

Press Release: Launch of Pocket Law – An Innovative Digital Legal Tool for Tanzania and Beyond

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dodoma, Tanzania – AfricanLII and Laws.Africa, leading African organisations in capacitating African governments to digitise and disseminate African law, proudly announce the launch of Pocket Law, an innovative digital solution aimed at revolutionizing legal research and justice in Tanzania and across the continent.

Developed as a response to the unique challenges faced in Africa, Pocket Law is designed to provide essential legal information, facilitating efficient legal research in even the remotest areas struggling with access to the Internet. This project is launched in collaboration with the Tanzanian Judiciary, under the generous support of the GIZ Rule of Law and Judiciary in Africa regional programme.

On 30 January 2024 during Law Week 2024 in Dodoma, Ms. Mariya Badeva, the Director of AfricanLII and Laws.Africa, in her address to the esteemed members of the Judiciary of Tanzania and partners, emphasized Pocket Law's role in expediting court cases, enhancing the quality of legal work, and bolstering the rule of law, especially in regions with limited internet connectivity. Pocket Law is not only a tool for the judiciary but is also freely available to all, including government and private lawyers, paralegals, legal advice clinics, mediation centers, students, and the general public. Pocket Law can be downloaded freely from the Tanzanian free-access national legal portal www.tanzlii.org

As a fully searchable offline version of the TanzLII service, which publishes case law from all superior courts in Tanzania, Pocket Law ensures that updates are synchronized with TanzLII, maintaining familiarity and ease of use. This initiative aligns with the Tanzanian justice sector's commitment to accessible law, as demonstrated during Law Week 2024.

Special thanks were extended to Mr. Muhamet Brahimi and the GIZ for their unwavering support in this initiative and the development of the TanzLII.org portal. The visionary leadership of the Tanzanian Judiciary has been instrumental in recognizing and fostering this innovation.

With the launch of Pocket Law, The Judiciary of Tanzania, AfricanLII and Laws.Africa reaffirm their dedication to creating a more just and accessible legal landscape in

Tanzania and Africa. This marks a significant step towards harnessing technology for meaningful impact in the realm of justice and legal access.

For more information on Pocket Law and its implementation, please contact Ms. Morina Chindia, Laws.Africa and AfricanLII Programme Manager for East Africa.

Asante Sana.

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Profile of the institutions involved:

AfricanLII

AfricanLII (www.africanlii.org) is a programme of the Democratic Governance and Rights Unit at the Department of Public Law, University of Cape Town. AfricanLII helps governments, academia and non-profit organisations publish the law of African countries for sustainable open access.

GIZ

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (<https://www.giz.de/en/html/index.html>), often simply shortened to GIZ, is the main German development agency. It is headquartered in Bonn and Eschborn and provides services in the field of international development cooperation and international education work.

Judiciary of Tanzania

The Judiciary of Tanzania (<https://www.judiciary.go.tz/web/>) is the system of courts that interprets and applies the law in Tanzania. The Judiciary bases its foundation on the Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977.

Laws.Africa

Laws.Africa is a non-profit organisation registered in South Africa that provides African governments with the technology, skills, guidance, peer support and capacity building to independently own and publish their primary legal information.

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