

T The Tanganyika Law Society

The Bar Association of Tanzania Mainland

05th February, 2019.

Dear Members,

I wish to bring to your attention despite being informed orally that I was not welcome to attend or speak at Law Day on 6 February 2019, I made it clear that I would attend Law Day. Other than Hon. Tundu Lissu who failed to address us on Law Day 2018, due to the fact that he was recovering from an assassination attempt on 7 September 2017, I was categoric in my stand that I would not be the first President of the Tanganyika Law Society to fail to address the general public and the Judiciary on the concerns of the Bar, in matters relating to administration of justice in Tanzania on Law Day.

Given my decision not to kowtow to undue pressure, I asked the Secretariat to seek views from TLS Chapters of matters of concern to the membership, which I included in my speech being careful to adhere to the Law Day Theme. On 1st February 2019, the Judiciary asked for my speech and I dutifully sent it via email.

Unfortunately, today I received a letter from the Judiciary informing me that the TLS and I suspect for the sake of "equity", the Attorney General will no longer be required to make speeches on Law Day due to "time constraints". In the two-decade history of Law Day, this is the first time that the TLS has been enjoined from addressing the Judiciary and the general public under disguise of "time constraints". The Judiciary's letter to me is unprecedented but I comfort myself with the knowledge that nothing should come as a surprise in the present Tanzanian political environment and we should not be disheartened.

On receipt of the letter from the Judiciary, I immediately sought counsel from the Governing Council, who resolved by a majority of 7/10 that under the prevailing circumstances, the President should not attend Law Day 2019. 6/10 members of the Governing Council voted to stay away from Law Day 2019 given the Council's decision with respect to the President and 10/10 members of the Governing Council voted in favour of not imposing any restrictions on the members of the TLS.

Please rest assured that the challenges we face are temporary in nature and ultimately history will judge us for the manner in which we conduct ourselves in the most trying of times.

I wish to assure members that so far your President and the Society have participated fully in all Law Day activities most importantly the giving of legal aid to members of the general public. Please remember that the TLS is a democratic members' society and I reiterate members are not barred from attending Law Day if they find it necessary to do so.

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM in Arusha and for those who have not done so, please do not forget to renew your Practicing Certificate by 15 February 2019, when the moratorium will cease.

I wish you all a wonderful Law Day. Please find attached hereto my speech.

Wasalaam



Fatma A. Karume
President Tanganyika Law Society.