

Law Development Centre rolls out Legal Aid Clinic App



L-R Lydia Namuli, Manager LAC, Philip Oguzu, ICT Technician LDC, Alfred Mugasa, GMT Consults

By Frank Obonyo

The Law Development Centre (LDC) has out rolled its Legal Aid Clinic app and an electronic filing system. The app will ease dissemination of the law to the public in a simplified form, help in legal training and empowering the community to use LDC's legal aid services and access to justice.

The app, which will be launched by LDC's top management in due course, was born out of a desire to disseminate legal information within and beyond LDC and provide a platform for Legal Aid Clinic (LAC) to receive feedback from the people they service.

The Manager Legal Aid Clinic, Lydia Namuli Lubega, said the app and the electronic filing system will strengthen LDC's mandate, which is to provide free legal aid services to the indigent members of the society and carry out community outreach activities.

"The app will enable public to know more about LDC's free legal services and gain knowledge about other legal and justice related services offered by numerous government agencies and institutions such as: Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, the Inspectorate of Government, the Judiciary, the Police etc.," said Namuli.

The electronic filing system will enable LDC to improve in timely, accurate and authentic reporting of data about cases which they are handling.

“We have had challenges with monitoring what our field staff report about but with this digital system, we shall track progress of cases, and eliminate double reporting incidences,” she added. The app shall provide a platform for our clients and stakeholders to provide feedback about our services which in a sense increases accountability of our frontline officers.

The development of the app started in 2020 by GMT Consults, however, it stalled due to effects of Covid-19 pandemic.

The Director of Technology at GMT Consults, Alfred Platin Mugasa, said the app will help LDC’s Legal Aid Clinic staff to access information in a timely and accurate manner, and the public will get legal information through their phones.

“Users need to install the app on their phones (Android or iPhone), then initiate an inquiry which will be picked up by Legal Aid Clinic staff in a short time,” said Mugasa.

The LDC is a statutory body established in 1970 under an Act of Parliament. It is mandated to provide legal education and training of Lawyers and non-lawyers, undertake research in topical legal issues and contribute to law reform, produce legal publications (including publication of teaching materials), law reporting and provide legal aid services.