

Honourable Chief Court Administrator,
Esteemed members of the Judiciary of Tanzania,
Colleagues from the GIZ and Laws.Africa
All participants from other various government institutions

Ladies and gentlemen,

Habari za asubuhi

I'm pleased to address you today as the Director of AfricanLII and a co-founder of Laws.Africa. These are two organisations dedicated to advancing access to legal information in Africa through capacitating African governments digitise and disseminate legal information sustainably.

We are here to introduce an innovative solution – Pocket Law. Pocket Law is an offline version of TanzLII and has a clear purpose - to equip the justice and legal sector with essential legal information and enable fast and efficient legal research even in the remotest and least connected areas of Tanzania and further afield in Africa.

Pocket Law represents an African innovation tailored to address the unique challenges faced on our continent. It's designed to provide practical solutions that respond to the specific needs of African nations, including Tanzania.

Our partnership with the Tanzanian Judiciary in rolling out Pocket Law within the Tanzanian Judiciary first is made possible through the generous support of the GIZ Rule of Law and Judiciary in Africa regional programme. This partnership underscores our commitment to making a tangible impact on access to justice.

Together, we aim to ensure that every magistrate and judge in Tanzania has seamless access to crucial legal information, regardless of their location.

The significance of Pocket Law lies in its potential to expedite court cases, enhance the quality of justice and legal work, and facilitate the rule of law, particularly in areas with limited internet connectivity. It empowers the legal sector broadly with a practical tool to serve the public more efficiently.

Pocket Law is launched and rolled out in partnership with the Judiciary today. However, Pocket Law is freely available to everyone - government and private lawyers, paralegals, legal advice clinics, mediation centers, students, and the mwananchi.

Pocket Law is a fully searchable off-line version of the much beloved TanzLII service, which publishes caselaw from all superior courts in Tanzania, and soon, in partnership with the Office of the Attorney General, will host a complete set of legislation. As such, Pocket Law is updated as soon as TanzLII is updated. As such, Pocket Law will not be unfamiliar to you - it looks and feels exactly like TanzLII.

This launch aligns with the Tanzanian justice sector's commitment to making the law more accessible during Law Week 2024. Pocket Law is a vital component of this effort, offering a digital solution that simplifies access to legal resources for all Tanzanians.

I want to acknowledge the visionary leadership of our partners, the Tanzanian Judiciary, in recognizing the value of this innovation. Their partnership is instrumental in driving this initiative forward. In future, we hope to develop partnerships in other areas of the justice sector, and disseminate this essential legal research tool to everyone who assists the citizens of Tanzania with their legal issues.

Through Mr. Muhamet Brahim, present here, I would like to extend a special thank you to the GIZ for supporting this initiative and the development of the TanzLII.org portal.

As we embark on this journey in Tanzania, let us re-emphasize the practical benefits that Pocket Law brings – efficiency, accessibility, and improved access to justice. Let us continue to lead the way in innovating solutions that address the pressing needs of our communities.

In conclusion, Pocket Law stands as a testament to Africa’s leadership in harnessing technology to make a meaningful impact on access to justice in Africa. We remain steadfast in our mission and work together to create a more just and accessible legal landscape.

Thank you for your support.

Asanteni sana.