you will enjoy the fabulous weather, Lake Victoria fish without forgetting the famous Bukoba Prawns well known by the local name of *senene*.

I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the Institute of Judicial Administration (IJA) and the Judiciary Management for this training opportunity but specifically to Hon. Mr. Justice Dr. Kihwelo for his readiness, to fulfill our desire to be equipped with these skills.

I remember it was in August this year when I phoned Hon. Dr. Kihwelo requesting for some trainings including this one. He was very positive and he informed me that fortunately UNICEF has already extended a helping hand in this training in terms of sponsorship. He asked me to formalize the request, to which I did. Today, just two months later the training is a reality. Please extend my heartfelt appreciation to Hon. Dr. Kihwelo for his prompt action. I will be indebted if I won't thank the sponsors without whom this training wouldn't be conducted today. To you UNICEF; I say thank you very much.

As earlier stated that the training concerns Juvenile Justice: But why talk on Juvenile Justice and accord the Juvenile a special treatment in administration of Justice? The answer is not farfetched: It is not disputed that a child falls under the vulnerable groups among others. Article 2 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ARCWC) defines the child to mean every person below the age of eighteen years, the definition which was also replicated in the our laws specifically Child Act 2009.

Looking at the definition, it goes without saying that children need assistance in all aspects: They can't stand on their own to fight for their rights when infringed. Their naiveness and immaturity has exposed them into various dangers and sometimes they found themselves to be in conflict with the law. To protect these youngsters, it is pertinent to have a system or legal framework that will not cause more harm to them, rather help them reform. That is where in my view you participants as front line workers comes in; to take a place of a parent so that at end of the day, the troubled child can be reclaimed while safe guarding their rights as guaranteed in the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania under the Bill of Rights.

The training therefore will provide an opportunity for an interactive forum to enable you share information, experiences; knowledge and skills and also make the dealing with Juvenile Justice Uniform.

I understand that sometimes you might have found yourself “in horns of dilemma” or “cross roads” when trying to balance the application laws and protecting the child as the situation was in the recently decided Court of Appeal case of **The Attorney General vs Rebecca Z.Gyumi: Civil Appeal No. 204 of 2017** CAT DSM wherein Section 13 & 17 of the LMA Cap 29 RE: 2002 was found to be unconstitutional. According to the impugned provisions, a girl under 18 years of age is allowed to get married upon the consent by a parent or a court while such girl is a child.

I challenge you to take bold stance in such a similar situation when the opportunity arises. In that way you will not only be Administering Justice but also promoting child's dignity, and in a way become agents of change in Juvenile Justice.

Hon. Participants Ladies and Gentlemen, I had gone through the topics which you will cover during this training. I am sure they will bring up a number of questions from you having in mind different experiences you have in dealing with Juvenile Justice. I urge and encourage you not to hesitate to share so as to enrich your knowledge horizon and benefit from each other, thereby marking this training advantageous. With the vast coverage in terms of topics in mind, I have no doubt the training will be fruit full and make each of your meet his/her expectations.

Hon. Participants Ladies and Gentlemen, with this few remark, I now declare this training to be officially open and wish you a fruitful training. Thank you so much for your kind attention.

I humbly submit.