

SPECIAL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT

PROJECT: AFRICA LEGAL INFORMATION INSTITUTE

ADDRESS: P.O BOX 16733, 00100
NAIROBI

PLAINSVIEW APT 906
PLAINSVIEW ROAD

TELEPHONE: 254-721-246622

FAX: 254-0-20-247807

PROJECT DIRECTOR: DENNIS N. A. ONWONGA

PERIOD COVERED: OCTOBER 2004 TO APRIL 2005

GRANT AWARD: £ 2,000
EQV. Kshs. 264,000

I certify that the attached report documents are accurate and in accordance with the grant agreement between BILETA and LawNet Africa for the promoting the establishment of the Africa Legal Information Institute.

The report contains a narrative description of the project progress and a financial expenditure summary.



Signature of Project Director

22nd April 2004

Date Submitted

SUBMIT TO:
Executive Director
BILETA
c/o UK Centre for Legal Education · University of Warwick
Coventry CV4 7AL
United Kingdom

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

In terms of our project proposal and pilot paper, the key objective of the Africa Legal Information Institute is to optimise and promote the use of digital information technologies in the distribution of legal information, the delivery of legal education, and the practice of law in Africa. This is particularly fostered by the recognition that technology offers Africa a rare and unique opportunity of enhancing access to primary and secondary legal resources for free.

It follows therefore that two core activities of AfricaLII, like its sister organizations, is content development. This is the key activities which we have sought to undertake in the last six months. AfricaLII is in its inception stage and we are happy to report that due to your support and the support received from other partners, we have managed to make tremendous progress in resource development.

In particular, during the first phase of our project, that is the period between October 2004 and April 2005, we have managed to complete the development of the Kenyan Statute Law from Print copy to Electronic copy. We have also managed to develop a database of approximately 5,100 cases from the Court of Appeal (Kenya), Court of Appeal (Tanzania), Supreme Court of Uganda, High Courts of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania and a few from the Industrial and subordinate courts.

The following is a summary of the monthly activities and challenges.

October 2004

In this month, we acquired some equipments and engaged 5 staff to undertake the resource development. The initial focus was on developing the Laws of Kenya (Statutes and Regulations).

In this month, the following Chapters were scanned, edited and saved in word format.
Chapters 1 – Chapter 215

November 2004

In this month, the following Chapters were scanned, edited and saved in word format.
Chapters 217 – Chapter 486

In this month, we also started building up on the case laws from the Kenyan courts:
220 cases from the Court of Appeal were developed.
356 cases from the High Court of Kenya were developed.

December 2004

We managed to fall through with Kenyan statutes from: Chapter 487 – 525.

We did not however meet our deadline of finishing up to Chapter 620 as most of our staff and volunteers requested for an earlier leave from 17th of December 2004.

In the meantime, we sent one of our staff to travel to Uganda and Tanzania to liaise with our partners and friends in Uganda and Tanzania to establish the necessary infrastructure for accessing copies of the case law from those countries.

January 2005

The month began with a lot of expectation and push, we managed to push through to the last Chapter of the Laws of Kenya.

In the meantime, scanning and editing of case law from the Court of Appeal of Tanzania and Uganda commenced.

February 2005

This month was dedicated to the development of the non-chaptered statutes of the Republic of Kenya. This statutes and regulations were passed by the Kenyan Parliament after 1990, when the Chaptering had stopped.

We were faced with difficulties in acquiring all of them as the Government Printer had run out of stock and no new prints were expected necessitating alternative searches.

Development of High Court and Court of Appeal cases from the three East African countries was still on-going during this month.

March 2005

In this month, all effort was turned toward the re-reading and re-assessment of the contents of all the statutes already edited to check for mistakes, re-format them to show the sub-titles and to ensure that all amendments published in the Kenya Gazettes have been effected on the statutes.

Case development also continued.

April 2005

Generally being satisfied with the achievements relating to the form of the statutes, we engaged a web administrator to convert this content into a database and to ensure that the presentations are user friendly.

Case Development continued.

Our biggest challenge has been securing a user-friendly search engine and a pocket friendly hosting services.

SUMMARY

We are generally satisfied with the rate of progress for the last six months considering the amount of resources available. We anticipate to have our site officially available for the public by mid-June 2005.

To what extent is the project meeting the stated objectives?

This project targets the Commonwealth Africa (English Speaking). We anticipate to develop all the primary and secondary resources of these countries within a period of thirty months.

By your support, we have been able to start out on this long journey by making tremendous progress for the three African countries of East Africa.

What challenges are being met that may affect progress of project?

We had initially anticipated to receive further grants from various Donors including: InfoDEV (World Bank), Department for International Development (DFID), CIDA, SIDA, Ford Foundation and other prospective Donors; their response has not been forthcoming despite lodging enquiries to submit proposals. This we anticipate may slow down our progress.

The second obstacle has been obtaining certain legal instruments and amendments thereto which are out of print.

Thirdly and also importantly, access to up-to-date statute and case law from Ethiopia, Sudan, Rwanda/Burundi and Somali. These countries are either volatile or have no proper legal frameworks.

How can these challenges be overcome or what is currently being done to overcome them?

We have engaged the participation of various stakeholders to solicit and recommend various other fund raising sources, whilst following up on our already lodged proposals.

We are also seeking to expand our networks and partnerships to ensure that we have access to those primary and secondary legal resources both locally and in the countries mentioned above.

How much of the budget has been used to date?

As per the attached (Schedule A) Budget, we have already expended the budgeted funds and have had on numerous occasions to do further fund raising locally to meet any deficits.

How does this compare with the level of implemented work to-date in percentage terms?

85%

FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE SUMMARY**PERIOD COVERED IN REPORT: OCTOBER 2004 TO APRIL 2005****DATE OF REPORT: 22ND APRIL 2005****GRANT AWARD: £ 2,000 (EQV. KSHS. 264,000)**

We wish to confirm that the grant was used solely for the intended purposes, and that the grant money was expended in accordance with the budget submitted with the original grant proposal (enclosed as Schedule A); and

All the expenses charged against the grant were not incurred prior to the effective date of the grant or subsequent to the termination date, and were incurred only as necessary to carry out the purposes and activities of the approved project; and

That adequate supporting records did so in a manner consistent with generally accepted accounting practices, and the same are available for inspection or review at your request.

Item Number	Description	Value (Kshs.)
1.	Purchase of three (3) PIII processor Computers @ Kshs. 38,000.	114,000
2.	Purchase of a combo scanner/printer	30,000
3.	Photocopying Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania Case Law and contingencies for obtaining the same. An approximate number of 4,000	50,000
4.	Allowances for Volunteers	20,000
5.	Office Stationery	15,000
6.	Communication and Transport costs	11,000
7.	Setting Up Office Network	20,000*
	TOTAL	260,000

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* It is to be noted that though no provision was made at the proposal stage, as a result of the exchange rate differences between the time of the proposal, there remained a difference of Kshs. 20,000 which we utilized in putting together the Local Area Network. However, this expenditure is still subject to your approval.

FINANCIAL EXPENDITURE (OCTOBER 2004 – APRIL 2005)

LINE ITEM	SUBTOTAL (KSHS.)	TOTAL (KSHS.)
PERSONNEL	5 PEOPLE X Kshs 8,000 x 6 MONTHS	240,000
EQUIPMENTS	COMPUTERS, PRINTER, NETWORK, SCANNER	194,200
SUPPLIES	OFFICE SUPPLIES	45,000
PHOTOCOPYING	CASES AND STATUTES	85,250
TRAVEL	LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL	35,400
RENT	18,000 X 6	108,000
OTHER	MISC.	30,500
TOTAL		735,350
LESS GRANT FROM BILETA		471,350
INPUT FROM LAWNET- AFRICA AND SUBSCRIBERS*		560,000
BOOK BALANCE		88,650

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* LawNet Africa of its own resources and grants and sponsors from our partners amount to Kshs. 560,000.

SCHEDULE A

Item Number	Description	Value (Kshs.)
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